



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

17th January 2008

7.30pm – 9.50 pm



Minutes & Actions

Present: City Councillors
Cherry Hinton: (Stuart Newbold)
Queen Edith's: (Alan Baker, Viki Sanders, Amanda Taylor)
Trumpington: (Andy Blackhurst, Philippa Slatter, Sheila Stuart)
County Councillor: Anne Kent

Additional

Councillors: Sian Reid (Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth)

Before the meeting, representatives from Cambridgeshire County Council held a roadshow to meet members of the public and gather views on the Transport (TIF) Proposals

The Chairman welcomed members of the public and noted two changes in the published Agenda. Item No: 7 has been removed and Planning Application 07/1397/REM would be considered by the East Area Committee.

08/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from City Councillors Robert Dryden and Russ McPherson, and County Councillor Heathcock.

08/02 Declarations of Interest

No Code of Conduct interests were declared.

08/03 Matters Arising

As the minutes were not on the agenda, no Matters Arising or follow up Actions were noted from the meeting on 22.11.07. Upon completion the minutes will be distributed to all members.

08/04 County Council Transport Strategy (TIF) proposals

Head of Transport Policy and Strategy Paul Cook presented on the new proposals for road user charging within Cambridge and measures to provide more sustainable transport. Apologies were given for Councillor Roy Pegram (Deputy Leader, Cambridgeshire County Council) who was also due to present.

Key transport challenges such as increase in morning peak trips, increased pollution and CO2 emissions, increase in journey times and increased accidents were noted. It was stated that the proposed strategy could achieve a reduction in morning traffic by 10%, a 16% reduction in CO2 emissions, overall reduction in journey time of 19%, a reduction in journey distances (within the City boundary) by 12% and an increase in the number of people coming *into* the City of 13%.

Members of the Committee and the public were then given the opportunity to ask questions of the County Councils Officer and raise any further issues regarding transport.

Q1) Within the plans there is no indication that the Council are taking into account the new road proposals around the Addenbrookes site which could have a major impact – also is there any update on the suggested railway station at the Hospital?

A) The new road has been taken into account fully within the remodelling scheme - and he apologised for the omission from the presentation slides. It was acknowledged that Addenbrookes is a major traffic generator but it is only one of many. The suggestion for a railway station at the Hospital was dropped a number of years ago due to networking issues, however the guided bus will service the site.

Q2) Why should residents from this area have to pay £3-£5 to leave Cambridge on a *non-congested* road? This is not the system used in London.

A) It may be that those travelling short distances out of Cambridge will not have to pay, however the County Council was still looking at the finer details of the proposals.

Q3) If I wanted to use the Park and Ride at Babraham Road I would have to pay the congestion charge to get there – also mothers taking children short distances to school will be charged!

A) The County Council is offering people alternatives such as improved walking and cycling facilities and better public transport and it is their choice if they want to take advantage of this.

Q4) The Liberal Democrat Group at the City Council are keen on offering a discount to residents, however Paul Cook stated at a recent meeting that this may cause an issue as the cost of administration would mean a lack of income to deliver the improvements needed. This has been noted with the London example where residents receive a 90% discount. The Labour Group at the City Council are however in support of a full exemption for residents if the proposals are agreed.

A) 50% of journeys in the morning peak times are within Cambridge and not from people travelling into the City, therefore if short distances are contributing heavily to the congestion there is a case that local drivers should be charged. If discounts or exemptions are offered to residents there will not be the 10% reduction in congestions and therefore not the same level of reductions in CO2 emissions.

Q) How will the system work with Blue Badge holders? I do not have a badge but assist and support elderly relatives that do. When I visit them I will have to pay the charge but upon collecting them I will receive Blue Badge privileges.

A) The County Council is meeting with Voluntary Sector representatives next week and this subject will be discussed.

Q) As a self employed carpenter I will have to pay the congestions charge to carry out my work around the city – this cost will then obviously have to be passed onto the customer. I fully support and praise the suggested improvements to cycle routes but unfortunately I cannot carry out my business on a bike.

A) For small businesses time is money and congestion causes a lot of delay during a working week. Less traffic will make travelling around the City easier.

Q) What will happen to the income generated from the congestion charge?

A) The Government's Transport Bill will legislate that any moneys generated must be spent on transport improvements *locally*.

Q) What is meant by locally? Could the money be spent for projects across Cambridgeshire and not benefit the City?

A) This is obviously something that will be looked into.

Q) What is Council doing to encourage more people to use scooters and mopeds? I get over 100 miles to the gallon.

A) Scooters and mopeds will not be subject to any congestion charge as the number plate recognition technology cannot identify them.

Q) I have a number of potential issues to raise:

- **Very complicated technology and subject to errors**
- **Data protection issues**
- **Introduction of 'Police State'**
- **'Bribe Money' from Central Government**
- **Other solutions?**

A) Thank you for your comments. Other solutions have been looked at such as making parking more difficult or using more rising bollards but, based on the modelling carried out to date, it would appear that none would be as effective as a congestion charge combined with measures to make alternative forms of transport a lot more attractive.

