

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES

15 July 2004  
2.30pm – 5.05pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Slatter (Vice Chair in the Chair), Boyce, Bradnack, Ellis-Miller, Hughes, Hymans (alternate for Councillor Stebbings) and Kightley.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cllr J Rosenstiel, Executive Councillor for Community Development & Leisure.

### FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL

#### 04/CDL/27 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2004 were confirmed as a correct record.

#### 04/CDL/28 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Callaghan, J Smith and Stebbings.

#### 04/CDL/29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members declared personal interests as indicated below. They remained in the room and took part in the discussion.

Name	Interest	Minute number
Cllr Hughes	As a member of the North Credit Union	04/CDL/33
Cllr Hymans	As a member of COPE	04/CDL/41
Cllr Kightley	As a member of Cambridge Athletics Club	04/CDL/37
Cllr Slatter	As County President of St John's Ambulance	04/CDL/36

#### 04/CDL/30 PETITION

Ms Jayne DeJordon spoke to the petition supported by Councillor Reid, Ward Councillor for Newnham Ward. The text of the petition which had 227 signatures (plus a further 151 who had signed since it was delivered) is given below:

*We propose that parts of the boundary of Lammas Land that currently have vehicular access (albeit illegal) be blocked by posts, either concrete or iron.*

*Currently the following parts of the boundary are impassable*

- *the whole of the southern boundary down to the public toilets by the swimming pool has a high edge,*
- *the majority of the western boundary is lined with large trees,*
- *All of the eastern boundary is blocked by the river.*

*This leaves two vulnerable areas*

1. *Newnham Corner (SW) where the travellers usually drive in*
2. *The northern boundary between the pedestrian crossing and the old public toilets currently the bicycle hire shop.*

*Reinforced concrete bollards are cheap and easy to install, and could be painted green to blend in.  
Alternatively the decorative cast iron posts used by the Council in various parts of Cambridge.*

In summary the petitioners were concerned about the length of time it takes for the rule of law to prevail, the increase in petty crime, loss of business to local businesses and the fear engendered in the vulnerable members of the community. They hoped that the Council would find a way to prevent illegal occupation of Lammas Land by blocking vehicular access.

The Head of Parks and Recreation said that work was already in hand to:

- \* Install wooden bollards at the entrance to cycle ways onto Lammas Land.
- \* Install milestones along the main Newnham Road boundary.
- \* Install low level fencing and gate on the northern boundary near the cycle shop.

A public consultation, to which there had been a huge response, was in the process of being carried out to establish the most suitable treatment for the northern, Fen Causeway, boundary.

#### 04/CDL/31 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

#### 04/CDL/32 **GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL FINAL OUTTURN, SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES AND CARRY FORWARD REQUESTS FOR 2003/04** (see also Record of Decision 040715/cd&l/18)

The report looked at the final outturn position against revenue and capital budgets for the financial year 2003/04. It highlighted significant variances from budget and updated the requests for approval to carry forward certain budget under-spends to 2004/05 (subject to the Council's final overall outturn position).

Additional carry forward requests totalled £50; the overall revenue variance (excluding carry forwards) for Community Development and Leisure budgets amounted to an underspend of £130,601 which was less than that reported in April due to fortuitous backdated rate revaluation savings on a number of swimming pools. There were net capital overspends of £17,000 and it was proposed to re-phase resources to fund capital spending of £65,000 from 2003/04 into 2004/05, subject to the final outturn position.

Members emphasised the great benefit of Credit Unions to people in the community on low incomes and suggested that more publicity would be beneficial.

The Chair asked, in relation to recommendation b) –the transfer of the Area Committee budget of £6,000 in 2004/05 from Community Development to Committee Section (Commercial & Human Resources portfolio) for the promotion of area committees – that an email be sent to members detailing how the Head of Committee Services planned to spend the budget.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations.

04/CDL/33 **MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY JULY 2004** (*see also Record of Decision 040715/cd&l/19*)

The Accountant explained that the Medium Term Strategy was the Council's key financial planning document for the 5-year period 2004/5 to 2008/9. It considered the implications of the Medium Term Objectives and priorities which the Council had approved. Appendix B indicated the main budget assumptions and Appendix D listed the main areas of uncertainty. The Committee was asked to give any other areas of uncertainty they wished to be taken into account.

