



**West/Central Area Committee
(City Councillors representing Castle, Market
and Newnham Wards)
13 January 2005 7:30pm – 9.33pm
Minutes & Actions**

Present: Councillors: John Hipkin (Castle Ward, Chair), Marie-Louise Holland and Simon Kightley (Castle Ward), Mike Dixon, Colin Rosenstiel and Joye Rosenstiel (Market Ward), Rod Cantrill, Sian Reid and Julie Smith (Newnham Ward)

Also Present: County Councillors David White (Castle Ward), Anthony Bowen (Market Ward) and Alexander Reid (Newnham Ward).

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Members of the City Council have individual email addresses which are listed on the City Council website:
www.cambridge.gov.uk/councillors/members.htm
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05/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

05/02 OPEN FORUM

This was an Open Forum with a special theme – the Stagecoach local Citi Bus Routes. Members of the public and councillors asked questions and raised issues – please see the attached Summary Sheet for details of these and the responses given.

05/03 MINUTES AND ACTION SHEETS

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2004 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05/04 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

05/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

05/06 UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2004/05

Councillor C Rosenstiel spoke for recommendation 2.2 and asked that the Area Joint Committee (AJC) and the Highway Authority be asked to sort out the problems with parking on the paving. There was no point in making the environmental improvements if there was no enforcement of the parking regulations.

The Landscape Architect said that all stakeholders would be involved including the County Council as the Highway Authority.

Councillor J Smith expressed concern that the Committee had not been provided with an up-to-date budget so that they could judge the relative costs of recommendation 2.1.

The Landscape Architect reminded members that she had circulated an email in December with the current state of the budget. Currently the Committee's budget is underspent by £25,000.

Councillor Sian Reid proposed and Councillor J Smith seconded the following additional recommendations:

"ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT IN MARKET SQUARE

The basic architecture, urban design and function of Market Square, and its animation with the market, is good. However, it is looking unkempt, uncared for and tired. Improvements to it would be

1. Cleaning and floodlighting of Guildhall. The Guildhall is such a large and dominant building that its presence greatly affects the ambience of Market Square. It would be very beneficial to spruce up the external appearance of the Guildhall by cleaning the stonework, and re-painting the metal work in its original colour. It would also be very beneficial to install some discreet floodlighting on the Market Square façade of the building.

Area Committee members are invited to recommend to Commercial and Human Resources Committee that this work be carried out.

2. Attention to the detailed quality of the existing streetscape.

A detailed check is needed on the quality and condition of the existing items of streetscape from the more prominent (eg the fountain and signage) to the less prominent such as streetlamps, litter bins, recycling bins, paving, and kerbs. All these should be brought up to good and cared-for condition.

The Area Committee is invited to recommend:

- ***A detailed investigation of possible works***
- ***The allocation of a significant part of the EIP budget towards these improvements***
- ***The consideration of whether other budgets exist to enhance the EIP budget. “***

Councillor C Rosenstiel said that improvements to the market needed to be dealt with carefully and he thought the two additional recommendations should be linked and neither should stand alone. There were also problems with large lorries using the market.

Councillor J Rosenstiel asked that the public toilets in the Market Square should also be considered in any improvements and whether they should be made available to the public.

A member of the public asked if the dark skies initiative had been taken into account.

Councillor Sian Reid replied to these points – she thought the first part could stand alone, she agreed that the dark skies initiative was important and that the floodlighting could be done selectively in terms of when and how.

Councillor J Smith asked that the costings for the second part of the new recommendation be brought to the next meeting of the committee.

The Landscape Architect assured the Chair that there were the funds to do the improvement audit asked for in the second part of the new recommendation.

The Committee voted on the recommendations in the officer report as follows:

2.1 Agreed (by 8 votes to 0) to the proposal for six litter bins for Burleigh Street at a cost of £3,300.

2.2 Agreed (by 9 votes to 0) to officers investigating the cost of renewing the paving at the East Road end of Burleigh Street.

The Committee voted on the recommendations in Councillor Sian Reid's proposal as follows:

Agreed (by 6 votes to 1) to recommend to the Executive Councillor for Commercial & Human Resources that the external appearance of the Guildhall be spruced up by cleaning the stonework and re-painting the metal work in its original colour.

Agreed (by 7 votes to 0) to a detailed investigation of the cost of possible works on the quality and condition of the existing items of streetscape from the more prominent (eg the fountain and signage) to the less prominent such as streetlamps, litter bins, recycling bins, paving, and kerbs.

05/07 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & LEISURE GRANTS 2004-05

In response to questions from members, the Grants Manager explained that the Committee could, if it wished, decide to award Newnham Youth Club a further grant in subsequent years, that the Club was run by youth workers, parents and volunteers and held its meetings in St Mark's Church.

Councillor J Smith asked that a note be included in the letter awarding the grant explaining that the Club should not expect to be given a grant in future years.

A member of the public asked if all the child protection issues had been checked and the Grants Manager assured him that no community group was allowed to go ahead without all the checks in place.

The Chair asked for clarification of what would happen to the underspend this year.

The Grants Manager explained that 3 of the Area Committees were underspent and 1 was overspent. The Executive Councillor for Community Development & Leisure, Joye Rosenstiel had agreed that there would be one more opportunity to give grants at the next area committees in February/March and then any underspend would go back into the pool of funds for city wide distribution.

The committee agreed (by 9 votes to 0) the recommendation in the officer report to award Newnham Youth Club £4,258 and the 38th Cambridge Brownies (Wesley Church) £250.

The meeting closed at 9.33pm.

Chair