



**South Area Committee**  
**(City Councillors representing Cherry Hinton, Queen Edith's, Trumpington Wards)**

27 September 2007

7.30pm – 9.50 pm



## **Minutes & Actions**

**Present:** City Councillors

**Cherry Hinton:** (Russell McPherson, Stuart Newbold)

**Queen Edith's:** (Alan Baker, Viki Sanders, Amanda Taylor)

**Trumpington:** (Andy Blackhurst, Philippa Slatter, Sheila Stuart)

**County Councillor:** Christine Carter

***Before the meeting, representatives of groups in receipt of grants met members and attended an exhibition related to their activities.***

***The Committee heard brief presentations from representatives from Cherry Hinton festival Association and Directions Plus.***

### **07/38 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from City Councillor Robert Dryden, County Councillors Heathcock and Kent

### **07/39 Declarations of Interest**

Code of Conduct personal interests were declared as follows:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>
Newbold	Application for Grant by Royal British Legion, Cherry Hinton <i>Is a member of the Royal British Legion</i>
Carter	Application for Grant by Colville Residents Association <i>Is Secretary of Colville Residents Association</i>

### **07/40 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2007 were agreed and signed by the Chair, subject to the amendment set out below:

Add to the Open Forum Minute 07/23:

**Q5** The Council has appointed Phil Back Associates, a consultancy company in Yorkshire to survey local preferences for green spaces in the City.

1) What was the cost of this survey? And

2) Can we be assured that no developments will take place on Nightingale Avenue Park until their report is published and local residents have been given time to consider it?

**A** Cllr Baker undertook to obtain a response.

## **07/41 Matters Arising from the Minutes of 2 August**

### **Minutes 07/40 and 07/23**

Councillor Baker reported the following response to Question 5 shown above in Minute 07/40:

This consultation has been commissioned as part of the work to develop a performance management framework and service level agreement for grounds maintenance provision in the city. The Directors of Community Services and City Services are aware of the survey work and are scheduled to receive a presentation on the findings on 17<sup>th</sup> October. The issue is on the Forward Plan to be considered in the November Scrutiny cycle. The consultancy work will cost the Council £7,000 and does not impact upon or relate to planned capital improvements to Nightingale Avenue Recreation Ground.

### **07/42 Open Forum**

A member of the public raised a personal issue which was outside the remit of the Committee. He was advised accordingly and a response was made by his Ward Councillor.

There were no questions in the Open Forum

### **07/43 Network, Maintenance and Traffic Managers of Cambridgeshire County Council**

Three of the County Highways Officers, Richard Preston, Graham Lowe and Mike Oakman, attended the meeting to speak on the latest issues affecting the wards and the city's transport generally. They also gave residents and members the opportunity to raise any issues with them relating to transport in the South Area.

Richard Preston's brief introduction covered the problems being experienced by the Authority in terms of budget restrictions, reorganisation of departments and the contracting process. He said that the County's proposals in view of the pressure on the road and transport network were open to consultation and he was inviting comments to inform the policy.

He then invited questions from residents and members:

**Q1** The budget stand-still had meant that for some time it had not been possible to introduce new parking restrictions. When would it be possible to recommence applying restrictions?

**A** The budget in the current year for this activity was cut, hence the lack of activity. The budget situation for next year was not clear, and both the authority and the public would have to wait for answers. In the meantime, the County Council had agreed that third parties could fund the installation of parking restrictions. Some Parish Councils had already agreed to fund work in this way.

**Q2** What was the present position and the process being undertaken on the speed limit review, and why hadn't the Cambridge Cycling Campaign been consulted?

**A** The survey was in line with published government guidelines including the transport network as a whole and the number of accidents. The Cycling Campaign had been consulted and had made an input in the review.

**Q3** It was disappointing that the review had been completed without taking into account the views of the Campaign, for instance the lowering of speed limits in residential areas to 20mph.

**A** The review took those issues into account, the 20mph speed limit might well become the default speed limit in residential areas, the guidelines improves the management of the situation by local authorities.

**Q4** The parking restrictions at the Rustat Road/Cherry Hinton Road can not be enforced by the Wardens apparently because of the signing had not been completed.

