

Councillors Present:

Arbury: Anthony Hymans, Rhodri James, Tim Ward (Chair)
King's Hedges: Louise Downham, Elizabeth Hughes, Neale Upstone
East Chesterton: Jenny Bailey, Marian Holness
West Chesterton: Diane Armstrong, Max Boyce, Ian Nimmo-Smith

County Councillors: Rupert Moss-Eccardt, Elizabeth Hughes (King's Hedges) and
Kevin Wilkins (West Chesterton)

Action
by

07/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from City Councillor Jennifer Liddle and County Councillor Julian Huppert.

07/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A Code of Conduct personal and prejudicial interest in the following planning application was declared as follows:

Councillor	Application	Nature of interest
Ward	06/1199/FUL	Children attended the playgroup which was referred to in the application.

Councillor Ward left the room, took no part in the discussion and did not vote on the application. Cllr James, the Vice-Chair, took the chair for this item.

07/03 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2006 were not signed, pending a correction to them to be proposed by Cllr Downham as follows: to add to Minute 06/126 ASB Group Presentation

'Cllr Downham made representations for Kings Hedges ward that all pinch points and pram arm removal are not to go ahead until more detailed consideration had been undertaken and wider consultation with disabled groups'

07/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

06/126 ASB Group

Councillor Downham referred to the recommendations from the ASB Group relating to the installation of a flashing 30mph sign at both ends of Kings Hedges Road. County Councillor Huppert had agreed to follow up the Group's recommendations; Cllr Downham said she would ask Cllr Huppert if any progress had been made on this or the related issues.

- *Cllr Downham* Action

06/125 Collection of unpaid Income Tax

A resident asked whether recent reports on the local news of significant unpaid council tax had been followed up.

Councillor Nimmo-Smith explained that local authorities pursued the oldest of its council tax debts first and that process sometimes weighted how collection was being reported. He said that the City Council aimed at recovery of 96% of debt during the last quarter of the financial year and would anticipate a final collection of 98% of the total debt. This did not affect the delivery of services in the City. Any residents with outstanding debts who left the city and were unable to be traced were kept on record; if they returned to the City the debts were pursued.

07/05 OPEN FORUM

1 Change in personnel of the Community Beat Officer

The resident asked whether the Community Beat Officer in her area would be replaced. Cllr Downham said that she had been advised that a new Officer would be taking up the beat shortly, and that there was no intention to withdraw the post.

2 Dropped kerbs

The resident said that she had had to take a long diversion to ensure that she could access this meeting in her mobility scooter via the dropped kerbs. The dropped kerbs in some instances were not the right gradient to allow access and were not in the right locations.

The Chair said that it was now the area committees' responsibility to fund dropped kerbs and any reports like this would be taken up and passed on to the relevant officers.

Cllr Downham said that reports on dropped kerbs should be included in the Environmental Improvements programme updates, all public buildings should be accessible, including schools. She said she would follow up the report by the resident.

Action

- *Cllr Downham*

3 Pedestrian phase at Gilbert Road/Histon Road traffic lights

The resident said that several requests had been made to include a pedestrian phase in the traffic lights at the junction of Gilbert Road and Histon Road.

Mr Preston from the County Council Highways Section said that there was a programme for this type of work that was being rolled out across the city. Detailed site investigation and design is currently underway with installation programmed for the spring.

Action

- *Richard Preston*

4 Maintenance of open space at George Nuttall Close

The resident asked what was proposed with the open space at George Nuttall Close and who was to maintain the area.

Cllr Downham said she was aware of a planning application in relation to further development at George Nuttall Close which would cover the future maintenance of the designated wildlife area which the City Council would assume. A number of residents would wish to speak to this issue at the Planning Committee.

5 Parking Fine adjudication

The resident referred to a report in the local press about an adjudication that a parking

fine levied by the City Council had been unlawful as the date of the fine had not been correctly displayed on the notice. What was the likely effect on other motorists and residents?

