

City Councillors Present:

Arbury: Mike Todd-Jones, Alan Levy and Tim Ward

King's Hedges: Mike Pitt, Neil McGovern

East Chesterton: Clare Blair

West Chesterton: Diane Armstrong, Max Boyce and Ian Nimmo-Smith

County Councillors Present:

Rupert Moss-Eccardt (**Arbury**), Kevin Wilkins (**West Chesterton**) Elizabeth Hughes (**King's Hedges**)

Action by

08/24 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair

Cllr Levy proposed and Cllr Ward seconded the nomination of Cllr Armstrong as Chair. As there were no other nominations, **Resolved** that Cllr Armstrong be Chair of North Area Committee for the ensuing year.

Vice Chair

Cllr Armstrong proposed and Cllr Nimmo-Smith seconded the nomination of Cllr Levy as Vice Chair. As there were no other nominations, **Resolved** that Cllr Levy be Vice Chair of North Area Committee for the ensuing year.

Councillor Armstrong in the Chair

08/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillors Huppert and City Councillors Liddle, Upstone and Holness.

08/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Blair declared a personal interest in minute number 08/30 with reference to the discussion on Arbury Park as she is a governor of Orchard Park School.

08/27 MINUTES

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Amendments requested to the minutes of the 17 April 2008 – page 08/23 to list agreed police priorities as bullet points. Item 08/19 matters arising, the frequency of Tesco deliveries should read action by Cllr Blair and not Cllr Nimmo-Smith. Cllr Pitt requested that 08/22, bullet point three should also state that outward-bound journey times are currently viewed as acceptable. Amended minutes to be approved and signed by the Chair.

08/28 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

08/19 (also 08/14) Tesco Deliveries

Cllr Blair has been attempting to deal with the problem of size and frequency of Tesco deliveries. Senior staff at Tesco have been unwilling to meet to discuss this. Cllr Blair will continue to pursue this through all available channels, including letters to the local paper.

Cllr Blair

08/19 (also 08/13, 07/60, 07/49, 07/29) St Kilda Avenue Dropped Kerbs

This item will be carried forward as Cllr Pitt has been unable to visit the site due to time constraints.

Cllr Pitt

08/21 Pye Recreation Ground footpaths in need of additional drainage.

Cllr Blair has spoken to Anthony French who feels this is worth pursuing and would be carrying out a feasibility study that would be reported back to this committee.

Cllr Blair

08/21 Traffic Calming Chesterton.

Cllrs Huppert and Blair are working on this issue together, it is on going and it will not be a quick process. They have addressed the issue with the County Council and are in consultation with local residents and Old Chesterton Residents Association. The Chair thanked Cllr Blair and Huppert for their hard work on this issue.

08/21 Change of use of property and how this impacts on Council Tax.

Cllr Nimmo-Smith discussed this issue with David Howard MP. He suggests that it may be necessary to look again at the framework of advice the planning department is working under when making these decision. Discussions with other authorities

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who have similar issues might be needed. He explained the financial implication of removing properties from residential to business use. Residential revenues are collected and spent locally while business rates go in to central government. A secondary impact is a reduction in the number of residents registering in the head count of the City, which results in reduced funding for local provision of services.

08/21 Opening of Riverside Bridge

Residents expressed anger and disappointment that the Bridge had been opened without Chesterton residents being informed or invited to the opening ceremony. Abbey residents had been invited as had Cycle interest groups. Old Chesterton Resident Association has written to complain about this and hope to receive a suitable apology for the oversight.

Cllr Blair, who had heard about the opening by chance, expressed regret that it had happened and felt that their presence at the event was missed. She also said the bridge was currently being well used as was already an asset to both sides of the river.

