

**Draft until 12 March 2009**

## **East Area Committee**

**Cherry Trees Day Centre, St Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009**  
**Matthews Street 7.00pm – 10.50pm**

### **Minutes & Actions**

#### **Councillors Present:**

**Abbey:** Margaret Wright

**Coleridge:** Lewis Herbert, Chris Howell

**Petersfield:** Kevin Blencowe, Ben Bradnack, Lucy Walker

**Romsey:** Ellis-Miller, Raj Shah, Catherine Smart

**County Councillors:** Martin Ballard (Coleridge), Kilian Bourke (Romsey), Nichola Harrison (Petersfield) and Paul Sales (Abbey)

### **09/01 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting on 20 November 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **09/02 Matters Arising from Previous Meetings**

Minute number 08/60 and 08/68: Budleigh Close. The resident is still experiencing poor health and Cllr Herbert will complete the visit as soon as possible.

### **09/03 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jeremy Benstead and Cllr Caroline Hart. Cllr Lucy Walker and Cllrs Miriam Lynn were detained at another meeting and sent apologies for the early part of this meeting.

### **09/04 Declarations of Interest**

Agenda Item 7

Cllr Howell declared a personal interest as a member of the Cambridge Cycling Campaign.

Cllr Wright declared personal interests as a member of the Cambridge cycling Campaign and a Friend of the Museum of Technology.

Cllr Bradnack declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a resident of the Riverside area. He took no part in the discussions on the Riverside Area discussions.

## **09/05 County Council Officers Attending Area Committees**

The Chair introduced County Council Neighbourhood Panel Liaison Officer Wendy Lansdown and explained her role as a conduit to the County and as officer support to County Councillors.

## **09/06 Open Forum**

Concerns were raised about anti-social behaviour and criminal activity in the area of Hughes Hall and Mortimer Road. A student had been attacked in the area. Temporary cameras had been installed and had improved the situation. However, could extra lighting, perhaps motion sensitive, be installed at the rear of the swimming pool. The bushes are also overgrown creating dark areas where youths gather. The Chair will look into this issue.

### **Action - Chair**

Residents were concerned that this might be seen as low priority. Cllr Bradnack offered to take up the case and see if the temporary camera deployment could be extended. He will also raise this issue with Alastair Roberts the Safer Communities Manager.

### **Action – Cllr Bradnack**

County Cllr Harrison stated that lighting is a high priority for the County and that additional funding for the electricity used by lighting had just been allocated. A number of areas are waiting for improvements to lighting. She will take back the message about Mortimer Road to the County.

### **Action – County Cllr Harrison**

Residents were concerned about the poor condition of Abbey Swimming Pool and gym. The pool is cold, dirty and poorly maintained. Equipment in the gym is also in a poor condition. Members expressed disappointment that the contract held by SLM had been renewed at a recent Community Services Scrutiny Committee. New performance standards have been agreed and members are pushing for action to improve standards. Cllr Howell added that the paddling pool at Coleridge Recreation Ground is also in a poor condition. Details of the complaint was requested so that these can be forwarded to the Executive Councillor and the Leader. Cllr Bradnack stated that the Council is not scrutinising it's own decision or adequately monitoring performance.

Residents asked for an update on the status of a disputed area of land adjacent to St Matthews Street. Cllr Bradnack responded that this is an on-going legal dispute and therefore must remain confidential. Members might wish to make this information public but are currently unable to do this.

Concerns of vandalism and crime in Rustat Road and William Smith Close were discussed. Additional police patrols in the area have worked and residents would like this to continue if possible. Members discussed differing opinions about the source of the problem: local youngsters or outsiders passing through and causing problems. Further action was discussed. See Police priorities below.

Proposed changes to the recycling collections service were discussed. Members explained why the choice of colour had been made. Cllr Herbert assured residents that a third wheelie bin would not be imposed on residents of terraced housing such as in Romsey.

## **09/07 Safer Neighbourhoods**

Sergeant Fasey introduced the item and gave an update on the current situation and on the priorities agreed at the last meeting. He reminded members that this report cover a two rather than three month period due to the Christmas period.

