



**North Area Committee
(City Councillors representing Arbury, King's
Hedges, East Chesterton and West Chesterton
Wards)**

13 November 2003 7:30 – 9.45pm

Minutes & Actions

Present: Councillors: Ian Nimmo-Smith (West Chesterton and Chair), Rhodri James, Mike Todd-Jones & Tim Ward (Arbury), Maria Bell, Louise Downham & Elizabeth Hughes (King's Hedges), Donald Adey & Jenny Bailey (East Chesterton), Max Boyce & Nichola Harrison (West Chesterton)

Also Present: County Councillors Julian Huppert (East Chesterton) and Maurice Leeke (West Chesterton)

**Action by
(see
action
sheet
attached
also)**

03/09 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Jennifer Liddle (East Chesterton) and County Councillors Janet Jones (Kings Hedges) & Ian Kidman (Arbury).

03/10 Feedback on actions taken about questions raised in the Open Forum at the last meeting

Item f) The Chair said that action had been taken to ensure that the problems caused by the use of scaffolding were not repeated.

Item h) The Chair confirmed that Downham's Lane is owned by the University who had agreed to pick up the litter and generally clean up the site.

03/11 OPEN FORUM

The following were raised by members of the public present:

- a) There is a hole in the boundary fence of Manor Community College on to Campkin Road. This had been an on-going problem over the past 10 years.

Cllr
Nimmo-
Smith

Agreed that the Chair would write to the Principal with a copy to the Head of the College.

- b) What is the long-term future of the Community Wing at St Andrews School? How does it relate to the new centre on Brown's Field?

Councillor Boyce said this had been discussed at the meeting of the Community Development & Leisure Scrutiny Committee earlier that day. Consultation had been agreed and the results would be brought back to the next meeting of that committee in January. Councillor Todd-Jones voiced concerns that when the Council is no longer responsible for Community Wings, the community could lose out.

Cllr Joye
Rosenstiel
Ken Hay

- c) Is the pedestrian more important than the motorist because due consideration has not been given to a pedestrian crossing at the Newmarket Road/Coldhams Lane junction?

The Chair explained that this part of Newmarket Road was East Area Committee's responsibility and that the question would be passed on to Councillor Durrant the Chair of that Committee. Councillor Harrison explained that the provision of pedestrian crossings across the city was decided by her centrally and that the decisions had been made for the coming year. She encouraged ward councillors to consult with the residents in their area so that suggestions could be explored in good time for the next round of decision-making.

Cllr
Durrant
All ward
councillors

- d) Why are the pavements along Campkin Road in such a bad state?

Councillor Harrison explained that all pavements in the city were inspected annually by City Council and County Council officers. The total budget for the whole city was £100,000. The most severely damaged were mended first and there was a considerable backlog. However, a great deal of progress had been made in the past 4 years. Eleven had been done in Kings Hedges since 2001. She undertook to look into the matter further.

Councillor
Harrison

e) When the councillors have meetings about new plans can they be more precise with the dates instead of last minute like the last meeting to do with the new Community Centre in Kendal Way? I went to the Guildhall to ask and even the staff there are not aware what councillors are doing.

f) Apparent lack of information and organisation of this meeting. More advertising and agenda. Printed in local news would provide residents with a purpose to attend.

The Chair asked the meeting to suggest suitable places to advertise and that more be done by ward councillors to promote the meeting. He also acknowledged that it had been difficult to advertise when there were problems in booking suitable venues. It was agreed that nevertheless the dates be well advertised so that members of the public could put these in their diaries well in advance and preferably for the whole year. Members of the public present also suggested that Cambridge Radio and Star FM as well as local post offices and shops could be good places to advertise.

g) Why no drinks – again?

Committee
Manager

The Chair undertook to have an answer from those responsible for organising the venue.

h) Why is the Council considering spending £200,000 on a wet centre? Who will manage it and how will it operate? Where will it be sited? This sort of money could be spent on better things for the whole community such as the pavement repairs already mentioned.

The Chair explained that the Council's policy was to work together with the police and the voluntary agencies. There was need for both a carrot and a stick approach and a wet centre would contribute to both aspects of the policy.

i) Councillor Harrison, would you please confirm the outcome of the study that accompanied the demise of the free removal of large items for the OAP and disabled persons?

Councillor Harrison said that she had sent a letter to the Cambridge Federation of Tenants, Leaseholders and Residents explaining about this. The Council was charging all residents £20 for the removal of large items of waste. She agreed to re-send the letter to the Federation.

Councillor
Harrison

j) The area known as Arbury Camp. Work starts in January 2004 once the 106 money is in place in December. Will there be a citizen input to the use of this money as originally promised?

Councillor

The Chair explained that this was a matter for South Cambridgeshire District Council's Planning Department. Councillor Downham said that a report was going to that Planning Committee on 3 December. She asked residents to let her have their views so that she could represent them.

