

North Area Committee

Minutes

At Manor Community College

9 October 2008

6.30pm – 9.30 pm

Present:

City Councillors for:

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

King's Hedges: Neale Upstone, Michael Pitt, Neil McGovern

East Chesterton: Clare Blair

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

County Councillors:

Rupert Moss-Eccardt (Arbury), Elizabeth Hughes (King's Hedges)

08/43 APLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from City Cllrs Holness, Liddle, and County Cllrs Huppert and Wilkins.

08/44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Todd-Jones said that he did not intend to vote on the Planning Application on the Agenda, he felt that he had received insufficient training and that he had also already expressed a view on the application, thus fettering his discretion. He would, however, comment on the application during discussion.

08/45 APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

These minutes and the appendix 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.

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

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | 07/1304/FUL |
| Site | 113 Histon Road Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB4 3JD |
| Proposal | Proposed enlargement of rear preparation area. New extension with flat roof. New galvanised metal flue. Relocation of external steel access staircase. |
| Applicant | Mr And Mrs J Karimi |
| Recommendation | Approve subject to conditions set out in the report |

**Public Speakers
Decision**

Mrs J Karimi

Approved by 6 votes to 0, subject to the conditions set out in the report and to the following additional conditions:

Condition 3:

Add a second sentence: 'prior to the painting taking place, the applicant shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the local planning authority that the paint to be applied is appropriate for use on a hot flue.

Condition 4:

Prior to the commencement of development, full details of the on-site storage facilities for waste including waste for recycling shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Such details shall identify the specific positions of where wheelie bins, recycling boxes or any other means of storage will be stationed and the arrangements for the disposal of waste. The approved facilities shall be provided prior to the commencement of the use hereby permitted and shall be retained thereafter unless alternative arrangements are agreed in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason: To protect the amenities of nearby residents/occupiers and in the interests of visual amenity. (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003 policy P1/3 and Cambridge Local Plan 2006 policies 3/7 and 4/13)

08/46 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 August 2008 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the amendment of the list of councillors present to show:

Cllr Upstone and Liddle as present and Cllrs Blair and McGovern as having given their apologies for absence.

08/47 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **08/28 Pye Recreation Ground feasibility study** – Cllr Blair would continue to pursue this with Active Communities and would report back to the Committee when information was available.

Action - Cllr Blair

- **08/31 Changes to No4 bus stop** – Cllr Nimmo-Smith reported that this had been severely damaged by a car and was the subject of an insurance claim and a resolution had been delayed for that reason. He

would report back to Committee when further information had been received.

Action - Cllr Nimmo-Smith

08/48 OPEN FORUM

Q1 Closure of Public Toilets at Arbury Court

The toilets at Arbury Court had been closed for some time, ostensibly for refurbishment although no activity was apparent. When would refurbishment begin, and would the design be as architecturally attractive as other recently refurbishments undertaken in the city?

A Cllr Nimmo-Smith said that the budget for this work had been allocated although he was not sure what the timetable was for the work. It had been expedient to close the facility as it had deteriorated to a level where it could not be maintained to an adequate standard. Details of the design and the timetable would be made available at Arbury Court.

Cllr McGovern said that he would liaise with Cllr Nimmo-Smith on providing information for display at Arbury Court and would bring information about proposals to the next meeting.

Action - Cllr McGovern

Q2 Guided Bus Issues.

Q2i Exit to Milton Road

How would the Guided Bus make its exit on to Milton Road from the trackway? There was no sign of the traffic signals or other road furniture to ensure safety considerations were met.

A Cllr Moss-Eccardt said that the junction would be properly constructed similarly to the one that recently been completed at Impington. The traffic lights would be installed before the guided bus came into use.

Cllr McGovern said that he understood that there had been problems with one of the sub-contractors on the scheme which had caused delays in the provision of the junction.

Q2ii Trees on Milton Road

Will the trees along Milton Road be safe from further damage or felling?

A Cllr Moss-Eccardt said that he had received an assurance that the trees would be replaced, following a sustained campaign from Councillors and residents. He and other Councillors would continue to keep an eye on the situation.

