



## East Area Committee 30 September 2004

7.30pm – 10.20pm

Bharat Bhavan, Mill Road



Abbey, Coleridge, Petersfield and Romsey wards

### Minutes & Actions

**Present:** City Councillors:  
**Abbey:** John Durrant, Caroline Hart, Richard Smith  
**Coleridge:** Jeremy Benstead, Berni Callaghan, Lewis Herbert  
**Petersfield:** Kevin Blencowe, Ben Bradnack, Victoria Phillips  
**Romsey:** Iain Coleman, Sarah Ellis-Miller, Catherine Smart

**Also:** Co-opted non-voting members: County Councillors: Martin Ballard (Coleridge)

Additional information for public:

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#### 04/30 OPEN FORUM

##### 1 State of the Streetscene

The resident said that it was becoming increasingly difficult to use pavements in the smaller streets in the city, particularly while pushing buggies or wheelchairs, for a number of reasons:

- Unauthorised pavement parking
- Wheelie-bins left on pavements
- Over-hanging hedges
- Street furniture and signs

She further commented on the cost of buying a lid for the black recycling bins.

Councillors said that these issues should be reviewed by the Environment Scrutiny Committee after consideration by the officers. They noted that parking enforcement was about to be taken over by the City Council and more rigorously pursued.

**The Chair said the resident would receive a written reply from officers.**

## **2 Response to phonecalls to officers in Housing and City Services**

The resident complained at the poor response to phonecalls he had made to officers in the Housing and City Services Departments to try to resolve complaints he had made over a period of years concerning the cleaning at Fanshawe Road. He had resorted to referring the problem to the Local Ombudsman (Internal Complaints Investigator) and was awaiting an appointment.

Councillors expressed concern and said that further enquiries would be made on behalf of the resident with officers.

## **3 Personal Safety on Mill Road and Parker's Piece**

The resident expressed concern as a young person frequently using Mill Road and Parker's Piece, even during daylight, because of the apparent lack of policing. There were signs of drug dealing openly carried out and threatening behaviour and aggressive begging by drug and alcohol abusers in streets and shops in the area. The vulnerability of foreign students was an issue which needed highlighting to the colleges so students were forewarned of possible problems.

Councillors acknowledged the increasing problems associated with Mill Road and the neighbourhood. There had been difficulties in recruiting Community Police officers which had a considerable effect on levels of perceived crime and the ability to report incidents. The Councillors had made their concern known to Police representatives and had experienced similar difficulties in contacting police.

Councillors undertook to raise these issues with police contacts and also referred to the need for the PCT to reorganise their facilities to reduce the concentration of related problems in this area.

## **4 Provision of Permanent CCTV coverage on the Broadway Mill Road**

The resident sought an assurance that consideration was being given to extension of CCTV coverage throughout the city, and in particular for locations such as The Broadway on Mill Road. She felt mobile CCTV units were insufficient, given the problems associated with the area.

Councillors referred to the cost of provision of permanent units and the programme for development of the facility. They also commented on the need to resolve the problems in areas where people felt most vulnerable rather than provide cameras.

## **5 Parkside Pools Disabled Changing Rooms - Poor Maintenance and Cleaning**

The resident complained that the Changing Room facilities, particularly in the Disabled Changing Room were poorly maintained and were frequently out of use. She had complained to the management but no notable improvement had been made.

Councillor Bradnack said that he would take up the issue when he attended the Management Committee of the Pools shortly. Other Councillors commented on the shortcomings of the maintenance and cleaning regime.

## **6 Vandalism on Vinery Road and at Allotments**

The resident said that she had attempted to contact the Community Police about the behaviour of a small gang of youths who were active in the Vinery Road area. One in particular caused her concern, damaging allotment sheds and causing a nuisance to residents. This lad had been excluded from school and had not been given any alternative form of activity. The Police had been difficult to contact and had not taken any discernable action.

Councillors said that they would contact the police on the matter and reinforce residents' concerns.

## **7 Public Consultation on Domestic Refuse Collection**

County Councillor Ballard commented on the questionnaire on Domestic Refuse Collection that had been circulated by the City Council. He felt that it was not in a form that would be easy for anyone who had restricted vision. He asked that the Council take the needs of residents into account when producing this type of literature.

Councillors agreed and asked that the relevant officer's be notified of the problem that Councillor Ballard had drawn attention to.

### **04/31 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2004 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment, indicated in italics, to the second paragraph of minute 04/25/5:

*Cllr Smart* said that so far as was known the current position was that development had begun following the applicant meeting the conditions to the officers' satisfaction. *Other members felt that this needed further clarification.*

### **04/32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coleman, Gluza and Shaw.

### **04/33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of Interest by Councillors.

### **04/34 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

Tom Jefford, a Board member from the Partnership gave a brief outline of the process to develop the new Community Safety Strategy 2005-08. The public present were asked to take part in a discussion with a view to identifying the crime priorities in the local area. There was also an opportunity to complete a questionnaire on the same subject.