Councillor Sian Reid then addressed the meeting as the Executive Councillor for Climate Change and Growth. She noted the importance of the City Council representing the views of its residents, especially with transport always being raised as the biggest issue. All responses from the City Council will be collated and fed back into the Consultation and City Council lobbying for a Joint Transport Forum to look at this issue in more detail had been effective. This will meet soon.

Councillor Reid said that fairness issues regarding the potential cost to Cambridge residents and the need to charge vehicles with higher CO2 emissions were acknowledged and any monies generated must be spent on public transport in the City.

With the Growth and Housing Agenda approved it was important to have investment in public transport. The Government had also stated that local authorities cannot bid for funds to improve this without tackling congestion and CO2 emissions.

Councillor Reid was attending all of the Area Committees to hear public opinion and encouraged members of the public to contact her direct with feedback.

Paul Cook thanked the Committee and members of the public and informed them that further roadshows will be held at the Grafton Centre on 26th and 27th January and presentations were confirmed for the East Area Committee on 28th February and the West Area Committee on 7th February.

The Consultation Document and questionnaire could be found on www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/congestion

08/05 Open Forum

There were no questions in the Open Forum.

08/06 South Area Neighbourhood Policing

Sergeant Gordon Morgenthaler presented on the ongoing and emerging crime and disorder issues in the neighbourhood and provided updated information on changes in the neighbourhood policing team.

Crime has followed the seasonal pattern of increasing in the last three months mainly due to increases in cycle theft - although city wide this has reduced compared to previous years. Anti-social behaviour has fallen slightly in the area but crime and disorder in Teversham Drift and Coldhams Business Park are emerging issues in the neighbourhood. These issues were noted as priorities for the next three months.

Issues identified as priorities at the last meeting were reported back on and questions from the Committee and the public were invited.

Q) On Page 6 of the Report it states that *'the area bounded by Wulfstan Way, Gunhind Way, Spalding Way and Godwin Way remains a particular hotspot for crime and disorder over the period'* - why is this not added as one of your priorities?

A) Most of the offences are carried out by two prolific offenders that are well known to all of our officers. Their details appear on every police briefing sheet and we are working hard with other sections (such as probation) to tackle the problem.

Q) Thanked all of the officers and wished the new PCSO's well in their new positions, particularly highlighting Mark Deal for praise. Informed the Committee that funding for CCTV in Cherry Hinton High Street has been secured and will be installed shortly.

Are the police working actively with local business at Coldhams Business Park to tackle the identified issues?

A) Yes – we work closely with all of the businesses and they do have CCTV.

Q) Could you provide more information on action regarding cyclists riding on the pavement and jumping red lights.

A) We have Special Constables in the City and in Trumpington to target cyclists without lights and have issued over 100 tickets in the last 3 months. All officers are aware of these issues and the need to be vigilant.

Q) How many hours per month are dedicated to this?

A) Ideally we would like to dedicate more time but at the moment it stands at about 2 x 2-3hour periods per month.

Q) How are you tackling the problem of vehicles parking in bike zones?

A) We have met recently with the Cambridge Cycling Campaign to discuss the issues. We are actively enforcing the cycle zones and are writing to vehicle owners with a warning, which will be followed up with a ticket for a second offence.

We encourage members of the public to inform us of any issues in their areas.

Q) Would photos of any parked vehicles be useful to the police?

A) This would be useful so we can track prolific offenders and write to them or their company raising the issue.

Q) Hills Road is an issue as some of the cycle zones are not enforceable due to the width of the road – how can this be tackled?

A) This is very difficult as they are not mandatory cycle lanes, however if the parking is dangerous (on a corner for instance) we can contact the drivers and take action.

Q) The traffic lights in Trumpington Road near to the War Memorial are an issue. Drivers heading out of town continually ignore the lights and there is a potential for accidents. Could plain clothed officers be used to tackle the problem?

A) Unfortunately plain clothed officers cannot deal with traffic issues – however we could dispatch uniformed officers in an unmarked car. We will look into this issue.

The Chair thanked Sergeant Gordon Morgenthaler for the presentation and the responses to the questions.

Resolved - that the following priorities be endorsed for the next reporting period:

- Cycle theft in Trumpington Ward to include cycling without lights and on footpaths
- Crime and disorder in Teversham Drift, Cherry Hinton
- Crime and disorder at Coldhams Business Park

08/07 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.

1 07/1206/REM
Site 2 Long Road Cambridge CB2 8PS
Proposal Erection of 3 houses (2x4-bed houses and 1x3-bed house)
(following demolition of existing dwelling)
Recommendation Approve with conditions
Applicant Mr Fayez Soubra
Public Speakers Mrs Bogen (objector) Mr Colin Brown (agent)
Decision **APPROVED** – with conditions and subject to the amendment
of condition 4 to delete the final phrase ‘unless otherwise
agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority’.
(The Committee having voted 6 in favour with 1 abstention)

08/08 Dates of Meetings for 2008-2009

Members agreed the following dates for the municipal year 2008-2009
2008 – 3rd July, 28th August, 23rd October and 18th December
2009 – 12th February and 2nd April

The meeting finished at 9.50pm

CHAIR