

East Area Committee

Lichfield Hall, Lichfield Road

5 April 2006

7.30pm – 9.10pm

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)

06/11 OPEN FORUM

1 Belvedere Site – Affordable Housing

Members commented on a question from a member of the public on the location of the affordable housing element of the Belvedere development. As no RSL would accept the commission due to the high service fees, a financial contribution was accepted by the City Council to enable affordable houses to be built elsewhere.

2 Affordable Housing for Local People

In relation to the Romsey Junior School development a member of the public complained that affordable housing was just for key workers and not local people.

The Committee clarified that, of the 30% of the development that was affordable housing, a percentage was for key workers. Councillor Smart will find out more information for the next committee meeting.

Action: Cllr Smart

The member of the public also noted that the affordable housing notion implies the existence of family homes and community services but that, from the 3,000 applications, apart from a few very expensive properties, there were no family houses. The Committee advised that each planning application was decided on its own merits and not because of the amount of family accommodation and that, once the Inspector had approved the new local plan, the Council would be clear on how to proceed.

The Committee recognised the pressure for development in Cambridge City and the ongoing developments taking place in Arbury Park and the Southern Fringes. In West Cambridge, the City Council opposed any development, as there is no proof that it is needed.

The Committee shared concerns with the residents about the impact of outsider children on local schools.

Richmond Court Ownership

To a question from a member of the public, the Committee stated that Richmond Court belongs to Granta Housing Association sheltered accommodation and not to Cambridge City Council.

Tiverton House

Councillor Smart gave the following reasons for the closure of Tiverton House:

- Funding to support sheltered accommodation has been reduced.
- The County Wide Best Value Review noted that there were too many sheltered accommodation for the elderly in Cambridge compared to Fenland and Huntingdon.
- Refurbishment of sheltered accommodation must be undertaken so that residents do not have to share bathrooms.
- The choice of Tiverton House was made in order to spread sheltered accommodation in the city, rather than have them concentrated in a particular area.
- Tiverton was chosen because it was on a small site, alternatives, such as Seymour Court, had enough space for part of it to be developed for affordable housing

Antisocial Behavior in Mill Road and Surrounding Area: Drugs and Alcohol

A member of the public stated that General Practitioners (GPs) directed drug addicts to Brook Fields in Mill Road, where they fed off each other's bad behavior and disrupted Mill Road residents.

Councillor Bradnack advised that he had already raised these issues of accountability and dispersion policy for drug users with the city officers.

The member of the public acknowledged that antisocial behavior in Mill Road and Romsey Area has decreased as consequence of action by the police.

Saint Paul's School

A member of the public expressed concerns about the lack of objections to the Station Area development by the County Council, as 35 children will be moved out of Saint Paul's School. This relocation of children does not address the problem as the number of children who will be coming from the outside is unknown. The low number of children under 5 was noted.

Councillor R. Smith advised that he was unclear about the number of children to be accommodated in the existing schools until details of the planning application had been formalised. He will report back to the committee once this information becomes available.

Action: Cllr R. Smith

06/12 Consideration of Planning Applications at East Area Committee Meeting

The Civic Affairs Committee resolved to consider the options and issues, including resources for each area committee, on 28 June.

06/13 Update on Station Area Proposal

This morning a special meeting of the Planning Committee considered and refused the application. For more information please refer to the report at <http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/councillors/agenda/2006/0405plan/03.pdf>

06/12 Environmental Improvements Programme

The Committee agreed:

- To proceed with the Environmental Improvement scheme for shop forecourts on Cherry Hinton Road, to include The Rock public house. Additional funds relating to the license and Greene King's legal fees are subject to further negotiations with Green King. The final scheme costings will be presented to Committee at a later date.

- To proceed with the investigation of the proposed Environmental Improvement scheme for Budleigh Close and report the likely cost back to Committee.
- To proceed with the investigation of the design for Norfolk Street and report the likely cost back to Committee.

06/13 Future Dates of Meeting in 2006/07

The Committee noted the following dates:

2006

Thursday 22 June - (Cherry Trees)
Thursday 10 August - (Cherry Trees)
Thursday 5 October - (Cherry Trees)
Thursday 30 November - (Cherry Trees)

2007

Thursday 25 January - (Review location in October)
Thursday 22 March - (Review location in October)
Thursday 17 May - (Review location in October)

The Chair paid tribute to Councillor R Smith for his long and good service to the Council and gave his best wishes to Councillor Iain Coleman, who has left the Council to settle in Scotland.

The meeting closed at 9.10p.m.

CHAIR