Cllr Nimmo-Smith said that the adjudication had confirmed that an offence had occurred but that the way the dates of the offence and the imposition of the fine, which were the same date, had been displayed was incorrect although they had been set out in accordance with government guidelines. The report in the Cambridge Evening News had incorrectly given the impression that there was a likelihood of other motorists being able to appeal against parking fines on the same grounds. Since this offence had occurred in September last year and the mistake had been put right as soon as possible after that.

6 Parking of trade vehicles

The resident said that he was deeply concerned that vehicles used by firms contracted to the City Council were being fined for illegal parking where vehicles belonging to the City Services, the Council's Direct Labour service were not.

Cllr Nimmo-Smith said he was aware that the resident had raised this issue at other meetings and he undertook to follow it up and see what the implications were.

- *Cllr Nimmo-Smith* Action

Cllr Downham said that all contractors were obliged to park legally as any other motorist was.

Another resident said that there were problems with parking where work was being carried out for the Council's Decent Homes programme, in particular at Molewood and Hazelwood Close. Councillors said that the existing restrictions were not being enforced and that there were areas which need yellow line restrictions to retain access, particularly for emergency vehicles. It might be necessary to raise this at the County Council/City Council Area Joint Committee. Councillor James said he would take up the issue of parking restrictions as he had concerns over emergency vehicle accessing the estate.

- *Cllr James* Action

7 Kendal Way traffic calming

The resident said she was disappointed that County Councillor Huppert was unable to be present, as she wanted to ask him about the traffic calming at Kendal Way. She and other residents felt that this had not been carried out satisfactorily and had not reduced the problem of speeding. She said that none of the local councillors had attended meetings where these comments were being voiced.

Cllr Downham said that several aspects had been to Committee and that it was acknowledged that it had not been a satisfactory project, despite the consultation and subsequent alterations as a result of the consultation with residents.

Cllr Moss-Eccardt said that a county wide survey was being undertaken and the issues raised would be reviewed in the next committee cycle.

- *Cllr Huppert* Action

8 Kings Hedges Road cycle route

The resident asked about the inadequate cycle route along Kings Hedges which varied in width and was unsatisfactorily laid out.

Richard Preston, Head of Network Management at the County Council, said that he was aware of a number of concerns over the cycle route and that after meetings with local Members and residents and representatives of the Cambridge Cycling Campaign some proposals were being drawn up to put before a further consultation in March.

A wide-ranging discussion took place covering issues on cycle and pedestrian routes along Kings Hedges Road and the neighbouring areas; issues referred to were:

- The provision of pinch points on cycle routes
- The missed opportunity to provide a proper facility for the large number of cyclists who would be using the Histon Road/Kings Hedges junction to access Arbury Park and the city centre as well as Histon.
- The funding available from developers to provide these facilities.
- Concern that the lack of a proper crossing to access Manor School would result in a serious accident.
- Cyclists had different views about the desirable routes and it was difficult to provide both integral cycle routes and a separated route.
- The county highways engineers were aware of the great concern of cyclists and residents and were keen to resolve the issues and would be consulting the developers as part of the solution to the problems, not only of the area of Kings Hedges but for Arbury Camp and the access routes to the City Centre.
- Access to national funding to provide safe cycle routes and to local funding from S106 agreements with developers.
- The possibility of using grass verges in places to widen pedestrian and cycle routes to allow all users safe access.
- The design of the Histon Road/Kings Hedges junction which needs better routing for cyclists.

Richard Preston said that the County Council accepted that there were serious issues which needed resolving and he would take the comments made back to the County Council and include them in the discussion for the next round of consultation to be held in March.

- *Richard Preston* Action

9 Old Chesterton Residents Associations Comments

Michael Bond of the Old Chesterton Residents Association had submitted a number of questions prior to the meeting, the responses to the questions are shown below:

9.1 Replacement of speed humps with speed cushions along the access route to the waste treatment sites in Fen Road

- Richard Preston confirmed that detailed proposals were expected from site operators.

9.2 Weight restriction sign at the junction of High Street, Green End Road and Water Lane

- Richard Preston said that this area was already covered by weight restrictions. Cllr Hughes said that the County was running a project in weight restriction in the area.

9.3 Timing of work on the new cycle/pedestrian bridge linking St Andrews Road and Riverside.

- The work was about to go to contract and was expected to take 10 months to complete.