During discussion the following points and comments were made:

1. People working in shops in Mill Road feel intimidated and police and the council is not doing enough to help.
2. Mill Road is more threatening during the day than at night as people going to treatment centres for Methadone and needle exchange can be very intimidating.
3. There is a concentration of drug and alcohol treatment centres in Mill Rd. drawing drug/alcohol abusers from all over the City to congregate in Mill Rd. Primary Care Trust and City Council should look to locating treatment centres elsewhere, possibly in City Centre. The location of the hospital at the top of Mill Rd. creates problems because treatment users have to walk the length of Mill Rd to access it.
4. In response to a question about the City Council's planning powers to close Mill House it was suggested that powers such as DPPOs could be used to tackle this type of issue.
5. Parkers Piece has become very threatening for young people and foreign students who have been attacked and had their mobile phones and money stolen. Students drew attention to themselves and made themselves more vulnerable, for example, by carrying bags from the language colleges.
6. The Community Beat Officers (CBO) has not been very visible in Mill Road recently.
7. The Community Beat Officers has not been available for meetings to discuss the problems in Mill Rd.
8. It is understood that CBOs are often taken away from the beat for special operations but this is not helpful for the community.
9. The public were aware of Operation Viking but when phone calls were made to Police to report incidents the phone was not answered.
10. The City Council needs to use the powers/policies at its disposal to curb street drinking.
11. Morning Street drinkers at the bus stop outside Robert Sales on St. Andrew St. should be dispersed using the powers available.
12. There is a need for permanent CCTV in Mill Rd. Broadway. Re-deployable cameras in situ for 2 weeks will not solve the problem.
13. The introduction of CCTV at East Barnwell Community Centre solved the Anti-social behaviour problem there.
14. Over the last 6 months a 14-year-old boy is engaging in intimidating behaviour on Vinery Road allotments. The CBO has been informed but has not responded. The boy appears to be excluded from school and is sometimes accompanied by 4/5 other young people. (It was suggested that the concerned member of the public should take this case to the Anti-social behaviour Team)
15. It was acknowledged that fear of crime can be out of proportion to actual crime but that perceptions were very important as they impacted on quality of life.
16. The question was asked if Mill Rd. will remain a hotspot area and if so what actions will City Council take to tackle the problems.

Requests were made for:

1. A response from Primary Care Trust to why all treatment is centred in Mill Rd. and what solutions can be found to re-locating some of the services.
2. A campaign to make foreign students aware of the risks/consequences of giving money to beggars and of buying alcohol for underage people. They also need crime prevention tips to secure their own safety. Some universities in other Cities email all students at the beginning of term to alert them to the risks of becoming a victim of crime.

3. A response to whether the police will be subject to new service standards for answering the phone in the future.

The priorities for residents and people working in the commercial premises in the area were identified as:

- Mill Road to remain a hotspot area for interventions
- Violent crime and robbery on Parkers Piece to be tackled
- Crime against foreign students/young people
- Re-location of treatment services for drug and alcohol misuse
- Visibility and availability of CBO
- Police response to phone calls
- Dispersal of street drinkers
- Installation of permanent CCTV

Councillors heard that these issues would be included with comments made at other Area Committees and by other consultees and incorporated in the Community Safety Action Plan.

#### **04/35 CAMBRIDGE EAST AREA ACTION PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT**

The officers presented a report on the progress of the Cambridge East Area Action Plan and outline the next steps to be taken. The report set out the background to the Action Plan and highlighted the key issues for consideration.

Cllr Bradnack said that he felt there were serious weaknesses with the proposals in the Action Plan, including the transport issues and problems with the planning process. Cllr Durrant said that the issues surrounding the capacity of Newmarket Road had not been addressed.

Cllr Smart said the Plan formed part of the Redeposit Draft Local Plan which had been agreed by the Executive Councillor Environment in April 2004. The Development Plan Steering Group had commented on the Draft Action Plan preferred options in July and while she acknowledged the concerns of the Labour Group members the issues had progressed

Cllr Bradnack's proposal that the recommendation be amended as set out below was carried by 7 votes to 2:

This Area Committee believes that major housing development is essential in the Cambridge sub-region in line with the targets that the government has set.

But the Committee questions whether the most appropriate sites have been chosen for development, and the objectivity of the criteria which have been applied in identifying those sites, when the spatial strategy which determined choice of sites preceded analysis of transport capacity, and political considerations appear to have outweighed sustainability criteria. The Committee does not believe that a strategy devised in this way will reflect the best interests of the city or the sub-region in the future.