The Scrutiny Committee had 2 items they wished to add:

1. Revenue Funding for the East Chesterton Community Centre.

The Head of Community Development told the Committee that £80,000 had been placed in the revenue budget for the running of the centre from 2005/06 but that additional resources would add greatly to the capacity of the facility to meet local needs.

The Executive Councillor suggested that the City Council explore partnerships with South Cambridgeshire District Council in relation to Joint Use of Facilities.

2. Adequate joint provision of community infrastructure in proposed new developments.

The Head of Community Development told the Committee that joint talks with South Cambridgeshire District Council were ongoing and that the Local Strategic Partnership would be considering a proposal to improve joint work with the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership on discussing community infrastructure requirements. As regards the Arbury Camp site, it was felt that there was still confusion over what had been agreed through the S106 agreements and the impact on City Council facilities.

The Director of Community Services indicated that there was a commitment to improve joint working relationships with neighbouring district councils especially with regard to housing needs.

The Executive Councillor agreed to highlight these items to the Leader.

04/CDL/34 **KEY DECISION OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION STRATEGY** (*see also Record of Decision 040715/cd&l/20*)

The Senior Planner tabled additional responses from the public consultation and revised recommendations following the consideration of the Strategy at the meeting of Environment Scrutiny Committee on 13 July and advice from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

The amended recommendations:

1. Adopt those elements of the Open Space and Recreation Strategy relevant to the 1996 Local Plan as Supplementary Planning Guidance to that Plan
2. Adopt the Open Space and Recreation Strategy as a Statement of Council Policy to support the policies in the new Local Plan, and guide the development of Area Action Plans and supplementary planning documents and as a material consideration in the determining of planning applications.
3. Recommend the Executive Councillor approve the final wording of the Strategy in consultation with the Chair and Spokesperson.

The Committee agreed to the amended recommendations for the Executive Councillor by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the amended recommendations.

04/CDL/35 **LOCAL NATURE RESERVES** *(see also Record of Decision 040715/cd&l/21)*

The Landscape Architect reported that there had been a grant of £75,000 over 3 years to fund the post of Community Liaison Officer and this was due to end in 2006. During the tenure of the current postholder, the job had expanded to include project work and publicity via the establishment of a website. The Committee was asked to consider the future of the post after 2006.

Councillor Bradnack proposed two amendments (shown in bold) to the recommendation and these were agreed by the Executive Councillor:

- 2.1 To request officers to investigate the possibility of recruiting an officer to take over from the Community Reserves Liaison Officer and consider the appropriate **responsibilities**, context and location of the post with a view to submitting a budget bid in January 2006.
- 2.2 **To request officers to explore the possibility of a joint post with South Cambridgeshire District Council.**

The committee agreed to the amended recommendations for the Executive Councillor by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the amended recommendations.

04/CDL/36 **KEY DECISION FUNDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR: Community Development April 2003 – March 2004; April - May 2004**  
**Community Development Funding Strategy 2005-2006 Proposals**  
*(see also Record of Decision 040715/cd&l/22)*

The report reviewed the grants that were awarded in 2003–04 and 2004-05 to date in the context of the funding strategy for Community Development grants and the corporate policy. It also proposed a funding strategy for 2005-06.

The Grants Manager highlighted that, following the Best Value Fundamental Service Review and changes agreed in July 2003, councillors were now defining priorities for grant funding to the voluntary sector groups who met these priorities. This was a major change for both the council and the voluntary sector.

Councillor Bradnack said that neighbourhood distribution via Area Committees was

not working well.

Members also raised questions about section 4.2 of the report which mentioned working with partners to achieve better health outcomes for those who live and work in Cambridge.

The committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations.

**04/CDL/37 KEY DECISION FUNDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR:  
Leisure: April 2003 – March 2004; April - May 2004  
Leisure funding strategy 2005-2006 proposals** *(see also Record of Decision 040715/cd&l/23)*

The Grants Manager said that the funding strategy was linked to the Sports Strategy and the Arts Plan. A key change was the need for a strategic relationship with city flagship organisations such as the Junction.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations.

**04/CDL/38 FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS 2003-04**

The Committee noted the grants awarded on officer's action from 2003/04 budgets.

**04/CDL/39 FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS 2004-05**

The Committee noted the grants listed on the agenda which had been awarded from 2004/05 budgets on officer's action in consultation, with the Executive Councillor, Chair and Spokespersons where necessary, and the level of funds still available.

