

**City Councillors Present:**

Arbury: Rhodri James, Tim Ward  
King's Hedges: Neale Upstone, Louise Downham, Mike Pitt  
East Chesterton: Clare Blair, Jenny Bailey, Marian Holness  
West Chesterton: Diane Armstrong, Max Boyce, Ian Nimmo-Smith

**County Councillors Present:**

Rupert Moss-Eccardt (**Arbury**), Julian Huppert (**East Chesterton**), Kevin Wilkins (**West Chesterton**)

**Action by**

**08/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from  
Alan Levy and Elizabeth Hughes  
The Mayor, Councillor Bailey, arrived late because of an earlier  
engagement.

**08/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**08/18 MINUTES**

An amendment to the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008 – page 4  
action assigned to Cllr Ward should read Cllr Downham - was  
noted. Minutes were then signed as a correct record.

**08/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

08/13 (also 07/60,07/49,07/29) St Kilda dropped kerb options: Cllr Pitt  
Cllr Downham was unable to visit area due to time constraints  
and officer availability. Cllr Pitt offered to complete this and to  
update at the next meeting.

08/14 Lack of enforcement of parking on, or driving over grass  
verges. Cllr Blair had carried out a walkabout and did not think  
it was a big problem. City Council tenants should not drive over  
a kerb and City Homes will deal with this on case by case  
basis.

08/14 Incorrect signage advising height of barrier causing

problems for drivers. The correct access height has been reinstated.

08/14 Update on weight and frequency of Tesco delivery vehicles. Cllr Nimmo-Smith will report back to the next meeting. Cllr Blair

## 08/20 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>	
<b>Site</b>	2 Mortlock Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB4 1TE
<b>Proposal</b>	Conversion and part single storey part two storey side extensions to dwelling house to form three one-bedroom flats and one two-bedroom maisonette.
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>APPROVED</b> subject to conditions
<b>Application No</b>	08/0089/FUL
<b>Applicant</b>	Mr S Freathy, 2 Mortlock Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB4 1TE
<b>Public Speakers</b>	
<b>Decision</b>	Approve (by 7 votes to 0) as agenda

## 08/21 OPEN FORUM

**Resident 1:** When will the Riverside Bridge open and what will it be called?

**A** – Cllr Moss-Eccart responded. The bridge is due for testing in May. However, to-date no date has been set for the opening.

**Resident 2:** Pye recreational ground – The informal path was

regularly waterlogged.

**A** – Cllr Blair will explore the idea with Active Communities and see what is possible.

Cllr Blair

**Resident 3:** What progress was being made on Traffic Calming in Chesterton?

**A** – Cllr Huppert will look into this and feed back to the next committee meeting.

Cllr Huppert

**Resident 4:** What stage are the planned changes to City Boundaries at and when will a decision be made?

**A.** Cllr Nimmo-Smith responded that a proposed review of boundaries was discussed in May at the Civic Affairs committee.

Cllr James stated that there is press release on both Cambridge City and South Cambs websites.

As the City expands, ward boundary changes are likely.

However, no decision have been made to-date.

**Resident 5:** When a property changes use from residential to hotel what is the impact of this on council tax liability and should planning permission be applied for?

**A:** Cllr Nimmo-Smith stated that this issue had been raised before and he had followed it up with revenue services. Cambridge City Council follow national guidelines in these situations. On the follow up question of planning permission, he explained that it is complicated and can be hard to define when a change of use has happened. Some residential properties are purchased by business for employees and this is of benefit to the local community. He agreed to raise the concerns at a national level.

Cllr Nimmo-Smith

**Resident 6:** Can local bylaw be created to deal with the problem of parking on grass verges?

**A.** Cllr. Nimmo-Smith explained that the framework for the creation of bylaws is changing. The current situation is unclear on when local authorities can create their own. Enforcement can also be an issue.

**Resident 7:** Why have the Park and Ride buses stopped picking up passengers along Milton Road?

**A.** Cllrs. Pitt, Huppert, Moss-Eccardt, Downham, Blair and Upstone responded that stagecoach have been asked about this on previous occasions. It is a commercial decision over which the council have no control due to deregulation of the

bus services. Frustration was expressed at the apparent lack of give and take over this issue. A suggestion was made that this be raised at the Quality Bus Partnership. A further suggestion was made that, in future, the development of bus lane could include a proviso that the buses using the bus lanes serve the local community and not just commuters.

