



**West/Central Area Committee  
(City Councillors representing Castle, Market  
and Newnham Wards)  
23 November 2006 7:30pm – 9.59pm  
Minutes & Actions**

**Present:** Councillors: John Hipkin, Marie-Louise Holland, Simon Kightley (Castle Ward), Mike Dixon and Colin Rosenstiel (Market Ward), Rod Cantrill, Sian Reid and Julie Smith (Newnham Ward)  
County Councillors: David White (Castle), Gaynor Griffiths (Market) and Alex Reid (Newnham)

Additional information for public: City Council officers can also be emailed [firstname.lastname@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:firstname.lastname@cambridge.gov.uk)  
The Committee Manager for West/Central Area Committee is [liz.whitcher@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:liz.whitcher@cambridge.gov.uk)

Members of the City Council have individual email addresses which are listed on the City Council website:  
[www.cambridge.gov.uk/councillors/members.htm](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/councillors/members.htm)  
Members of the County Council can be emailed:  
[Firstname.lastname@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Firstname.lastname@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**06/43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from City Councillor J Rosenstiel.

Resident 1: Promote discussion about redundant and new signage in the Newnham area.

Councillor S Reid: This is the responsibility of the County Council. The City Council paid £30,000 to the County Council to tackle this issue and thousands of signs have been removed on the main radial roads (eg Barton Road, Trumpington Road and Madingley Road). At the more local level, the way forward is for residents to identify redundant or damaged signage and inform the County Council. It would also be possible for this Committee to use some of its environmental improvements budget for local signage improvements. The blue signs describing areas of the city were not useful as a survey by County Councillor A Reid had shown. On a more positive note, Cambridgeshire Horizons were employing consultants to study the design of signage for the new developments to be more like what the organisation "Living Streets" supported.

Councillor Smith supported the removal of the blue signs and that the County Council be encouraged to plan for fewer and smaller signs.

Councillor C Rosenstiel said the blue signs were necessary particularly in Market Ward to help delivery van drivers who were strangers to the area to find their way.

Resident 1 circulated some photographs to show how there seemed to have been an increase in the number of signs and that some were not appropriate to the environment in which they stood eg those on the Coton footpath.

County Councillor White said that Cambridge was described as one of the heritage towns like Harrogate which had managed to have lower, smaller signs. He referred to Magdalene Street in particular and said that it was important to be tougher on the Highways Engineers.

The Chair said that Ely and Bury St Edmunds were examples of best practice as far as road signage was concerned and Cambridge had been described as one of the worst by English Heritage.

Resident 2: Had there been any progress in stopping speeding motorists entering/ leaving the city on the A603? She had talked to the ward councillors about this some time ago including the possibility of a flashing 30mph sign being installed.

The Chair said speeding was a police matter and that residents should undertake a survey over two days and report the results to the police to persuade them to undertake checks.

Councillor S Reid said that she had taken this up with the County Council. Their policy was to keep traffic moving in the city and there was resistance to measures to slow the traffic down.

Councillor A Reid said that evidence showed that speed cameras did slow drivers down but there were restrictions on where they could be put.

**Draft until 18 January**

Resident 3: Request for an update on the omission site appealed by Ashwell on the land to the north of Barton Road.

The Chair reported that development on this site was not proposed in the Local Plan and the City Council would be defending its Local Plan vigorously in the court action brought by Ashwells.

Resident 4: Were there any plans to widen the footpaths or bridges such as the two on the fen to the north of Fen Causeway which would lead cyclists to take advantage to the detriment of pedestrians. It was time to think of protecting pedestrians. She was in favour of the use of cycles over cars but the shared use of pavements and paths by cyclists and pedestrians did cause problems. Many cyclists disregarded the dismount signs.

Councillor Cantrill referred to the two footbridges at Sheep’s Green for which changes had been proposed by the County Council to enable access for the disabled so these would be wider as a consequence. He said that ward councillors and county councillors had had discussions with County Council officers about the problems this could create but there was an impasse at present. Ward councillors wish the bridges to be retained at their present widths.

County Councillor A Reid asked for feedback from residents which could be presented to County Council officers. The officers said the bridges had to be wide enough to allow 2 wheelchairs to pass safely (even though the chances of such an encounter were not very high). Because of the arguments put forward by councillors, this project had not been implemented.

Resident 1: Request for a suitable site for a community notice board in Newnham.

The Grants Manager reported that some S106 funds had been put aside for this purpose and there was a comprehensive plan for the whole city to improve the provision and siting of notice boards.

County Councillor A Reid suggested that, as Burrell’s Walk was now a much used pedestrian route, that a small notice board could be usefully put there.

Councillor Smith added that one could be put in the open space of Jesus Green as the area did belong to the council.

Councillor S Reid requested that the boards be open for local residents to put up notices relating to local events and that they not be glass covered and locked.

Councillor S Reid suggested that the County Council Executive Councillor responsible for highways matters be invited to the next meeting as so many issues had been raised.