**04/CDL/40 QUEENS' GREEN PROPOSED CYCLEWAY** *(see also Record of Decision 040715/cd&l/24)*

The Head of Parks & Recreation said that the cycleway would be part of the West Cambridge cycle link and would be funded by the University via an S106 Agreement. The report asked members to comment on the consultation for and the installation of the track.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations.

**04/CDL/41 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2004/07** *(see also Record of Decision 040715/cd&l/25)*

The Head of Economic Development & Tourism said that the Strategy was being brought back to committee because there had been further consultation. As a result of the response of the University of Cambridge, there was an amendment to Goal 1 Objective 3 Action 2. The University should be included as a key partner.

The Chair suggested that the Anglia Polytechnic University should also be included.

Members were keen that several disadvantaged groups be targeted by the strategy in the section dealing with barriers to work – those with mental health problems, older people (aged 50-65), long-term non-working families and single parents who had left school early.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations.

04/CDL/42 **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES** (see also *Record of Decision 040715/cd&l/26*)

The Committee agreed the nominations unanimously except where indicated:

**Arts Forum for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough:** Councillor Ellis-Miller  
(Councillor Hymans as alternate)

**Cambridge CVS:** Councillors Bradnack and J Smith

**Cambridge Enterprise Agency:** Councillor Reid

**Cambridge Independent Advice Centre:** Councillors Downham and Slatter

**Cambridge Sports Hall Trust:** Councillor Boyce

**Cambridge Women's Resource Centre:** Councillors Ellis-Miller and Hughes

**Connexions (formally Cambridgeshire Careers Guidance):** Councillor Smart

**Cambridgeshire Museums Advisory Partnership:** Mr David White (5 votes;  
Councillor Durrant, 2 votes)

**Centre 33:** Councillor Churchill

**Cambridge and District Citizens Advice Bureau:** Councillor Hymans

**East Barnwell Community Centre:** Councillor R Smith

**Eastern Orchestral Board:** Councillor Hughes

**Folk Museum:** Councillors Blencowe and James

**Guidance, Employment and Training Group:** Councillor Reid (5 votes, Councillor  
Bradnack, 2 votes)

**The Junction:** Councillors Bradnack, Churchill, Coleman, Downham and Herbert

**Manor Community Sports:** Councillors Downham and James

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations.

04/CDL/43 **NEW REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES** (see  
also *Record of Decision 040715/cd&l/27*)

The Committee considered the requests and decided that it was not appropriate to appoint a City Council representative to serve as an LEA Governor on the Board of Governors of St Mary's School.

In the case of the City of Cambridge Education Foundation (Parkside Community College), it was agreed to appoint in principle and that the Executive Councillor

would consult with the Chair and Spokesperson to find an appropriately qualified nominee.

NB. After the Committee Meeting, the Executive Councillor consulted with the Chair and Spokesperson and decided to appoint Councillor Hymans.

04/CDL/44 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**Resolved** before considering the appendix of the report to exclude members of the public from the meeting on the grounds that, if they were present, there would be disclosure to them of information defined as exempt from publication by Categories 7 and 9 as defined in the Council's Constitution part 4B (pages 181-183).

04/CDL/45 **KEY DECISION FUTURE OF COVENT GARDEN HALL, COVENT GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE FOLLOWING ITS PLANNED SURRENDER IN 2005 BY JUNCTION CDC** *(see also Record of Decision 040715/cd&l/28)*

The Head of Property & Building Services tabled the decision taken at the meeting of Commercial & Human Resources Scrutiny Committee which emphasised the wish to find a suitable community/arts use tenant. Selling was seen as a last resort if finding such a tenant failed. He also tabled an amendment to the recommendation 2.2.2 (highlighted in bold):

the Junction CDC's new auditoria, currently under construction at the Council owned site adjacent to the Cambridge Leisure site should be considered as full replacement for the Covent Garden Hall arts facility so that the Covent Garden Hall will be surplus to the **City Council's** requirements for the provision of arts facilities once the building is surrendered back to the Council

The Committee noted that there was likely to be considerable interest expressed in the venue by the Anglia Polytechnic University drama department and that there had been expressions of interest from other arts organisations.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations including amended recommendation 2.2.2 for the Executive Councillor as stated in the report by 5 votes to nil.

The Executive Councillor approved the recommendations including amended recommendation 2.2.2.

The meeting closed at 5.05pm

CHAIR