9.4 Consultation on changes to the parking restrictions applying to Chesterton, particularly Church Street and St Andrews Road

- Richard Preston said this project was listed but the County Council's budget had been expended and no further consultation could be carried out until further funding was available.

9.5 Loose gate at Stourbridge Common on to Green Dragon Bridge. Need for restriction

to slow cyclists at Water Street

- Richard Preston said that he would have to look into the provision of restrictions in terms of the accident record at the location. It could also be considered under cycleway improvements.

The Cambridge Cycling Campaign had also commented to the County Council on the issue of cycling on Green Dragon Bridge and pointing out that there was a pothole on the Stourbridge Common approach to the bridge.

9.6 Conservation Areas – Review

- Cllr Bailey said that she was aware of the interest of local people in reviewing the Conservation Areas. However there not the resources to carry out the work and the City Council has concentrated on Conservation issues that were considered of highest priority including dealing with Planning Applications, which included dealing with the Station Area development and completing the Core Conservation Area Appraisal and Strategy. The Service Plan for the Policy and Projects Team included an exercise during 2007/08 to review the programme for reconsideration of Conservation Areas including those in Chesterton.

9.7 Pillar Box at 184/192 High Street

- Cllr Bailey said that it was not clear which body had the responsibility for the reinstatement of the Pillar Box, but that she would follow it up.

Action

- *Cllr Bailey*

9.8 Chesterton Fen omitted from the draft Biodiversity strategies of both the City and South Cambs DC. Need for new access to Chesterton Fen.

- Cllr Bailey said that although the Area was within South Cambs DC, the City Council was keen to work in conjunction with neighbouring authorities.
- Dinah Foley-Norman, Principal Landscape Architect, said the issue was covered in the City's Nature Conservation Strategy.

10 Prostitution in Histon Road

A resident's question on this issue for the Open Forum had been taken under the report by the Police later on the agenda (see item 07/08 below)

07/06 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME – UPDATE

The report by the Landscape Architect set out the schemes requiring decision, updates on schemes in progress, the results of the recent workshop setting out the future programme for environmental improvements and a summary of the priority list decided at the last North Area Committee Meeting on 14 December 2006.

Resolved that the following projects be funded as indicated

1. Chesterton High Street Hanging Baskets: Funding approved (by 8 votes to 1) to the sum of £4,000
2. Campkin Road verge, Colleges Nursery and Family Centre: Funding approved to the sum of £1,250
3. Projects from North Area Workshop: The order of priority and work to be undertaken for the remaining Environmental Improvement Projects not considered at 14 December meeting be as follows:

Project	Work
Buchan Street shops <i>High Priority List</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replant the empty planting beds • Replace cracked surfacing • Re-seed grass areas • Repair broken knee rails
Nun's Way Recreation Ground Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm that its Parks and Recreation responsibility
The Ship pub car park, Northfield Avenue recycling bins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair and enhance the waste bin area, including the fence • Investigate extending hedge screening around the car park.
Cameron Road Old Post Office and building and planting area	Deleted as land under Housing responsibility
Nun's Way car parking areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate, possibly Housing responsibility
Campkin Road verges <i>Secondary Priority List</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers to arrange site visit with members with a view to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ construction of lay-bys. ○ Tree planting mirroring those opposite could be planted in between the lay-bys.
Windsor Road/Histon Road shop frontages <i>Secondary Priority List</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce seating on the opposite side of the road. • Introduce tree and shrub planting.
Footpath next to St Lawrence's School	<p>May be Parks & Recreation responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-construct the knee rails.

- 4.0 A number of schemes had been approved for further investigations and the Committee noted the following:
- 4.1 Cam Causeway Homezone - site visit, including a tree survey and feasibility study to inform a design proposal.
- 4.2 Mitcham's Corner dog memorial - Councillor Nimmo-Smith to contact Lloyds Bank, opposite the memorial about contributing to the scheme. Officers to investigate costs for a stonemason to turn the memorial and for replanting.
- 4.3 Chesterton Hall Crescent – officers to investigate re-building the brick planter and re-planting the planting bed.
- 4.4 Campkin Road car park – officers to investigate replanting the broken planter, disabled parking, resurfacing and lighting. This will be a joint project with Parking Services.
- 4.5 Campkin Road verge, Colleges Nursery and Family Centre - costs for planting and improved drainage agreed under 2 above at £1,125.
- 4.6 Harvey Goodwin Avenue traffic calming – further consultation to confirm residents views on the project before officers progress further.

