



**North Area Committee  
(City Councillors representing Arbury, King's  
Hedges, East Chesterton and West Chesterton  
Wards)  
18 March 2004 7:30 – 10.00pm  
Minutes & Actions**

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

**Action by**

**04/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Ian Nimmo-Smith (West Chesterton). County Councillors Huppert, Jones, Kidman and Leeke.

**04/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Boyce (04/17 (1) – a personal interest as a local resident of the Mitcham's Corner area.

**04/12 MINUTES**

The following updates were asked for by members of the Committee:

4) Mobile CCTV - going live 31/3. Initially in Mill Road. The public can contact the CCTV Manager (Martin Beaumont) for details of how to go about applying for the cameras in their area.

8) There are six Police Community Support Officers in post, two each in Mill Road, Abbey and East Chesterton. Two vacant Police Community Support Officers for King's Hedges have been recruited to and will take up duties in early June. The two new posts funded by the Council will begin duties in July and discussions are taking place regarding where they will work.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2004 were signed as a correct record.

**04/13 OPEN FORUM**

Questions/statements and answers are attached to these minutes at the end of the document.

**04/14 UPDATES ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME**

The report was deferred to the 24 April meeting.

Helen  
Hepburn  
01223  
457134

**04/15 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE GRANTS 2004/05**

A member of the BRLS residents association addressed the Committee and requested an amended grant of £1,000 because of the increased costs of transport. The Committee agreed that a grant of up to £1,000 be allocated, subject to the Grant Manager receiving more information on costs.

Chris  
Freeman  
01223  
457862

Councillor Todd-Jones requested the officers provide a breakdown of the mapping poverty data by the four North Area Committee wards.

**Resolved –**

That the grants to the following groups be agreed:

Ambabys out and abouters £738

BRLS Residents Assoc. £ (up to) 1000

Kids Club £1600

Mohilla Shomity Asian Women's Group £1010

**04/16 DATES, LOCATIONS AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2004 TO MAY 2005**

The Committee agreed to meet on Saturday 24 April at 10am – this will be at the Arbury Community Centre.

After that, on Thursdays at 7.30pm on :

1 July, 26 August, 21 October, 16 December, 10 February 2005 and 7 April.

**04/17 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

1

**Site** 34 Victoria Road, CB4 3BW (West Chesterton)

**Proposal** Change of use from dwelling house (C3) to residential hostel (sui generic)

**Application No** C/03/1359

**Applicant** Director of Community Services, Cambridge City Council

**Public speakers:** Warden of Cambridge Victoria Homes, Inspector Gregory (Cambridgeshire Police) and David Greening (Single Homeless & Rough Sleepers co-ordinator)

The Planning Officer referred to the amendment sheet (a further letter from Mitcham's Corner Residents' and Traders' Association; objection from 97 Woodhead Drive) and a letter dated 17 March from the Chairman of Cambridge Victoria Homes Executive Committee. The Committee noted that the application had been the subject of a Development Control Forum.

Members of the Committee expressed concern over the scale, amenity problems, that the site was too tight (especially in terraced housing), the impact on the surrounding area and that there should be greater consideration of the HMOs in the surrounding area.

**Resolved** (by 8 votes to 2)–

To refuse the application (against the officer recommendation).

Reasons to be based on policies BE2, BE4, HO10 and HO12.

Reasons to be agreed by Chair and spokes.

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2

**Site** 10 De Freville Avenue, CB4 1HR (West Chesterton)

**Proposal** Erection of a single dwelling on land to rear of No. 10 and adjacent to Sandy Lane (outline application)

**Application No** C/03/1392

**Applicant** Mr Lehmann, Dr Roth, 10 De Freville Avenue

**Public speakers** Applicant

The Planning Officer referred to an e mail from the applicant where she stated that the existing garage structure which was to be demolished had not provided functional car parking for many years as the downward slope from Sandy Lane was too steep to allow car access. They have therefore parked their car on-street and would provide an off-street car parking space for the new dwelling and therefore this application will not have an impact upon the car parking situation in De Freville Avenue. She also confirmed that the site notice had been displayed.

A late letter from Paul Harney was reported to Committee.

**Resolved (by 9 votes to 0)-**

To approve the application subject to a section 106 agreement and the conditions listed in the report.

