

Minutes & Actions

Councillors Present

Abbey: John Durrant, Caroline Hart, Richard Smith

Coleridge: Jeremy Benstead, Lewis Herbert

Petersfield: Kevin Blencowe, Victoria Phillips

Romsey: Iain Coleman, Catherine Smart

Co-opted non-voting members: County Councillors: Martin Ballard (Coleridge), Nichola Harrison (Petersfield), Jo Toomey (Romsey)

05/19 OPEN FORUM

Resident 1 – Housing Management Board

The Executive Councillor for Housing and Health had made a statement at a meeting which referred to the Chair of the Housing Management Board and whether a Tenant Representative would be eligible for that office. At the Annual Meeting the Council had appointed a Councillor as Chair and there appeared to have been a change in intent following initial meetings which indicated that the Chair would be a Tenant Representative. It was to be regretted that the Council had not followed its co-operative approach with the Council Tenants Representatives and tenants and leaseholders would be regarded as second-class members of the Board.

Councillor Smart, Executive Councillor for Housing and Health, explained her reason for making the statement and the Council's decision in appointing Councillor James to the Chair.

- *No action*

Resident 2 – Student Accommodation in Romsey

A house occupied by a number of students in Romsey was virtually a House in Multiple Occupation and was causing residents concern as the level of occupation was leading to a number of problems.

Members said that they had been made aware of the problem and had had discussions over it. The house remained beyond the council's control although representations had been made to the MP, David Howarth, asking for Government action.

Other residents commented that in a number of cases, work had apparently been undertaken without building regulation permission on properties being used for student accommodation. There was an inevitable impact on parking, rubbish, noise and even sewerage in these areas.

Members invited public present to let them or officers know of any instances and agreed that problems like this had a wider significance on residents in the area and the ability of families to find housing.

- *Continue to Follow up need for legislation with MP Romsey Ward members*

Resident 3 (UKYP) – Young People's Issues at Area Committees

What was being done to encourage young people to bring issues to Area Committees?

Members said there were meetings held with young peoples' representatives and they would welcome any suggestions from the representatives of the UKYP present on how to make the Area Committee meetings more appealing to young people.

Much of the responsibility and available funding was in the hands of the County Council, never-the-less City Councillors would be willing to consider supporting projects within the Area Committees budgets.

It might be necessary to set aside funding to encourage attendance and participation by young people.

- *Chair to consider with officers how to meet requests from young people*

Resident 4 (UKYP) – Identifying Issues for Young People

How are Committee members finding out what the issues are for young people?

Members would be willing to meet a representative group to discuss issues with them in a suitable location. Schools could be asked to invite local councillors along to speak to them and find out from students what they felt should be done in their areas. The Council carried out a Young People's Survey for the same purpose.

- *Chair to consider with officers how to meet requests from young people*

Resident 5 (UKYP) – Allocation of Resources for Young People's Projects

Could young people be allocated resources proportionate to their population in Cambridge according to the last census in 2001?

Children and Young People were the focus of much of the local authorities budgets under education and other budgets. Officers and members at both City and County Councils were willing to work with young people within the structure of the organisations on schemes and projects to help achieve their goals.

- *Chair to consider with officers how to meet requests from young people*

Resident 6 (UKYP) – Proportion of Area Committees' Budgets

The budgets controlled by Area Committees were limited could a larger percentage be made available to young people?

Allocation of resources had to relate to specific projects and comply with the Council's conditions but any bids would be considered on par with others received.

The Chair thanked members of UKYP for their questions and undertook to arrange a meeting with chairs of other area committees to provide a forum for young people to put their suggestions on how they could participate in Area Committees.

- *Chair to consider with officers how to meet requests from young people*

Resident 7 – Reappearance of Problems along Mill Road

The problems on Mill Road which had experienced a dramatic improvement were now resurfacing. Specifically, Ditchburn Gardens were being used as a congregating point for drug addicts and alcoholics with the resulting difficulties for local residents.

While the problem wasn't currently as bad as it had been in the past it would be as well to nip it in the bud. The Council should consider closing the Gardens to control the situation. If this were to happen it might encourage families to use the Gardens.

Ward members agreed with the resident as similar complaints had been made to them and were surprised that police had not moved the group on. They would monitor progress and support any moves to deal with it.

Inspector Gregory said that there were low staffing levels in the Cambridge City Sector following resignations. He had also been made aware that the problem was recurring and would be taking steps to deal with the situation.