Cttee  
Manager

**06/45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Code of Conduct personal interests were declared as follows:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Nature of interest</b>
C Rosenstiel	Environmental	As a member of the

**Draft until 18 January**

			<b>Action by</b>
Holland	Community Development & Leisure Grants	Campaign Attends the toddler group as a resident	
Smith	Community Development & Leisure Grants	Was Vice Chair of Newnham Croft School Governors until last summer.	
Hipkin	Community Development & Leisure Grants	Family would benefit from one of the proposed recipients of a grant	
S Reid	Community Development & Leisure Grants	Prejudicial interest as close family are involved in the running of the Scout and Guide hut. The Councillor indicated left the room, took no part in the discussion and did not vote on the item.	

Code of Conduct personal interests in Planning Applications were declared as follows.

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Nature of interest</b>
White	06/0945/FUL	As a resident of Canterbury Close
Smith	06/1058/FUL	As a friend of one of the objectors

**06/46 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 September were agreed as a correct record.

**06/47 MATTERS ARISING**

None

**06/48 UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME**

The officers introduced the report and highlighted that the budgets to do with dropped kerbs had been inherited from the County Council and that the pinch points and pram arms needed to be removed to allow prams, wheelchairs and scooters to pass. This was required by the new Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and was mandatory.

The Committee discussed the mobility crossings and pinch points mentioned in paragraph 3 of the officer report and agreed with the officer recommendation to proceed with detailed location and design work and to obtain contractor costings.

## Draft until 18 January

The Committee then considered the list of possible schemes for environmental improvements and councillors and members of the public were asked to support schemes they thought had most merit.

Resident 5 spoke up on behalf of Bridge Street and commented on the mess the roadsets were in for a road that was one of the city's main gateways.

The Chair suggested that those schemes where the officers recommended that they be referred to other agencies/funds be so referred and this was agreed.

That left Mud Lane Lighting, Parker's Piece Lighting and Sussex Street for support in the rest of this financial year.

**Resolved** (by 5 votes to 2) to progress the Parker's Piece Lighting project this financial year.

**Resolved** (by 7 votes to 0) to progress Mud Lane Lighting and Sussex Street in this financial year.

### 06/49 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & LEISURE GRANTS 2006-07

Councillor S Reid left the room while the Newnham Scout & Guide Centre was considered.

The officer explained that this was a complex application because the Centre was on land owned by the County Council and the issue of security had been raised by the school which was funded by the County Council. She explained that she was recommending that the Committee refuse the application for funding for the erection of a fence, that the Centre could use the money it had raised for refurbishing the hut to build the fence and then apply for a Community Development Grant for the refurbishment of the hut.

**Resolved** (by 7 votes to 0) to refuse the application and invite the Scout Centre to seek funding from the area committee to contribute to the costs of improving the hut. At least £5000 could be reserved for this purpose to be issued subject to the submission of a satisfactory detailed proposal and the consent of this committee's chair.

**Resolved** (by 8 votes to 0) to support the applications for £710 for family craft workshops at the Histon Road Recreation Ground, £150 for music workshops at the Little Monkeys Toddler Group and £1890 for open canoes for older people and families at the Cambridge Canoe Club.

**06/50 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Full details of the decisions, conditions of permissions and reasons for refusal may be inspected in the Environment and Planning Department, including those which the committee delegated to the Head of Development Control to draw up.

These minutes should be read in conjunction with the reports on applications to the committee, where the conditions to the approved applications or reasons for refusal are set out in full and with the Amendment Sheet issued at the meeting. Any amendments to the recommendations are shown in the minutes.

- 1 APPLICATION NO:** 06/0945/FUL  
**SITE:** 74, 76 and 78 Canterbury Street (Castle)  
**PROPOSAL:** Erection of two 2/3 bed houses and car parking  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve subject to conditions and informatives  
**APPLICANT:** ASD Alderton and Co Ltd, 7a Priors Close, Histon Cambridge CB4 9HX  
**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:** County Councillor White (resident objector on behalf of a number of local residents)  
**DECISION:** **Approved** (by 6 votes to 1).
  
- 2 APPLICATION NO:** 06/1058/FUL  
**SITE:** 76/78 Huntingdon Road (Castle)  
**PROPOSAL:** Erection of two four bedroom houses to the rear of 76 and 78 Huntingdon Road and fronting Westfield Lane.  
**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve subject to the satisfactory completion of the Unilateral Undertaking Agreement by 4 December 2006 and to conditions and informatives.  
**APPLICANT:** Blues Property, c/o Haysom Ward Miller Architects, 7 Downing Place, Cambridge CB2 3EL  
**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:** Mr N Walker (resident objector on behalf of a number of local residents); Mr R Haysom(for the applicant)  
  
**DECISION:** **Approved** (by 7 votes to 1).

The meeting ended at 9.59pm.

**Chair**