08/29 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	
Site Proposal	Victoria Guesthouse, 55-57 Arbury Road Extension to guesthouse to provide two apartments for short-stay accommodation
Recommendation	Approve
Application No	08/0480/FUL
Applicant	Mr and Mrs D Chapman

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Public Speakers	None
Decision	APPROVED (7-0) subject to conditions, as Agenda 2
Site	St Leonard's East Hertford Street
Proposal	Outline application for the erection of a two-storey student hostel (with rooms in the roof) following demolition of the existing house
Officer	Approve
Recommendation	
Application No	07/1263/OUT
Applicant	Link House Trust
Public Speaker	Mr Cooper on behalf of applicant
Decision	APPROVED (6-0) subject to conditions and completion of S106 agreement, as Agenda

08/30 UPDATE ON ARBURY PARK

John Pym, New Villages Senior Planning Officer, South Cambs District Council, introduced his colleagues, Susannah Harris of the Community Development team and Greg Mitchell and Steve Riley of Gallaghers.

Mr Pym gave some background on work at Arbury Park and the planning consents that have been issued since the last update to Committee.

- In 2005 planning consent issued for 900 dwelling; 18000msg commercial use; primary school; local facilities; mixed use areas; open spaces and supporting infrastructure.
- Work began September 2005
- Primary School opened in autumn 2007
- Community Centre almost complete and will soon be transferred to Parish Council
- Guided bus due to arrive on site in this year
- A public inquiry in progress on an application from Barrett Homes for an additional 182 dwellings.
- Personalised green travel plans being developed to encourage residents to limit car use.
- Formation of a new Parish Council for Arbury Park is being considered by South Cambs DC Electoral Arrangements Committee.
- A Scrutiny Committee has been established to look at the

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lessons learnt from the development.

- A review of compliance with the S106 is underway as a number of facilities are overdue.
- Perimeter fencing may be removed shortly.

Cllr Blair thanked Mr Pym. Discussions and questions followed.

- The area is developing nicely and Gallaghers landscaping work was praised.
- It would be very important to ensure that any further development on the Kings Hedges Rd/Histon Rd edge formed a high quality gateway for the City.
- If Barrett's application is allowed, the site would be deficient in open space on completion. The Committee asked for an assurance that if this resulted in an offset payment, the money would be used on facilities suitable for use by residents of Arbury Park, likely to be The Meadows and not in Impington. Mr Pym will take the comments back to South Cambs DC and request greater consultation on this issue.
- Discussions followed on the commercial vehicle access to a predominately residential site. Gallaghers responded that this had been in the original plan and the infrastructure was designed with this in mind.
- Cllr Nimmo-Smith suggested that discussions of parish boundaries were premature, and the City Council has objected to the current proposal. Arbury Park is a natural extension to Cambridge. The wider boundary review between the City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils would see it brought into the City boundaries. Separating it from Kings Meadows, also currently in Impington Parish, in any new parish was thought to be creating barriers to community cohesion. Discussions followed on how long this situation would continue (possibly three years) as it is placing a considerable burden on Impington Parish Council. It was agreed that whatever is decided, the goal should be to integrate Arbury Park with the wider, north of the City, community.
- Concerns were expressed that the Arbury Park would be deficit in open space when completed and this was not in the spirit of the original plan.
- Members felt that there was a danger that community facilities were being stripped out of the plan one by one and this had happened to the Arbury area in the past resulting in a lack of facilities for young people and

contributing to anti social behaviour.

Susannah Harris gave an update on the progress of the Community Development work.

- A pub had been discussed but would be dependant on market forces.
- The hotel currently under construction will have a bar that will be open to non-residents.
- The jointly funded Community Development post has been filled. Carly Megher will take up her post at the end of July. There will be a small gap when the current post holder leaves.
- Community Development Plan is under development and stakeholders are being consulted.
- The original welcome packs for new resident have been re-designed so that they will fit through a letterbox, as delivery to working households had been a problem.
- The Connections Bus Project will be visiting Arbury Park three times a week over the summer period. It is hoped to continue this into the winter subject to funding.
- When completed, the Community Centre will have a youth centre.
- Young people playing Basketball late at the night have been a problem. It is hoped this can be resolved with creative thinking and improved facilities.

The Committee requested a further update in 12 months time. It was suggested that this could be in the new Community Centre. The Chair thanked the speakers for their presentations.

08/31 OPEN FORUM

Question 1. Why has the bus stop serving the number four bus, at the end of Fitzroy Street been removed and will it be replaced?

