

East Area Committee

Lichfield Hall, Lichfield Road

8 February 2006
7.30pm – 10.20pm

Minutes & Actions

Councillors Present:

Abbey: John Durrant, Richard Smith

Coleridge: Jeremy Benstead, Lewis Herbert, Ben Stafford

Petersfield: Kevin Blencowe, Ben Bradnack, Victoria Phillips

Romsey: Sarah Ellis-Miller, Catherine Smart

County Councillors: Martin Ballard (Coleridge) and Nicola Harrison (Petersfield)

(In the initial absence of the Chair, Cllr Durrant at the start of the meeting, Cllr Blencowe took the Chair)

06/01 Open Forum

1 Station Area Developments

A resident drew attention to the apparent lack of response by the Council to the concern felt by residents about the amount of new residential development around the Station Road Area. At the last meeting of East Area Committee, a number of residents had asked for a public debate on the various issues which would impact on Cambridge residents, particularly those in the East and South areas.

He said that the council had appeared not to take a strategic oversight about the various developments and drew attention to the public meeting which residents had convened in St Paul's Church. The 250 residents attending had shown the extent of public concern about the lack of a Development Brief.

Members said that the Council was aware of public concern and would be calling a public meeting to enable residents to express their concerns about the applications in the area, although no definite arrangements for the meeting had been published. Cllr Benstead said that he felt the Council had taken its eye off the ball in this instance and had not responded to pressure applied by developers.

The Chair suggested that, subject to the result of any public meeting called, the Director of Environment and Planning be invited to make a presentation to this Committee about the strategic planning issues for the Station Road Area and the south of the city.

County Cllr Ballard said that the discussion at the previous meeting had referred to the provision of education facilities. The County Council would be taking this into consideration after the grant of planning permission for development, although it would be sensible for the County to be involved in development proposals at an early stage.

Cllr Blencowe said that this was a significant area of development for the city and the Development Control Forum process would not be sufficient for the purpose. A wider process would be more appropriate and he would discuss the possibility with the Planning Officers concerned to see what was proposed.

The resident said that he was concerned about the hierarchy within the planning approval framework and urged members to be more questioning of advice received from the County Council. He felt that members were too uncritical of advice and recommendations received,

for example on Highways issues.

Agreed that

Members support the holding of a public meeting to bring into open discussion the concern of residents and various interest groups before the application is considered by the Planning Committee on 5 April 2006.

The Chair of the Planning Committee should be encouraged to take up a more consultative approach with Residents Associations on the strategic issues involved with the developments proposed in this area.

(Cllr Durrant took the Chair)

06/02 Proposals for the Engagement of the City Council with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams Initiative

Following a presentation by John Fuller, Southern Divisional Community Manager, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, the Committee and members of the public were invited to consider recommendations for engaging with the police on their Neighbourhood Policing Teams Initiative and provide comments to the Leader before he considers the report on 3 April 2006.

The Director of Community Services said that the process would be fully rolled out by the December cycle starting with the North Area, as a pilot scheme, in the next cycle of area meetings.

Residents said that they welcomed the initiative and were keen to see it in operation as soon as possible. They suggested that it be brought in city-wide or, if that was not initially possible, jointly with North and East Areas given that both had benefited from the APEC project. They queried the place of Neighbourhood Watch in the Neighbourhood Policing Teams Initiative and asked if that was to be revived and incorporated in the Initiative.

Members similarly welcomed further police involvement at this level but some expressed concern that the 20 minutes time slot proposed at Area Committee meetings would not prove sufficient for adequate discussion by the public. Further, it would not be possible to accommodate a full constructive public discussion if the present area committee structure were to be retained. An item further in the agenda would invite members' views on how to deal with planning applications at this committee.

Agreed

- 1 the proposal for the Neighbourhood Policing Teams Initiative be welcomed and incorporated in the Area Committee process
- 2 the Leader be recommended that the East Area be used as a joint pilot with North Area given its experience with the APEC Project

06/03 Cambridge Independent Advisory Centre

Members noted that the Cambridge Independent Advisory Centre could not be available at the meeting and the presentation would be deferred.

06/04 Dates and Locations for Future Meetings

Agreed that meetings of the Committee be held at the following dates and locations, subject to confirmation of their availability:

2006

Wednesday	5 April	Lichfield Hall, Lichfield Road
Thursday	22 June	Cherry Trees Centre, St Matthews Street
Thursday	10 August	Cherry Trees Centre, St Matthews Street
Thursday	5 October	Cherry Trees Centre, St Matthews Street
Thursday	30 November	Cherry Trees Centre, St Matthews Street

2007

Thursday	25 January	To be fixed at 5 October meeting
Thursday	22 March	To be fixed at 5 October meeting
Thursday	17 May	To be fixed at 5 October meeting

06/05 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair

06/06 Matters Arising from the Minutes

A Closure of Tiverton House

Members recalled that at the previous meeting of East Area Committee a resident had spoken on behalf of residents of Tiverton House and relatives on the anxiety they felt about proposals to close Tiverton House as part of a programme for the rationalising and refurbishment of sheltered housing schemes.

Members had concluded that a public meeting should be held on the theme of Tiverton House so that residents and their friends and relatives could hear the proposals for themselves and discuss the options with the Director of Community Services and the Executive Councillor for Housing and Health; if possible this meeting would be held at Tiverton House or nearby.