## **08/22 Cambridgeshire Guided Busway Implementation Project**

Presentation by Bob Menzies (Head of Delivery: Cambridgeshire County Council) on the construction of the Guided Busway and the possible impacts for the North Area.

He then addressed comments and questions from the public. These included:

- Concerns over the safety of the buses.
- The buses adding to traffic problems of City residents without given any benefit in return.
- There was considerable debate about the impact on Milton Road. The lack of an outward-bound bus lane on the north side of the City and any possible plans for this area in the future. However, outward bound journey times are currently viewed as acceptable.
- The amount of control the County Council has over the planned commercial operation of the buses. There was considerable debate about the lack of control once the buses leave the guided busway sections.
- The need to see the buses as part of the bigger picture at reducing journey times for commuters and encouraging the use of public transport.
- Changes had been made to the original plan to accommodate a changing situation and may change again in future if further funding was to be available, possibly through a congestion charge.
- A future section might link Chesterton station, however, this would be dependant on a successful bid to central government.
- Questions were asked about the statement that there was no cost to the County as the project has received developers 106 million that could have been spent elsewhere.
- Concern was also expressed that the City will be subsidising the system through the free bus pass system.
- Concerns were expressed over the visual and environmental impact of construction methods. These were said to be minimal although it may take a time to complete landscape work where

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necessary and to allow plant and weed growth to colonise the area around and between the tracks.

- Questions were asked about journey times, for both the existing buses and the guide buses and how accurate, realistic and up to date these were.
- The new buses will have off bus ticket system, possible similar to the London Oyster system and it is expected that buses will be at stops for around as little as 30 seconds.
- An update on the current budget and the progress of the scheme was given. It is slightly under budget and behind schedule due to a wet winter.

The Chair summed up, thanked Mr Menzies for his very interesting presentation and requested an update in 12 months time. Mr Menzies suggested someone else might be more appropriate than him at that point.

**08/23 North Area Safer Neighbourhoods**

Inspector Hutchinson presented an overview of the current situation as detailed in his report and reports which had been circulated with the agenda. He outlined the suggested priorities for the coming months.

There has been agreement that the 'Neighbourhood Policing' agenda item at Area Committees is to be renamed 'Safer Neighbourhoods'. Cllr Downham was unhappy with this change.

Cllr Blair was unhappy with 'prevention of attacks on foreign students' as the priority, the rationale behind this and the suggested method of achieving this. This issue had been raised as a financial concern by host landlords fearful of losing business and it was agreed a more appropriate reason would be the safety of the young people. Cllr Ward felt that telling students avoid certain areas of the City was not acceptable and all areas of the City should be safe. It was felt that ASB was a factor of this problem and should be a greater priority. There is a perceived drop in Police presence in the East Chesterton area.

Inspector Hutchinson said that there are five or six hotspots in Chesterton that are monitored regularly. Staffing levels are set across the City according to priorities. Officers are deployed in teams to deal with on-going problem areas. This approach has been agreed in a multi agency framework to avoid duplication.

Cllr Blair was felt that the community needed to be better informed on

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Police priorities and the new ways of working which the police have adopted. She would like more engagement with communities over priorities and a proactive rather than reactive approach. Further discussion will take place outside the meeting.

Inspector Hutchinson then addressed comments and questions from the public. These included:

- How appropriate it is for PCSO or Sergeants attending public meetings rather than Inspectors?
- Stop and account policies alienating the community and questionable when where under 16's are involved.
- How long electronic records of stop and account can be kept.
- Driving on pavements in Milton Road.
- The use of fixed penalty notices for litter and how this could be given more priority.
- Clarity over the use of CCTV as evidence.
- The use of rewards for good behaviour appearing to reward those with a history of bad behaviour.
- Emerging and recurrent hotspots such as: The Green Dragon, Pye Recreation Ground and Alexandra Gardens.
- Discussion also took place about how widely information on ASBO's and ABC could be shared without infringing data protection and Human Rights regulation.

Agreed priorities:

- Reducing Drug Dealing in the vicinity of schools and increasing drug awareness with young people
- Tackling ASB in the Molewood Close and Hazlewood Close area, also considering environmental factors such as fly-tipping
- Reducing offending by young people and reducing victimisation of young people in green and open spaces

The Chair thanked Cllrs Bailey and Downham for their hard work over the years and wished them well for the future as they are both stepping down from office in the very near future.

The meeting finished at 10.25

**Chair**