07/07 KING'S HEDGES ROAD – CYCLE ROUTES

This subject had been covered under the Open Forum questions (see 07/05 – 8 above). The Chair referred to a minute (minute 121) of the County Council from its meeting on 12 December at which County Councillor Jenkins had raised the issue of

measures for cyclists on Kings Hedges and adjoining roads, and County Councillor J Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Services, had responded in detail. Copies of the minute were available for residents.

07/08 NORTH AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Mr John Fuller said that as Sergeant Galloway was unwell the report on the Neighbourhood Profile update would be given by Sergeant Cross.

The report covered the previous issues identified, the trend in crimes and disorder by neighbourhood and by ward and proposals for three areas of prioritisation of resources until the next report was given.

During discussion of the report a number of issues were covered:

- There had been an increase in domestic burglaries in general.
- Anti Social Behaviour was prevalent in Kings Hedges during this reporting period, in the last period it had been highest in East Chesterton.
- The youth related incidents in East Chesterton should be reported to the Council's Youth Worker team, if not already done.
- The Environmental Group would be helpful in dealing with some of the issues, for instance the fly-tipping that was on the increase.
- The issue of parking and cycling issues raised should also receive some attention from officers.
- Prostitution in Histon Road had been reported in the press following raids on brothels in the area. The Police were taking a different approach by offering support to vulnerable women who were often subjected to violence, as with the recent spate of murders in Ipswich or alcohol or drug abuse. Action was being taken to resolve the issue raised. (See also Minute 07/05 10 above).
- Illegal parking around schools was a widespread problem which the Police were trying to tackle the issue by educating the public. It was the City Council's LAPE team responsibility to enforce what was a very difficult problem to control.
- Residents at Kingsway flats were experiencing vandalism by young people at the rear of the building, made worse by their congregating to smoke and take drugs. The Police were aware of this problem, and took measures periodically to address the issue. It would be considered at the Problem Solving Group to see if alternative solutions could be found.
- Had the recent drug arrests had an effect on the price and availability of drugs in the City? The drug arrests had resulted from a lot of hard work done by a number of officers
- Cyclists at the Gilbert Road/Milton Road junction were in the habit of going through red lights at the crossing and the occasional police presence there would deter the continued abuse. Anti social behaviour in traffic was not confined to cyclists, drivers of larger vehicles, such as 4x4s were frequently careless of other road users. It was a problem that should receive attention from society at large.

Resolved that the recommendations for priority action on the following issues during the next reporting period:

- Crime and anti-social behaviour in the area of Hazelwood Close and Molewood Close in Arbury.
- Dwelling burglary across the neighbourhood.
- Anti Social Behaviour in East Chesterton, predominantly in the areas of Green End Road and Water Street, and in addition
- the issue of fly tipping be referred to the Environmental Group.

07/09 DATES OF MEETINGS 2007/08

The committee agreed the following dates for the North Area Committee to meet in 2007/08. It was agreed to continue to hold meetings at Manor Community College

Wednesday 30 May (to avoid a clash with the Mayor's dinner on the following day.)

Thursday 26 July

Thursday 20 Sept

Thursday 15 Nov

Thursday 10 Jan 2008

Thursday 6 Mar

Thursday 24 April*

** After the meeting, officers found that this date, 24 April, had previously been agreed as a date for a Council meeting and that the date for the North Area meeting would have to be reconsidered at the Committee's next meeting.*

07/10 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

10.1

Site 48 Crowland Way, King's Hedges
Proposal Erection of two storey 3 bed house
Recommendation Approve with conditions
Application No 06/1306/FUL
Applicant Mr M Bloomfield, 48 Crowland Way
Public Speakers Mr G Radcliffe
Decision **Approve** (by 7 votes to 2)

subject to the satisfactory completion of the S106 agreement by 15 February 2007 and subject to the conditions and informatives set out in the report