The Director of Community Services said that, partly in response to this request, but also as part of the normal consultation process with residents, a number of meetings had been held in Tiverton House with residents and their relatives.

B Possible Closure of City Homes South and North Offices

Members recalled that at the previous meeting of East Area Committee a resident had voiced concern about proposals to close City Homes North and South offices as part of the Council's scheme to introduce a 'One-Stop' Shop under its Access Strategy. Members had similarly expressed concern and had undertaken to confirm whether these proposals were included in the options under the Access Strategy.

The Director of Community Services said that the proposals for area offices contained in the consultants' report were to be considered as part of a range of options by the Council as the detail of the customer access strategy were developed.. The Access Strategy would be reported on to the Strategy Scrutiny Committee and the Leader in the July cycle.

06/07 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Caroline Hart, Ian Coleman, County Councillors Sales and Toomey

06/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

06/09 Planning Applications at East Area Committee Meetings

At its meeting on 8 February at the request of the Chair, members considered how best to deal with the numbers of Planning Applications being determined at East Area Committees. Although the applications had reduced in number since early meetings of the Committee, some members had since declined to deal with planning applications and the number of open forum issues had increased.

Taking these issues into account, the Chair felt that, if the Area Committees were to provide a viable Neighbourhood Forum then sufficient time should be provided for consideration of the issues raised. They could only do this by reducing the formal content of the agenda, or splitting the content of the agenda to provide a reasonable content for meetings.

Members discussed the issue and took into account the advice from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that while the Area Committee could consider the proposal from Cllr Durrant, it could not decide on changes, but could make recommendations to Civic Affairs Committee. It would be up to Civic Affairs to decide whether to recommend any changes to Council. Two or more Civic Affairs Committee members would be able to use the "referral up" procedure to put it before the Council. The meeting format is set out in the constitution and any changes would have to be agreed by Council, not by East Area Committee.

Agreed by 6 votes to 0 to ask Civic Affairs Committee to recommend amendments to the Constitution to allow Area Committees to hold separate meetings for the determination of Planning Applications.

06/10 Applications for Planning Permission

At the beginning 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 his ward.

He felt that he lacked expertise in planning matters and that the members of the Planning Committee had acquired such expertise and was the proper body to consider applications. Cllrs Benstead, Herbert and Stafford withdrew from participation in the Committee, as did Cllr Herbert, 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	05/1171/FUL
Site	The Red Studio, Sturton Street
Proposal	Change of Use of land (Howard Mallet Centre from <i>sui generis</i> use to public open space as part of St Matthew's Piece
Applicant	Petersfield Area Community Trust. c/o Mrs G Mallyon 102 York Street Cambridge

Recommendation Approve
PSR Mrs G Mallyon (applicant), Mr Lucas-Smith (in support)
Decision **APPROVED**, by 6 votes to 0, subject to the conditions set out in the officer's report

2

Application No **05/1157/FUL**
Site 238 Cherry Hinton Road, Cambridge
Proposal Alteration to shopfront and alterations and extensions to existing ground floor extensions and erection of fencing
Applicant Ladbrokes Ltd, 219 High Street Erdington Birmingham B23 6SJ
Recommendation Approve
PSR Mr J Phelps (resident), Mr R Raper (for applicant), Cllr Herbert (Ward Councillor)
Decision **APPROVED**, by 5 votes to 0, subject to the conditions set out in the officer's report.

Reference to Executive Councillor Transport and Planning The principle of Change of Use in these circumstances in relation to the hours of operation.

3

Application No **05/1184/FUL**
Site 66 – 70 Catharine Street
Proposal Erection of 1 two-storey building incorporating 1 one-bed residential flat with parking below to the rear of 66 – 70 Catharine Street
Applicant Bilbo Investments, c/o Camal Architects, 25 Cambridge Place Cambridge CB2 1NS
Recommendation Approve subject to conditions
PSR -
Decision **APPROVED**, by 6 votes to 0, subject to the completion of a section 106 agreement by 15 February 2006 and to the conditions and informatives set out in the officer's report

Completion of S106 Agreement

Unless prior agreement has been obtained from the Head of Development Services, and the Chair and Spokesperson of this Committee to extend the period for completion of the Planning Obligation required in connection with this development, if the Obligation has not been completed by 15 February 2006 it is recommended that this planning application be reviewed and, following consultation with the Head of Development Services and Chair of the East Area Committee and Lib Dem Spokesperson, be **refused** planning permission for the reason set out in the officers' report

4

Application No **05/1228/FUL**
Site 4 Devonshire Road
Proposal Erection of 2 four-bedroomed detached houses with ancillary studios

in the rear gardens

Applicant	The Greater Bibleway Gospel Church, 4 Devonshire Road, Cambridge CB1 2BH
Recommendation	Approve
PSR	Mr T Rees-Roberts (architect)
Decision	APPROVED , by 6 votes to 0, subject to the completion of a section 106 agreement by 15 February 2006 and to the conditions and informatives set out in the officer's report and the following additional condition: Photographic record Completion of S106 Agreement Unless prior agreement has been obtained from the Head of Development Services, and the Chair and Spokesperson of this Committee to extend the period for completion of the Planning Obligation required in connection with this development, if the Obligation has not been completed by 15 February 2006 it is recommended that this planning application be reviewed and, following consultation with the Head of Development Services and Chair of the East Area Committee and Lib Dem Spokesperson, be refused planning permission for the reason set out in the officers' report

CHAIR