**A** The Local Authority Parking Enforcement scheme had a backlog of work; this area would be looked at and if it was particularly problematic its priority would be revised.

**Q5** Disabled peoples' electric wheelchairs seemed to be unpopular with both road users and pedestrians. Given that many cyclists made illegal use of the footpaths which were, in many cases in such poor condition so as to make them unusable by disabled peoples' electric wheelchairs, what course of action could the officers suggest?

**A** While the officers were sympathetic and could take action over footpath maintenance, the unreasonable behaviour of road users and pedestrians to the disabled was beyond their ability to solve.

**Q6** Manholes in bad repair and protruding above the road surface were a danger to cyclists and other road users. What action was being taken over this?

**A** The Highways Authority constantly emphasised the need to restore street ironwork to a good standard. Reports from the public of the location of this type of problem were welcomed and work was underway to provide a one-stop shop means of reporting problems coupled with an automated logging system to track progress.

**Q7** Large lorries were frequently responsible for damage to road surfaces, street furniture, railings and bollards. Was there any means of the County Council seeking compensation for this damage?

**A** Where the culprit vehicle could be traced, the County did pursue owners for compensation. However it did depend on the public reporting the circumstances. Road surface damage was less easy to follow up.

**Q8** There was growing concern about the guard rails used at busy road junctions to prevent pedestrians from crossing except at a controlled location. Two cyclists had been killed at such junctions and the cause of death had been attributed to them

being caught up against the railings by large vehicles cornering. Was the Highway Authority aware of this and did it propose to take any action. Recent guidelines suggested that guard rails should not be installed. One particularly dangerous location was the Cherry Hinton/Hills Road junction.

**A** The Authority was well aware of the dangers and the benefits of guard rails and where they were damaged would remove them. However there was no finance for an overall review or intention for their removal.

**Q9** Was there any intention to roll out the real timetable information display any further?

**A** It was the intention to do so; however it was essential to get the various computer software systems speaking to each other to ensure the accuracy of the information. The bus operator, Stagecoach, was keen to see the development of the system.

The Chair thanked the County Council officers for their attendance and their responses to questions.

#### **07/44 Community Development and Leisure Grants 2007- 08**

The report by Chris Freeman, the Grants Officer

- reminded members of the process for the allocation of grants;
- confirmed the funds available
- sought approval for current applications

Cllr Baker said that the officer's report should distinguish between applications for grant for purposes which would benefit the public at large and those which would benefit specific groups of residents. He said that where an application was being made for a group of residents, then a grant should be made as a contribution towards the cost of a project or event.

The Grants Officer confirmed that in all the applications currently being considered the applicants were contributing to the costs.

#### **Agreed**

1 To note the applications CD 1 to CD 6 had been approved at the Committee's meeting in April.

2 To approve (by 7 votes to 0) the following applications for Community Development Grants:

No.	Group	Project	Grant
CD7	Colville Residents Association	Christmas tree	£1435
CD4/2	Directions Plus	Disability home visiting advice service	£1900
CD8	Hanover & Princes Court	Christmas tree and marquee	£1600
CD9	Queen Edith's Women's Institute	Flyers, publicity boards	£611

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3 To defer (by 6 votes to 0) consideration of the following application

CD10	Royal British Legion: Cherry Hinton	Roof improvements	Bid £5288	Suggested Grant £596
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### **07/45 South Neighbourhood - Profile Update September 2007**

Inspector Jonathan Hutchinson opened the Neighbourhood Profile Update. He introduced Sergeant Gordon who reminded the meeting that the aim of the neighbourhood profile update was to identify ongoing and emerging crime and disorder issues in the neighbourhood in order to facilitate effective policing and partnership working in the area.

The purpose of the neighbourhood profile update was to provide up-to-date information on neighbourhood issues to multi-agency neighbourhood panels and neighbourhood policing teams, so that issues could be identified and effectively prioritised.

Crime had decreased slightly compared to the previous update. Theft of pedal cycles from the Trumpington area remained high. Criminal damage to property at the allotments on Foster Road, Trumpington and criminal damage to vehicles parked on Teversham Road, Cherry Hinton were identified as emerging issues. ASB had however increased when compared to the previous period and was the main issue within the neighbourhood.