Refusal 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 2007 it is recommended that the application be **refused** for the reason set out in the report

10.2

Site Communications Tower, Kirkwood Road
Proposal Change of use from workshop to mosque and cultural centre
Recommendation Refuse
Application No 06/1088/FUL
Applicant Omar Furuque Mosque and Cultural Centre
Public Speakers Mr Abdul Muquith (for applicant)

Reasons for Approval raised in debate A number of members took the view that despite the fact that the site was protected employment land, the applicant had demonstrated that the unit had been vacant for such a period of time that it could be assumed that there was no current demand for a B1 use class unit of the size and type which was the subject of the application. Therefore, the development could be regarded as complying with criteria (a) of Local Plan policy 7/3 Protection of Industrial and Storage Space. In reaching this view the Committee also felt that the need to accommodate the proposed community use was sufficient to override the strict interpretation of Policy 7/3. Committee also felt that there was sufficient car parking provision on site and were persuaded by the applicant's argument that a high proportion of users of the facility would travel by means other than the private car.

**Decision Against
Officer
Recommendation**

Approve (by 6 votes to 3) the conditions to be drafted by Head of Development Control and agreed by the Chair of the Committee.

*These reasons were agreed subsequently by the Chair of the Committee:
1. This development has been approved subject to conditions because subject to those requirements it is considered to generally conform to the Development Plan, particularly the following policies:*

*-Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003: P1/3, P8/1
-Cambridge Local Plan 2006: 3/1, 5/12, 7/3, 8/2, 8/4, 8/6, 8/10*

2 After representations had been made by both the applicant and the Planning Officer, and with knowledge of the local area, Committee took the view that despite the fact that the site was protected employment land, the applicant had demonstrated that the unit had been vacant for such a period of time that it could be assumed that there was no current demand for a B1 use class unit of the size and type which was the subject of the application. Therefore, the development could be regarded as complying with criteria (a) of Local Plan policy 7/3 Protection of Industrial and Storage Space. In reaching this view the Committee also felt that the need to accommodate the proposed community use was sufficient to override the strict interpretation of Policy 7/3. Committee also felt that there was sufficient car parking provision on site and were persuaded by the applicant's argument that a high proportion of users of the facility would travel by means other than the private car.

The decision has been made having had regard to all other material planning considerations, none of which was considered to have been of such significance as to justify doing other than grant planning permission.

10.3

Site

67 Milton Road, West Chesterton

Proposal

Change of use and conversion of residential part of no. 67 to 3no. 2 bed flats. Single storey rear extension

Recommendation

Refuse

Application No

06/1199/FUL

Applicant

Mr and Mrs Coppersmith, 67 Milton Road

Public Speakers

Mr Coppersmith

**Reasons for
approval raised
in debate**

**Decision Against
Officer**

Approve (by 6 votes to 0) subject to conditions drawn up by the Head of Development Services and the satisfactory completion of the S106 agreement by 28 February 2007.

Recommendation

Refusal 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 28 February 2007 it is recommended that the application be **refused** for the reason set out in the report

These reasons were agreed subsequently by the Head of Development Services

1. This development has been approved subject to conditions because subject to those requirements it is considered to generally conform to the Development Plan, particularly the following policies:

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003: P1/3, P8/1

Cambridge Local Plan 2006: 3/1, 3/4, 3/7, 3/11, 3/14, 4/13, 5/1, 5/2, 5/9, 8/6, 8/10, 10/1

2 After representations had been made by both the applicant and the Planning Officer, and with knowledge of the local area, Committee took the view that the impacts of the development in terms of level of residential amenity that would be afforded to the occupiers of the proposed flats was acceptable in terms of noise, disturbance and car movements. In consequence the development was in accordance with policies 5/2, 3/4 and 3/14 of the Cambridge Local Plan.

The decision has been made having had regard to all other material planning considerations, none of which was considered to have been of such significance as to justify doing other than grant planning permission.:

The meeting ended at 11.30pm

Chair

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