The Committee regrets the decision to identify East Cambridge as an appropriate site for the development of 12,000 new dwellings for 29,000 new residents, particularly because it is predicated on relocation of Marshall's airport independently of the company's wishes and interests, to a site as yet unidentified, which may not materialise; and also because it offers no plan to address the existing deficit in transport infrastructure for those entering Cambridge along Newmarket Rd, Barnwell Rd and Coldham's Lane, which such a development would exacerbate by an additional 55,000 trips per day, of which 25% would be at peak hours, predominantly into the city.

The Committee therefore:

(a) Asks the officers to forward the Committee's views (as set out above) for consideration by the Local Plan Inspector;

(b) Requests the Environment Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Councillor for Planning and Transport to resolve to cease work on proposals to develop the airport site until there is a firm decision by Marshalls to move the airport to an identified alternative site; and to ensure that prior to any development proposed within the East Area Action Plan, the full range of transport issues associated with access into Cambridge from sites identified in the plan has been adequately addressed .

Members suggested that the issue of transport plans could be separated from transport issues in paragraph (b) into a further paragraph, as it was inherently of sufficient importance.

Councillor Durrant's proposal that the words 'including the North Works' be added in paragraph (c) after the words Action Plan was carried, without opposition.

**Resolved** by 7 votes to 2 that

This Area Committee believes that major housing development is essential in the Cambridge sub-region in line with the targets that the government has set.

But the Committee questions whether the most appropriate sites have been chosen for development, and the objectivity of the criteria which have been applied in identifying those sites, when the spatial strategy which determined choice of sites preceded analysis of transport capacity, and political considerations appear to have outweighed sustainability criteria. The Committee does not believe that a strategy devised in this way will reflect the best interests of the city or the sub-region in the future.

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(b) Requests the Environment Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Councillor for Planning and Transport to resolve to cease work on proposals to develop the airport site until there is a firm decision by Marshalls to move the airport to an identified alternative site; and

(c) to ensure that prior to any development proposed within the East Area Action Plan, including the North Works, the full range of transport issues associated with access into Cambridge from sites identified in the plan has been adequately addressed .

#### **04/36 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

At the beginning of the debate of this item Councillor Bradnack said that he would not be taking part in the determination of planning applications, as it would inhibit his ability to represent residents in their wards. He also felt that they lacked sufficient expertise in planning matters and that the members of the Planning Committee had acquired such expertise and were the proper body to consider applications.

He withdrew from participation in the Committee, and sat with the public.

**1 Application No: C/04/0559**

**Site:** 69-77 Ditton Walk

**Proposal:** Outline application for redevelopment of site for residential purposes.

**Applicant:** Orion Insulation & Construction Services Ltd, 77 Ditton Walk

**PSR:** D Proctor (Agent)

**Recommendation:** Refuse

**APPROVED:** (by 7 votes to 0, against officer recommendation) subject to conditions and completion of a s106 agreement to be drafted by the Head of Development Services and agreed by Chair and Spokesperson, and further clarification from the Environment Agency.

**2 Application No: C/04/0797**

**Site:** 271 Mill Road

**Proposal:** Change of use from hobby/store room to a single self-contained dwelling (retrospective application)

**Applicant:** Mr I Wyness, c/o First Site, 17 Norfolk Street

**PSR:** P Leblond (Agent)

**Recommendation:** Refuse

**REFUSED:** by 8 votes to 0, for the reasons set out in the officers' report,

**Enforcement Action:** by 8 votes to 0, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out enforcement action as set out in the officers' report.

- 3 Application No:** C/04/0880  
**Site:** 8 Ainsworth Street  
**Proposal:** Change of use from annex to separate residential use (retrospective).  
**Applicant:** CD 2001 Settlement c/o Dudley Management, Regal Lodge, Swan Lane, Exning  
**PSR:** Sean Dudley (applicant)  
**Recommendation:** Refuse  
**REFUSED:** by 5 votes to 2, for the reasons set out in the officers' report,  
**Enforcement Action:** by 5 votes to 2, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out enforcement action as set out in the officers' report.
- 4 Application No:** C/04/0770  
**Site:** 5 Fanshawe Road  
**Proposal:** Conversion of single dwelling house to two flats.  
**Applicant:** Mr F Russo, 5 Radigund Road  
**PSR:**  
**Recommendation:** Refuse  
**WITHDRAWN PRIOR TO COMMITTEE**
- 5 Application No:** C/04/0676  
**Site:** 102 Cherry Hinton Road  
**Proposal:** Section 73 application to vary condition 6 of C/00/0178/FP to allow the use of a premises by a party other than Mr Keith Carter, namely Spires International.  
**Applicant:** Spires International, 185 East Road  
**PSR:**  
**Recommendation:** Refuse  
**REFUSED:** by 7 votes to 0, for the reasons set out in the officers' report,  
**Enforcement Action:** by 7 votes to 0, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out enforcement action as set out in the officers' report.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm

**CHAIR**