- *Members to monitor situation to support and liaise with Police*

Resident 8 – Support for Romsey Action

Romsey Action was a residents group who were working to revitalise various aspects of Romsey which appeared to be deteriorating, these included:

- Inadequate street lighting
- Poor state of the pavements
- Poor highway drainage, in one case causing flooding of a house in Thoday Street
- Lack of CCTV coverage

The general air of decay was evidenced by the vacant shops. The Committee was asked to support the regeneration of the area.

Members did not agree that the area had degenerated to the extent described, however they were willing to support funding of schemes for Environmental Improvements and any other action within its scope.

The mobile CCTV cameras had been stationed in Romsey but had not picked up any activity that could be followed up, resources for more units were limited and had to be distributed around the wards. Labour members indicated that they had sought more funding for more mobile units but had not succeeded.

On street lights, the programme of replacement would take many years to complete, some 520 years at a current estimate. Government funding was being sought which might improve the situation. Again, resources were limited.

- *Members to monitor situation to support proposals to improve and regenerate area*

Resident 9 – Advertising Meetings

The meetings of the area committee were not well advertised, they needed to be notified to all Residents Associations in the Wards. Consideration should be given to advertising in the Cambridge Evening News.

This issue was part of a review of Area Committees taking place currently, it was the intention to make Residents Associations aware of the meetings and invite their participation; it was not always easy to keep the list of Associations up to date. Advertising in the Evening News would eat into the budget available to Area Committees for distributing as grants.

- *Consider how to Increase publicity without adding to costs, notify residents associations.*

Resident 10 – Ramp Outside City Homes South

The ramp outside the City Homes South office has had to be rebuilt as the gradient was too steep for wheelchair access. How will this be paid for, can it be recovered from the builder who installed it? Had the Council's Access Officer been involved in the project.

This was being followed up closely by the Executive Councillor Housing and Health who would report back to the next meeting on how the situation had been resolved.

- *Cllr Smart to report back to Committee*

Resident 11 - New Fortnightly Recycling Collection

The new recycling collections were to be introduced, they would require residents to store recycling material and waste at home over a fortnight, how was this to be done in small houses?

Provision would be made for smaller accommodation. The Recycling Officer would deal with this question with the resident separately.

- *Officers would continue information and consultation campaign*

Resident 12

The shrubs outside 24 Budleigh Close had grown so much that the house was overshadowed. There had also been rubbish tipped into the shrubbery at Burnside and Budleigh Close to make matters worse.

- *Committee Manger to follow up with the relevant council department.*

Resident 13

(This question was handed in but not asked.)

Resident was concerned about dog mess in the garden outside her house (7 Taunton Close) she can not open her windows because of the smell.

- *Committee Manger to follow up with the relevant council department.*

05/20 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2005 were confirmed as a correct record.

05/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ben Bradnack, Victoria Phillips, and County Councillors Martin Ballard (Coleridge) and Paul Sales (Abbey).

05/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

05/23 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

At the beginning of this item Councillor Benstead said that he would not be taking part in the determination of planning applications as it would inhibit his ability to represent

residents in his ward.

He felt that he lacked expertise in planning matters and that the members of the Planning Committee had acquired such expertise and were the proper body to consider applications.

Cllr Benstead withdrew from participation in the Committee, except as indicated where he acted as a ward councillor representing residents of his ward, and sat with the public.

The Committee noted that an amendment sheet had been circulated to members of the Committee prior to the meeting and made available to the public attending the meeting.

1

Application No 05/0343/FUL
Site 33 Mill Road Cambridge
Proposal Ground floor single storey rear extension, first floor rear extension and dormer window to rear of attic/roofspace to convert existing house into two flats
Applicant Whitfield Estates
Recommendation Approve subject to conditions
PSR -
Decision **APPROVED** subject to the conditions and informatives set out in the officer's report and the completion of a section 106 agreement by 29 July,
If the Obligation has not been completed by 29 July 2005, it is recommended that the application be **refused** for the reason set out in the officer's report.

2

Application No 05/0458/FUL
Site 30 Lichfield Road Cambridge
Proposal Erection of two storey side and rear extension and conversion of existing dwelling to 2 one-bed flats
Applicant Primary Building of Developments
Recommendation Approve subject to conditions
PSR -
Decision **APPROVED** subject to the conditions and informatives set out in the officer's report.

3

Application No 05/0358/FUL
Site 19 Mawson Road Cambridge
Proposal Erection of rear dormer and enlargement of the existing ground floor rear extension
Applicant William Logan and Debora Greger
Recommendation Approve subject to conditions
PSR Mr Woodburn-Smith (resident) Mrs J Perry (for applicant)
Decision **APPROVE** subject to the conditions and informative set out in the officer's report.