Cllr Pitt said that he had asked the Arboricultural Officer for a schedule for the tree replacement works, and he would report back to the Committee.

Q2iii Bus stops on Milton Road

Would there be bus stops along Milton Road to allow people in Cambridge to use the guided bus?

A Cllr Moss-Eccardt said that there were to be no access to the guided bus from bus stops on Milton Road or elsewhere in the North Area. Other bus routes could be affected and he was following that up with the County officers.

Action - Cllr Moss-Eccardt

General: Councillors referred to:

Meetings of the Guided Bus Liaison Forum a joint County and City body, which were open to the public, and suggested residents attend.

The Area Joint Traffic Committee (AJC) which was shortly to consider the route and bus stops for the guided bus, in the light of concern at the proposal to add stops for the bus to the existing ones. The AJC was also open to the public.

Q3 Issues at Gary Drive

Q3i Tree planting

Gary Drive was a narrow road and tree planting had been carried out making it more difficult to negotiate. No maintenance of the trees had been carried out.

A Cllr Pitt said that the trees issue should be addressed by the Council's Arboricultural Officer, he would take it up with the team.

Action – Cllrs Upstone/Pitt

Q3ii Gully Cleaning

The road gullies in Gary Drive had never been cleaned, what was the timetable for the cleaning and who was responsible for doing this?

A John Isherwood, Engineering Officer, confirmed that gully cleaning was the responsibility of the County Council as Highways Authority; the City undertook the work on an agency basis. He suggested that the resident contact the City Services Helpdesk.

Q3iii Verge Parking

What was the legislation on verge parking? There was a resident in the road who parked a trailer which contained what looked like a dangerously balanced load of pallets and other wood as a semi-permanent feature on the grass verge. Other people parking in the road were not actually residents in the road, which was an additional nuisance.

A Cllr Upstone said that a byelaw on verge parking had been piloted in the city. As yet no conclusion had been reached about its application although he agreed that verge parking amounted to vandalism. He thought that, as general guide, where double yellow lines were present, parking on verges was not permitted not only in the roadway but also on the verge. He felt that it would be useful to explore this further and come back to the committee with further information.

Action – Cllr Upstone

Cllr Todd-Jones said that the issue of verge parking had been raised across the City and the byelaw should be applied across the city.

Cllr Pitt said that there was no commitment to introduce the byelaw across the city; it would require a case-by-case consideration.

Cllr McGovern said that the City was anxious to safeguard the verges and maintain them as part of its sustainability programme. He was aware of the problem in Gary Drive and undertook to speak to that resident after the meeting to pursue it further.

Action – Cllr Upstone

Q4 Proposed Work at Penny Ferry

The proposals considered at the last meeting on this project had not taken account of the concerns of cyclist, and had ignored the comments of the Old Chesterton Residents Association (OCRA) and the Cambridge Cycling Campaign had not been consulted.

A John Isherwood, Engineering Officer, confirmed that the Cycling Campaign had been consulted and had expressed general satisfaction with the scheme and would be supplying detailed comments.

Cllr Levy explained that a Lead Councillor system was used for Environmental Improvements Schemes so that once a scheme had received Committee approval, the Lead Councillor (in this case Cllr Liddle) would liaise with officers to progress the work.

Cllr Blair said that Mr Bond of OCRA was unable to be present; otherwise he would be able to confirm personally that the Association had been consulted, as had the Conservators of the River Cam, and local residents.

Q5 Jesus Green Lottery Bid

The resident had been promised a copy of the bid for Jesus Green submitted for lottery grant and this had not been received. Why was it not available on-line? A meeting had been held in relation to the submission of the bid what had been said at that meeting?

A Cllr Blair explained that there had not been a committee meeting in relation to the bid. Because of time constraints on its submission the relevant Executive Councillor, Cllr Smith, following consultation with herself as Chair of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee and the Chairs of the North and

West/Central Area, had approved the submission. Cllr Blair would follow up the availability of a copy of the bid and whether it was feasible to publish it on the Council's web site.

Action – Cllr Blair

Cllr Ward said there might be differences between the details of the final scheme and the bid.

Q5 City Rangers – Extension of Authority

Had the City Rangers been given authority to stop cyclists riding illegally; are Councillors aware they have taken on this role?