A. Cllr Nimmo-Smith will ask the officer responsible to look into the schedule of bus shelters and find out if the shelter is due to be replaced. Cllr Nimmo-Smith

Question 2. The policy of moving campers on from Midsummer Common at the recent Strawberry Fair resulted in them camping on Stourbridge Common instead. This created considerable nuisance and litter for local residents. Will the City

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Council take fairs and events such as the bumps into account when planning a positive management arrangement for Stourbridge Common?

A. Cllr Nimmo-Smith responded. The post Strawberry Fair review will look at this matter, and Julie Smith and her team will be actively looking at ways to reduce the impact of these events on local residents. Cllr Blair confirmed that the bins in the area were left overflowing following the bumps events. Cllr Hughes praised the team who had cleared up after the recent Arbury Carnival.

Question 3. A City Council tenant complained about the poor standard of stairwell cleaning and inspection.

A. Cllr Ward suggested this was not a matter for an area committee and suggested she contact her local councillor. Cllr Pitt offered to meet the resident outside the meeting and look into it for her.

Question 4. What is required in the way of outdoor amenities to be provided as part of a single or multiple unit development?

A. This is determined by the individual plan and in agreement with the Planning Officer.

Question 5. Will the City Council consider entering into an agreement with Tesco's to limit the size and frequency of delivery vehicles servicing stores in residential areas?

A. This is a Citywide problem and might need to be settled at a Chief Executive level. Cllr Nimmo-Smith suggested this problem relates to any operation that needs regular deliveries in order to function. He will talk to Cllr Reid and to the County Council who have an officer working on plans to ease the problems. In the future congestions charges could empower the City Council to take action. Cllr Nimmo-Smith

Inviting someone from Tesco's to attend an area committee was thought to be a good idea and the Chair will pursue this. Chair

Question 6. Does the housing department have a policy to deal young adult who continue to live in a council property when their parents, the official tenants, have vacated the property.

A. Cllr Blair responded that it would not be appropriate to discuss individual cases at an Area Committee. However, City Homes does take these issues seriously and will take appropriate action. The resident was invited to give Cllr Blair full details of the situation. These will be passed on to the

appropriate Housing Officer. However, it would not be possible to feedback details of individual cases to the Committee.

Question 7. What happened to the police priorities agreed at the last meeting?

A. This matter has already been discussed under matters arising and the minutes will be changed to include details. The chair will then agree the minutes.

Question 8. What is the mechanism for setting police priorities?

A. Cllr Hughes and Cllr Nimmo-Smith responded that priorities are set at a County level and are agreed on a Citywide basis. The resident was invited to meet with the City Councils Community Safety Strategy Officer to discuss his concerns. This meeting will be arranged as soon as possible. The availability of a memo from the Community Safety Strategy Officer detailing the current processes that exist for identifying and tackling neighbourhood priorities through the Safer Neighbourhoods processes was drawn to everyone's attention.

Question 9. Are the Committee aware that important information is included in the booklet that is delivered along with Council Tax Bills? This information is therefore, not available to those who do not pay council tax and this is unfair.

A. Cllr Nimmo-Smith responded. Due to problems with copyright of some of the photos, the council tax bills booklet had been withdrawn from circulation for a time. This affected both printed and online versions. However, that the information in the booklet is now widely available in a paper format and is also on the City Council's web pages.

Question 10. How will the low carbon discount policy being discussed along with the congestion charge work?

A. No figures have been agreed so far on what the discount would be and where the money raised would be spent. However, if and when the charge is introduced the Council would make no apology for charging higher polluting cars more.

Question 11. How can we boost attendance and participation in area committees?

A. A lively debate followed with a number of suggestions being made.

- Give police a regular time slot on the agenda. This was agreed. In future the item Safer Neighbourhoods will be

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taken before the Open Forum at 7.30pm. This item can then be advertised and promoted in this way.

- Brighter, more interesting posters and flyers were thought to be a good idea.
- Posters outside the venue, on the night of a meeting, were also discussed.
- Consultation with other groups in the area for items of shared interest.