The meeting ended at 10pm

**CHAIR**

## NORTH AREA COMMITTEE – 18 March 2004

### ACTION SHEET – OPEN FORUM

Subject	Action	Action By
<p>Why cannot we have white chevrons on the High St speed bumps? (Old Chesterton RA)</p>	<p>Answer required outstanding from the open forum.</p>	<p>Graham Lowe, Engineering Manager.</p>
<p>Do we have a timetable for the consultation on moorings policy agreed by the leisure &amp; amenity committee. (Old Chesterton RA)</p>	<p>Answer required outstanding from the open forum. 'Following the discussion at the Community Development and Leisure Scrutiny Committee in January I have met with the Chairman of the Conservators of the River Cam to discuss the possibility of a joint consultation process. The Conservators have now decided to consult with users about possible restrictions on all the river banks in the city. Bearing this in mind it has been agreed that the Conservators will carry out their consultation first and once they have decided which stretches of the river bank need to be kept free of mooring for navigational purposes the City Council will consult with a wider cross section of the public. It is possible this consultatuion might take place in late June and early July but more realistically in September.'</p>	<p>John Roebuck, Head of Parks and Recreation.</p>
<p>When will the public lavatories on Chesterton Road be made more pleasant? (Trumpington Gallery)</p>	<p>Answer required outstanding from the open forum. "The Council is half way through its four-year capital investment programme to improve public conveniences. Most of the public conveniences were in need of investment to improve them. To date Mill Rd, Park Street, Lion Yard and Gonville Place have been or are presently undergoing major refurbishment work as they were seen as priority. Drummer Street was totally refurbished in 2000 under</p>	<p>Bob Kerry, Special Projects, Environment &amp; Planning.</p>

	<p>a partnership agreement and Midsummer Common is due for refurbishment later this summer having been closed for some time. Of the remaining facilities, Chesterton Road is scheduled for some improvement work although no specific timetable has yet been set. In addition to the capital improvement programme, additional resources have been put into toilet cleaning and maintenance providing more frequent visits and regular deep cleansing of all facilities.”</p>	
<p>Access to toilets all year round for all the community? (Kings Hedges Super Group)</p>	<p>Answer required outstanding from the open forum. “Of the 19 public conveniences managed by the Council and the 1 facility, (Drummer St), which is managed through a partnership agreement, only three toilets are closed between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> April. They are Coleridge Recreation Ground, Kings Hedges Recreation Ground and Lammas Land. These facilities serve users of adjacent paddling pools and children’s play areas during the summer months. If a need can be demonstrated for these facilities during winter months then provision can be considered. A review has also been undertaken regarding accessibility at all facilities, and improvements, particularly at those sites which at present do not have a disabled provision, is under consideration”</p>	<p>Bob Kerry, Special Projects, Environment &amp; Planning.</p>
<p>What about funding for a middle aged group for all in the community. (Kings Hedges Super Group)</p>	<p>Answer required outstanding from the open forum. “The priorities and criteria for both area committee and city wide grants are available on request - grants are awarded on the basis of these and are subject to available resources. Local</p>	<p>Chris Freeman, Grants Manager</p>

	groups with ideas for projects which may need City Council grant aid are advised to contact the Grants Manager, Chris Freeman, on 457862 to discuss them.”	
What is happening to the part completed zebra crossing on Victoria Road? (Mitcham’s Corner R&TA)	The contractor was having problems with sub-contractors and it was due to complete in the w/e 26 March. If this had not been done, the Council would get another contractor to complete the works.	-
Why have the trees on Chesterton Road been tarmaced in – how can they get sufficient water? (Mitcham’s Corner R&TA)	Answer required outstanding from the open forum. The tarmac is being removed w/c 5 April.	Diana Oviatt-Ham, Arboriculturalist
What is going to be done about all the broken edging stones round the grass at Mitchams Corner which are being damaged by street drinkers?	Councillor Harrison to investigate the problem.	Councillor Harrison/Engineering Section
We would like to know what is the current position in relation to George Nuttal Close open space. We have written to E Chesterton councillors and had no reply from any of them. What is the current state of negotiation between the council & university estates?	The current planning application remains undetermined. A meeting was held with the university, on site, at the beginning of the previous week ( - <i>the site meeting was on the 8<sup>th</sup> March</i> ) and that was to look at various issues including where the on-site open space might be provided. It is certainly the expectation of the Council that there will be on-site provision of informal open space, and at least some of it will be around trees the subject of Tree Preservation Orders in the northern half of the site. It will not, however, be as extensive as some local residents wish. The University is looking at options and need to do some additional work before deciding their course of action. In the event, which is very likely, that further information is provided by the University, there will be a further round of consultation. The ambition of the University is to have the application heard at the 7	

	May Committee.	
<p><b>Why is there (and has been for several years) a four inch (100mm) gap across the carriageway on the Elizabeth Way Bridge (Expansion joint?) and a three inch similar gap on the Victoria Avenue bridge?</b></p> <p><b>When I cycle it damages my wheels. The answer is not "I should be cycling on the pavement" because it is not (yet) compulsory to do so and why should I cycle at or below walking pace, which is the only safe speed on the pavements?</b></p> <p>(Campkin Road RA)</p>	<p>The gaps referred to in Q1 are the bridge expansion joints. They are Britflex BEJ joints supplied by Universal Sealants Ltd and they are approved for use within the highway.</p> <p>Elizabeth bridge being of a larger span has a greater expansion joint, but on cold days the joint does average a distance of 165mm. Assuming a standard 700mm cycle wheel diameter the effective "drop" is only 10mm, mountain bikes will be slightly greater. Such an amount is not considered excessive and compares to similar specifications for road surfaces adjacent to surface water channels as set out in the Manual of Contract Documents for Highway Works Volume 1.</p>	-
<p><b>About two years ago I was invited to an introductory meeting about becoming a 'tenant auditor' and have heard nothing since. Will this be revived because I think tenants and residents should KNOW where and how the Council is spending our money, don't you?</b></p> <p>(Campkin Road RA)</p>	<p>There is a wide range of opportunities for tenants to help monitor council services. Via the Tenant Federation they can get involved in groups on asset management, and on procurement and partnering contracts. And they can get elected onto the Housing Management Board, or onto the tenant seats at Housing &amp; Health Committee. But in particular there is a tenant group formed in the past year to work on monitoring specific contracts at estate level. That may be the one Mr Tyes is referring to, though he gives no date or title.</p>	-