Downham

k) The Chair acknowledged that there had been 4 questions sent in advance by Mr Tye of the Residents' Association and that replies had not yet been obtained. These would be pursued.

Councillor
Nimmo-
Smith

03/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

03/13 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 11 September were corrected to show that Councillors Adey and Downham were present and that Councillor Hughes had given her apologies. The word "special" was also deleted from the heading as it had been an ordinary meeting of the committee.

The minutes of 17 July, 11 September and 6 October were then approved as a correct record.

03/14 LOCAL NATURE RESERVES: PRESENTATION BY COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER

The Officer explained that there was grant money from the New Opportunities Fund for 3 years for capital projects (£9000 in each of the first 2 years and £5000 in the third year). He wanted to involve the community in the management of the reserves and to develop partnership working between communities and the appropriate agencies. He was also looking for additional funding. Currently there were reserves at Bramblefields (5 acres) where 3 species of bat had been identified during a Bat Evening in September, and Logan's Meadow opposite the Pye Factory.

In response to questions from Councillors and members of the public, the Community Liaison Officer explained the following:

- 2 acres was the minimum size for official national designation as a nature reserve so that was why there were none in Arbury and Kings Hedges; however, smaller sites could have a local designation.
- He would be working with children in schools and involving them in suitable practical work at potential new and existing sites.

Councillor Harrison said that the Northern Fringe development would have open spaces and it would be important to work with South Cambridgeshire District Council to ensure that these had as much positive impact on conservation and wildlife as possible.

03/15 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

- A** **Application No:** 03/0706/FP
Site: Dama Court, Enniskillen Road (East Chesterton)
Proposal: Erection of two storey extension to Dama Court to form 2 no. 1-bed flats
Applicant: Mr A Dama

The Planning Officer referred to an amendment sheet which had been sent to the Committee on 12/11 and circulated at the meeting. The text is copied below:

“Since the report was prepared, further negotiations have taken place regarding the layout of car and cycle parking and bin storage. Amended plans were submitted which showed a bin store adjacent to the boundary with 55 Enniskillen Road and two cycle stores at the entrance. This amendment was not supported by officers on the grounds of visual impact and the enclosing effect it would have on 55 Enniskillen Road. A further amendment has now been made to relocate the cycle and bin stores. However this amendment fails to make proper provision for access to the bin store. This has been discussed with the agent and a satisfactory solution has been achieved. These amended layout plans will not arrive in time for the meeting and therefore the Committee is requested to give officers delegated powers to agree the detailed layout should the application be approved. A draft plan will be available at the meeting for the Committee to consider.”

She added that the third amendment still allowed 10 car park spaces, appropriate bin storage and cycle provision.

She also clarified that there was no provision for disabled parking and she would try to secure one space for that purpose.

Resolved: (9 votes to 0) to approve the application subject to completion of a S106 agreement and the conditions and informative in the officer report, with delegated authority to the Director of Environment and Planning to enable confirmation of the amendments to the plans.

Sarah Dyer
(planning)
457153
Gary Clift
(committee
s) 457011

03/16 UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Landscape Architect (Helen Hepburn) advised the Committee that a list of other sources of available funding covering s106 agreements would be reported at its next meeting (15 January). She also amended section 4.1 third bullet point so that it read “introduce speed humps”.

Councillors asked questions about the Minerva Way scheme particularly the criteria for what constituted a public element. The recent site visit led Councillor Ward to ask whether the re-

furbishment should be done by the landlord, City Homes North. Councillor Harrison asked whether it would be possible to phase the work as it took a large part of the improvement grant budget. The Landscape Architect said it would be possible to do it in stages at some increase in cost; that £10,000 would only do a small amount.

The Director of Community Services said that he could look at the balance of funds from the Housing Revenue Account and those from the General Fund. The planned Stock Options Appraisal would include investment needs and that consultation on this would be brought to each Area Committee.

Resolved

2.1 (unanimously) to approve the following schemes for implementation in the current financial year:

- a) Campkin Road piazza
- b) Campkin Road Nos 38-40

2.2 (unanimously) that the refurbishment of the planting area in Kendal Way should proceed.

2.2 (unanimously) to approve £15,000 be used for further consultation and investigation including the use of dropped kerbs concerning the refurbishment of the parking area in Minerva Way and request a matched amount from the Housing Revenue Account.

Councillor Downham raised the possibility of more lighting for the car park. Councillor Harrison in her role as Executive Councillor for Environment suggested that an amount of the Environment Safety Fund could be delegated to Area Committees for this sort of use. She agreed to pursue this with the Head of Transport and Street Services. Councillor Ward suggested that the Safer City Fund be approached also.

2.3 The Committee identified further schemes for investigation – grass verges to be reinforced in Oak Tree Avenue and Chestnut Grove and for these to be costed.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

CHAIR