08/32 COMMUNITY AND LEISURE GRANTS 2008-09

The Grants Officer introduced the papers and outlined the rationale behind the grants process.

The Chair suggested the committee look at the items one by one.

- CD11 18th Cambridge Beavers – Approved
- CD12 Advice for Life

Members asked for clarity on Advice for life partner organisations to avoid double funding. Cllr Blair asked why Brownfields was not listed and requested assurance that current advice sessions would continue. This was confirmed. Cllr Todd-Jones felt the funding should be increased. Match funding was discussed and Cllr Nimmo-Smith asked for an assurance that the work would continue with the limited support being offered. Cllr Hughes was concerned that support be given to this project as Citizens Advice Bureau funding has been cut and there is an on-going need for this type of support. Cllr Blair gave background to the project. Cllr McGovern thanked Cllr Blair for her hard work in this area. As there will be another round of funding later in the year, it was decided not to increase the size of the suggested award.

- Approved

- CD13 Ambaby's The Grants Officer explained the apparent anomaly between this and the grant offered to Kings Hedges Parent Forum. This is the way the figures are presented rather than a real difference. The offered funding is half the cost of the coach in each occasion. - Approved

- CD14 Kings Hedges Parent Forum. - Approved
- CD7 Romsey Mill Trust

Discussions followed on priorities and Cllr Nimmo-Smith wondered how the decision that transitional work was not a priority had been arrived at. Questions were asked about how much of the schools work was really a City function and if this project fitted better into the County budget. Cllr Hughes felt it was a worthy project and deserved support, perhaps more so than coach trips.

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Members felt that it was impossible to see how much funding Cambridge City Council gave to Romsey Mill as applications for funding go to a number of different committees. The Grants Officer said that this was under review and it would be clearer in future. The Officers suggestion not to fund the project was approved.

- CD15 Sunshine Group - Approved
- L1 Hansen Court Community Project – Deferred
- L2 Romsey Mill Trust - Approved
- L3 Meadows Art Group - Approved

08/33 UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR NORTH AREA

Cllr Levy had asked for this item to be on the agenda and took the lead in the discussions.

Discussions followed on how accurate the projected costs of the various projects were and why Cambridge City Council were funding forecourt work when others, such as the land owner, could reasonably be expected to pay for this.

Cllr Blair felt the list needed pruning and was concerned that officers may have already done a lot of work on a project that will not progress to completion. Cllr Levy was concerned that some of the projects were an officer priority rather than a resident concern. Cllr Boyce suggested that the officers may have misunderstood what was required in the Arbury Road/Milton Road forecourt project and the intention had been to part fund a County Council project. The City contribution should be closer to £20,000 rather than the £180,000 quoted. Cllr Blair asked why 3.8 Riverside (East Area) was not on the table of projects on page 48 of 79. She suggested that an, as yet unknown amount of 106 money should be available for this project. Cllr Levy suggested that this item should be deferred for discussion until the autumn report is available.

The committee agreed to appoint a lead Councillor for each project listed on page 48. Their role will be to investigate how far the project has gone, look at the costing and report back to the committee with a suggestion to pursue or abandon the scheme. Some Councillors were nominated in their absence and therefore lead names may change.

Project

Lead Councillor

Cam Causeway Home Zone	Blair
Haling Way	Liddle
Stretton Ave/Akeman Street	Levy
Windsor Road	Ward
Buchan Street	McGovern
Campkin Road Verges	McGovern
Campkin Road Traffic	Pitt
Campkin Road Shop Forecourts	Pitt
Northfield Ave Recycling Centre	McGovern
St Albans Recreation Ground	Todd-Jones
Edgecombe Flats Landscaping	Pitt
Milton Road/Ramsden Square	Pitt
Nun's Way Parking Area	McGovern
Arbury Road Shop Forecourts	Boyce
Arbury Road Tree/Hedge works	Ward
Chesterton High Street improvements	Blair
Mobile Crossings allowance and pinch points	Approved and no lead needed

The meeting finished at 10.25

Chair