	<p>The Tenant Federation Manager, Simon Windmill, (tel 568318) will be happy to update him on the range of monitoring roles available, and to give him details of the next meeting of the contract monitoring group mentioned above.</p>	
<p>Does the Council have an equal treatment policy for non-discrimination between men and women when allocating Council Housing, or does the Human Rights Act not apply to this Council? Thus do men and women in the same situation receive the same number of points?          What about in a situation where there is unequal sharing of the custody of children?  <b>(Campkin Road RA)</b></p>	<p>The Policy takes into account the parent male or female who has full residency of the child/ren and points will be awarded accordingly for their current living conditions. If homeless they will be dealt with under the current legislation.</p> <p>If the other parent has confirmed staying access to the child/ren s/he will be given more points than a single applicant to try and facilitate the offer of suitable housing for the them to have the child/ren to stay.</p> <p>Due to the great demand for housing in Cambridge this property can not normally be the same size as the one already occupied by the parent with full residency. They will be considered for a two person one bedroom flat.</p> <p>Any Case with complex family issues' will normally be considered by the Allocations Review Panel</p> <p>As with all applicants who apply to Cambridge City Council for housing from the Housing Register there is no guarantee of property being offered. For Information we currently have 4133 people registered for housing.</p>	<p>-</p>

<p>Would the Council like to explain why the workmen dug up the wrong flower bed on Campkin Road? <b>(Campkin Road RA)</b></p>	<p>The mistake was made very early in the consultation process and, although it could have been spotted by many people it remained uncorrected. As such I am of the opinion it was simply human error.</p> <p>We are in the process of putting in place a more rigorous procedure to ensure there is no repeat of this type of incident.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>What is happening on Cutter Ferry Bridge – when will it reopen? (Mitcham’s Corner/Old Chesterton Ras)</p>	<p>County Council Cabinet to consider recommendation to replace in April. If approved, bridge to be replaced and open by late autumn 2004.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>What action are councillors proposing to control the antisocial behaviour of drunks using the entrance to the Cambridge Victoria Homes in Victoria Road as a urinal?</p> <p>What is the NAC going to do about ensuring that one community is not swamped with hostel type accommodation since the Council’s interpretation of policy HO12 seems only to define very small areas for assessment of density of projects – how are we going to have an overview?</p> <p>As an interested observer, it seems to me that there is an issue about street drinking in Cambridge that is causing the Council a problem. The</p>	<p>This is a matter for the police.</p> <p>This related to the planning application to be considered by the committee.</p>	<p>-</p>

<p>government says 'stop it' and the Council seems to say 'reward it'. Is this why the Council have NOT introduced a byelaw (since they have rejected a DPPO?)</p> <p>What is the council intending to do about the groups of street drinkers who gather on the island at Mitchams' Corner.</p> <p>Is the City Council going to accept the police recommendations to designate Mitchams' Corner as a hot spot of Section 30 Dispersal powers?</p>	<p>It is for the police to formally apply to the Council for this.</p>	
<p>When will the pavements at Mitchams' Corner be laid with paving stones as had happened on Chesterton Road.</p>	<p>Councillor Harrison would look into the matter, but was sure that there were no proposals in the County Council highways capital programme.</p>	<p>Cllr Harrison</p>
<p>Problems of parking on grass verges – question and petition received.</p>	<p>By law has been made (15 March) and advertised in the Cambridge Evening News. After 19 April will await the final confirmation of Government. Consultation will take place over a pilot area (s).</p>	
<p>Traffic problems in Campkin Road eg just post Grove School bad access for buses, fire engines etc (double lines need to be longer). What about having Double Red</p>	<p>Double red lines are only used in London and Edinburgh.</p>	<p>-</p>

lines like in London?		
How is the NAC going to balance impartiality with regard to planning applications whilst still being available to support local residents with concerns when all ward boundaries are involved in planning decisions.	Councillor Todd-Jones stated that determining planning applications at Area Committees was sensible. Councillor Harrison stated that it would be possible for a local member to remove themselves from decision-making if an advocate role was deemed essential.	-

Draft until 24 April 2004