4

Application No 05/0359/FUL
Site 37 Mawson Road Cambridge
Proposal Erection of rear roof dormer, rebuilding roof of first floor extension including roof extension replacement of existing conservatory with insulated garden room.
Applicant Drs Lucia and Thure Etzold
Recommendation Approve subject to conditions
PSR -
Decision **APPROVE** subject to the conditions and informative set out in the officer's report.

5

Application No 05/0495/FUL
Site 88 Sedgwick Street Cambridge
Proposal First floor rear extension to existing house.
Applicant Dr R Kilner
Recommendation Refuse
PSR -
Decision **REFUSED** for the reason set out in the officer's report.

05/24 ENFORCEMENT NOTICE - 98A MILL ROAD

The report sought authority to serve an Enforcement Notice for a breach of planning control at 98A Mill Road for the stationing of a portacabin without planning permission.

Resolved

- 1 That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to serve an enforcement notice under the provisions of Section 172 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) for, without planning permission, the use of land for the stationing of a portacabin.
- 2 The steps to comply with the notice would be to permanently remove the portacabin from the site.

05/25 DECISION TO ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10.00pm. The remainder of the agenda would be considered at a meeting of the Committee on 25 July 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 10.00pm

Minutes & Actions

Councillors Present

Abbey: John Durrant, Richard Smith

Coleridge: Jeremy Benstead, Lewis Herbert, Ben Stafford

Petersfield: Kevin Blencowe, Ben Bradnack, Victoria Phillips

Romsey: Iain Coleman

County Councillor: Martin Ballard (Coleridge)

05/26 WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

The Executive Councillor for Environmental Services, Councillor Iain Coleman and Roger Coey, Head of Environmental Services, spoke on the changes to the Waste Collection Service.

05/27 OPEN FORUM

Resident 14 – Special Arrangements

What was to be done about collections for large households, either large families or Houses in Multiple Occupation?

The Executive Councillor for Environmental Services replied that the officers would be working with residents to achieve the best solution for the needs of individual residents.

- *Officers would continue information and consultation campaign*

Resident 15 – Status Quo

Why not keep things as they are with additional recycling collections?

The Executive Councillor for Environmental Services said that people needed the incentive to increase recycling, the new system would provide the incentive.

The Head of Environmental Services said that the aim was to decrease waste and provide an efficient service with a reliable collection fleet.

- *Officers would continue information and consultation campaign*

Resident 16 – Daily Collections

On the Continent, there were regular daily collections in cities, why could not that be done here?

The Head of Environmental Services said that it was a question of cost.

- *No action*

Resident 17 – Survey

The resident had carried out his own survey in Romsey; as it is, bins were overflowing in the same week. Why were the green bins not being collected on a weekly basis, the

kitchen waste kept for two weeks in particular would be a problem attracting flies and vermin.

The Executive Councillor for Environmental Services said that the additional recycling collected would need sensible sorting and storage. Waste stored in this way would not attract pests.

The Head of Environmental Services added that there was no evidence of an increase in the rate of disease in those local authority areas which had already moved to alternate weekly collections provided good public health practice was followed, i.e. wrapping organic waste in newspaper and not overloading waste storage bins so that the bins would not close.

- *Officers would continue information and consultation campaign*

Resident 18 – Storage of waste/Poor Recycling by Short Term Occupants

Storage of waste in hot weather would be a problem, despite the reassurances given by the officers. This would be exacerbated by short term residents who would not have the same commitment to recycling and proper storage of perishable waste.

The Head of Environmental Services said that good practice with recycling perishable waste would ensure that flies and other pests would not be a problem.

- *Officers would continue information and consultation campaign*

Resident 19 – Collection from Flats/Special Arrangements/Cost

What would happen about collections from flats where space was limited?

The Executive Councillor for Environmental Services said that the flats would be visited by officers to ensure arrangements were clear, there were issues with colleges which needed to be sorted out and there were other premises that needed consideration. Cost would have to be kept within the budget allocated to achieve the £83,000 saving planned. Officers were constantly looking at alternative means of disposal.

- *Officers would continue information and consultation campaign*

Councillor Bradnack – Previous attempt to move to fortnightly collections

The City had experimented with fortnightly collections in 1999 and although it had been successful when limited to one area, however it had proved impracticable to apply it to other areas in the city and the City had had to revert to weekly collections. Why would the situation be different this time?