Sergeant Gordon then reported back on the issues which had been identified as priorities at the last meeting. He then responded to questions from the residents and members:

**Q1** How much part does the consumption of alcohol play in the increase in domestic violence?

**A** There was evidence to show that it is a significant cause of the increase.

**Q2** Halloween was approaching, last year at the same time some 60 to 100 children and young people congregated around the Tesco's store in the High Street. Would action be taken to control the bad behaviour that occurred as a result?

**A** It was recognised that action was needed to support Tesco's staff; there was a difference between high spirits and criminal damage, some of it caused by fireworks, which needed to be controlled. Everything would be done to ensure that the evenings around that period ran smoothly.

**Q3** There was an increase in the theft of vehicle number plates, sometimes resulting in their breakage.

**A** This appeared to be a new fad, akin to the theft of Volkswagen badges from

cars some years ago. Children and youths had been reported running away in some instances of it occurring. Some of this was attributable to use in the theft of cars but otherwise the significant increase in the crime was puzzling.

**Q4** What actions were being taken against cyclists riding without lights at night?

**A** The existence of this problem was well known and several measures were being taken including Crime Prevention Officers going into colleges to warn students, especially Freshers, of the dangers. Police resources were stretched like most public services and it was difficult to give this crime the type of attention it deserved. However when action could be taken it was followed up.

**Q5** Frequently, the offenders were older people who should be more aware of the problem and quite often they were dressed in dark clothing which exacerbated the problem. Nothing seemed to be done about regular offenders.

**A** Agreed that it was an offence carried out by all ages and difficult to police. It was a matter for education of all ages? As the winter nights were drawing in there would be a national campaign urging cyclists to wear appropriate clothing and use lights at night.

**Q6** Could the problem of hard to spot cyclists at night be added to the list of priorities?

**A** In the light of the evident concern by residents it seemed sensible to add it to the priorities, given the time of year, when it would be an increasing problem.

**Q7** Some of the ASB cases were referred to as 'Youth' ASB. This might be offensive to young people and it might be more tactful to remove the references.

**A** This was the formal term used in reporting these cases, however advice would be sought on the correct term.

In response to a question on the level of policing in the area and recent changes in the local unit, Inspector Hutchinson reported on the current status of the officers on the strength and the anticipated filling of vacant posts.

Cllr McPherson said that he would not be able to support recommendation 2: 'Youth ASB Cherry Hinton High Street has diminished considerably and consideration should be given to removing this as a priority.' having discussed the onset of Halloween and suggested it be left as a priority until the next meeting and then reviewed.

Agreed that the following be agreed:

1. Cycle theft within the Trumpington ward should remain as a priority, with the emphasis on prevention.
2. Although Youth ASB Cherry Hinton High Street had diminished considerably it was retained as a priority for a further two month period.
3. ASB in Paget Road Trumpington has ceased and this should be removed as ASB

- and criminal damage on Foster Road allotments should be considered a priority with passing patrols and an attempt to identify the youths.
4. Further research is conducted to establish the nature of the drinking in the Children's Play Area near Kelsey Crescent in an attempt to avoid incidents of ASB being reported.
  5. Action should be taken to curtail the increase of cyclists riding without lights at night and with disregard to road safety.

## **07/46 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION**

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.

<b>1</b>	07/0884/REM
<b>Site</b>	2 Long Road Cambridge
<b>Proposal</b>	Reserved matters application for erection of three dwellings (following demolition of the existing dwelling).
<b>Recommendation</b>	Approve subject to the conditions set out in the officer's report.
<b>Applicant</b>	Mr Fayez Soubra
<b>Public Speakers</b>	Mr Bogen (resident) Mr Colin Brown (agent)
<b>Reasons For Refusal Raised In Debate</b>	Those members minded to refuse the application referred to over-development, overshadowing, amenity space, traffic impact, adverse impact on the amenity of neighbours and the inadequate amenity space afforded to the proposed dwellings. They referred to Local Plan policies 3 /4; 3/7; 3/10 and 3/12.
<b>Decision</b>	<b>Refuse, against officer recommendation,</b> on the Chair's casting vote, the Committee having voted 3 votes to 3.

The meeting finished at 9.50pm

**CHAIR**