A Members were not generally aware of this development, they pointed out that ordinary citizens had the right and possibly even a civic duty to challenge anyone breaking the law. However they would oppose any unauthorised assumption of additional authority by council officers. They sought clarification from the resident of the details of the events which had led up to the question.

Cllr Moss-Eccardt said that there had been recent Government guidance on the 'enhancement of the extended policing family' although he was not clear on the details of this. He suggested that it might be connected with this initiative.

A member of the public said that she was aware that the Rangers had been handing out free cycle lights to cyclists riding without them. She wondered if the resident had misunderstood this activity.

Cllr Ward pointed out that the City Rangers had been set up differently from the government guidelines and he would be reluctant for them to take on any enforcement role. He said that the City Rangers kept details of all their activities and it should be possible to identify what had occurred.

Cllr Nimmo-Smith undertook to find out the background to this issue and would make a statement available to councillors and the public.

Action – Cllr Nimmo-Smith

Q6 City Council Investments

Cllr Todd-Jones asked whether the City Council had any Icelandic investments which would be affected by the current financial situation.

A Cllr Nimmo-Smith said that a statement had been published on the Council's website giving details of the Council's investments and the effect on them of the collapse of the Iceland investment institutions. The City Council in common with other authorities similarly affected, was supporting government action to secure the investments.

John Isherwood, Engineering Officer, presented the report in relation to Environmental Improvement Schemes. He pointed out that the scheme relating to the provision of a mobility crossing at Gainsborough Close had been withdrawn following discussion with the Residents Association. Updates on the progress of a number of schemes were set out on the report which members noted.

This left the following two schemes:

i The Ship Public House Recycling Centre

Cllr Upstone suggested that the extension of the footpath behind the bus shelter would improve the accessibility around the shelter. Cllr Pitt was concerned about the possible damage to the footpath from the proposed tree planting. He also was concerned about the level of public consultation.

John Isherwood pointed out that the project was to be carried out on private land in the ownership of the pub. Any proposals would have to be agreed with the landowner. He would ensure the proposals were displayed and consultation was carried out.

Agreed that the scheme be approved in principle with costs of up to £13,000 and subject to the changes outlined above and in consultation with the landowner.

ii Thrifts Walk - Unadopted Road

John Isherwood had circulated a revised proposal for consideration by the Committee. He said that he doubted that the work suggested by the residents would prove sustainable in the long term. The costs of carrying out a project to an adoptable standard would be far in excess of the scope of the budget available to this committee.

Mr P White of the Thrift's Walk Residents spoke to the paper which had been circulated with the agenda, outlining the background to the proposal and its details.

Members pointed out that if agreed, the proposal would be the first of many others for which there was no hope of the Council meeting the costs. If the Committee were to give a fuller scheme consideration it would require further time for the officers to draw up.

Agreed that the Residents of Thrifts Walk be advised that the Committee could not support the current proposal and invited them to reconsider a further proposal which could be considered.

The Grants Officer said that the report set out recommendations on applications for grant. The funding available for Community Development Grants amounted to £3,892, and for Leisure Grants was £2,203.

Agreed that the grants be allocated as follows:

| Community Development applications | | | |
|---|--|--|----------------|
| | Group | Project | Grant £ |
| CD2/2 | Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination | 22% of costs of Forest School spring term 09 | 500 |
| CD16 | Kings Hedges Neighbourhood Partnership | Christmas tree + switch on event at Arbury Court | 500 |
| CD16 | Kings Hedges Neighbourhood Partnership / Good Companions | Christmas dinner + entertainment | 573 |
| CD17 | Not Quite Over The Hill Club | Microphone and amplifier | 250 |
| CD18 | St Luke's Primary School PTA | Play equipment | 1,357 |
| CD19 | St George's Lunch Club | Christmas party food | 150 |
| Total | | | 3,330 |
| Remaining | | | 562 |

| Leisure applications | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| | Group | Project | Offer £ |
| L4 | North Cambridge Sports Association | Multi sports + football sessions | 2,000 |
| Total | | | 2,000 |
| Remaining | | | 203 |