The Head of Environmental Services said that the Council had provided a new kerbside collection service for dry recyclables, extended the compost collection service across the city and provided more information to the public about the service available and the reason for recycling.

- *Officers would continue information and consultation campaign*

Resident 20

The use of paper sacks for green waste was not always effective, its use as a storage medium was limited as paper decomposed rapidly.

The Head of Environmental Services said that more publicity would be given to the changes in the collection rounds and the implications for residents as the start date in October grew near. The start date depended on final delivery of material and vehicles.

- *Officers would continue information and consultation campaign*

05/28 Community Police: Cambridge City Sector

Inspector Martin Gregory from the Cambridgeshire Constabulary explained the Police's plans for new consultation arrangements with local people and the restructuring of Community Policing in the Cambridge Sector to align with the City's Areas. Sergeant Mark Woolner spoke on problems particular to the East Area.

The decision on the Police's local consultation process was to be made by the Police Authority and would be reported back to the Committee.

On staffing levels, recruitment had been capped and there were a number of vacancies to be filled.

He had discussed further co-operation with the City Council with the Director of Community Services and the Head of Strategy and Partnerships.

Resident 21

He welcomed the police's attendance and the improvement in consultation. He suggested that members seek improvements in government funding to maintain the level of staffing.

Members were appreciative of the changes in community policing and closer links with the Sector.

They acknowledged that recruitment was a problem that needed addressing and supported any means of improving the situation.

- *Members to monitor situation to support and liaise with Police*

05/29 Declarations of Interest

Code of Conduct Personal Interests were declared in relation to the item on Community Development and Leisure Grants 2005/06 as follows:

Cllr Durrant as Treasurer of the Management Committee of E Barnwell Community Centre
Cllr R Smith as a member of the Management Committee of E Barnwell Community Centre

05/30 Community Development and Leisure grants 2005-06

The Executive Councillor had approved the following allocation of 10% of the total Community Development grants budget and 5% of the total Leisure grants budget for 2005-06 area committee grants. This had been calculated using population levels and was also weighted to give additional funds to areas of economic disadvantage as defined by the City Council's *Mapping poverty* research report.

Area	Population	Mapping poverty score	Combined score	Community development £	Leisure £	Total £
North	28%	38%	34.7%	25,640	5690	31,330
East	28%	35%	32.7%	24,170	5360	29,530
South	21%	21%	21%	15,520	3450	18,970
West Central	23%	6%	11.6%	8570	1900	10,470
Total				73,900	16,400	90,300

The Committee had approved the following grants:

Community development spend to date				£24,170 budget	
	Group	Project	Awarded	Grant £	
CD1	East Barnwell Friendship Club	Outings	17 March 2005	250	
CD2	Cambridge OnLine	IT training programme	17 March 2005	1387	
CD3	PACT	Meeting costs	17 March 2005	550	
CD4	Romsey Mill	Play project	17 March 2005	1380	
CD5	Tuesday Club	Hall hire, outing	17 March 2005	192	
			total	3759	
Leisure, sport and art spend to date				£5360 budget	
	Group	Project	Awarded	Grant £	
L1	St Martin's Day Centre	Art classes	17 March 2005	1900	
			total	1900	

Details of the current bids for the Committee's determination were set out in the report summarised below with the officer's recommendation, there were none for the Leisure, sport and art category:

Community development current applications				£20,411 available	
	Group	Project	Bid £	Offer £	
CD6	Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service	Time bank volunteering project in Abbey	2318	0	
CD7	Romsey Mill	Young women's group	4005	4005	
CD8	Romsey Mill	Boys group	3719	3719	
CD9	St Matthew's Gardens Residents Association	Meeting and administration costs; legal advice	1525	995	
CD10	St Matthew's Over 50s Club	Meeting costs; outings; insurance	2250	940	
			13,817	9659	

Following discussion with members, the Grants Officer amended the recommendation relating to application CD6 Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service to £400.

Resolved grants be made as follows:

Community development current applications			£20,411 available	
	Group	Project	Bid £	Grant £
CD6	Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service	Time bank volunteering project in Abbey	2318	400
CD7	Romsey Mill	Young women's group	4005	4005
CD8	Romsey Mill	Boys group	3719	3719
CD9	St Matthew's Gardens Residents Association	Meeting and administration costs; legal advice	1525	995
CD10	St Matthew's Over 50s Club	Meeting costs; outings; insurance	2250	940
			13,817	1,0059

The meeting finished at 9.00pm

CHAIR