1. Anti-social behaviour, drug, littering in the Norfolk Street area.  
A number of actions have been taken place as detailed in the report and residents have reported an improvement in the area.
2. Under-age drinking on green spaces across the City East area  
Education of both children and traders suspected of selling to underage drinkers has achieved some success. Test purchasing using an underage mystery shopper identified potential sources of alcohol and this has been addressed. However, there is a suspicion that action taken in green spaces may have displaced rather than addressed the issue.
3. Anti-social behaviour in the Thorpe Way, Ditton Fields and Jack Warren Green areas.  
Multi agency walk-about have taken place and a number of actions have taken place such as, a community day, a residents meeting and youth initiatives. Interest in neighbourhood watch scheme has been disappointing.
4. Anti-social behaviour by the Streetlife Community.  
This area may need to be revisited with Streetlife officers. The Community Alcohol Project has had some success in reducing the sale of alcohol to those who are already under the influence. Displacement of street drinkers and drug users from Petersfield to other areas has been a problem. There has been a reduction in needle finds in the area.

The recommendations were discussed.

1. Youth related nuisance in Ditton Fields and Thorpe Way Estate  
It was felt that more work need to be done to identify the source of the problem. Crime figures need to be looked at to see if a pattern of offending can be found. Members suggested there was a role for PCSO's in identifying the patterns of problem behaviour. Is the problem local or is it groups passing through the area. Drug problems in Thorpe Way are on-going and has been reduced or moved on but may return in future. There has been a corresponding rise in issues in the Coleridge area that may be related.

## 2. Continued focus on underage drinking through the Community Alcohol Partnership

Members discussed increasing the scope of this priority to include other alcohol related problems. It was agreed that these were being addressed elsewhere. Police action against traders and the refusal to transfer a License following problems has helped by raising the possible consequences of the problem to traders. The impact of the Cumulative Impact Zone was discussed and felt to be effective.

Cllr Bradnack asked for clarity on the problems behind the swimming pool and the actions of street drinkers. The officer responded that they are more likely to be the victims in this area and that youths are believed to be behind the problems.

## 3. Speedwatch – to assist community volunteers to administer the initiative.

Members asked why the equipment was set at 36 MPH and if it could be reduced. This is possible but is expensive and resource intensive.

Cllr Howell expressed concern about Speedwatch and said that it has had negative feedback, could be seen as an abuse of power and raised the fear of vigilante action. The personal safety of volunteers was also considered as they may be a target for angry motorists.

County Cllr Harrison suggested that communities needed to work together to solve local problems. Speedwatch has proved popular in other areas.

Cllr Howell proposed and Cllr Ellis Miller seconded the following change to priority three:

*Tackle speeding on residential roads in East Area primarily through police monitoring and enforcement and also co-ordination of other activities such as Speedwatch that may help reduce problems.*

This was rejected by a vote of 1 to 7.

The following priorities and action plan were agreed:

1. Tackle youth related nuisance in Ditton Fields and Thorpe Way Estate.
2. Continued focus on underage drinking through the Community Alcohol Partnership
3. Speedwatch – to assist community volunteers to administer the initiative.
4. Anti-social behaviour on William Smith Close, Rustat Road, Argyle Street and surrounding streets. Action plan: To arrange a community meeting to discuss the issue - the NAG agreed that Safer Communities and Police to lead on arranging this.

Cllr Wright was disappointed that cycle crime was not a priority as it is very important to many residents. The officer responded that this has been set as

a City-wide priority

## **09/08 Update on Environmental Improvements Programme**

The Director of Environment and Planning gave an overview of the Environmental Improvements Programme. The programme had not achieved as much as had been hoped over the last year, largely due to staff shortages. Three attempts at recruitment had failed. However, the existing staff remain keen to take projects forward and there are currently 44 schemes in the pipeline. He introduced James Peake, the new Environmental Projects Manager and outlined his role in delivery and co-ordination of projects. His addition to the team should free up other staff and allow design work to progress. Additional administration support is also being introduced.

The Principal Landscape Architect introduced the item and gave an update on completed schemes and progress on other schemes as per report.

### **Riverside/ Abbey Road Junction Conflict Reduction Scheme**

Members discussed the report. It was felt that concerns over the Brunswick site entrance had confused residents and clouded responses to consultation. The Brunswick access issues have been resolved and the Riverside area is now to be considered in isolation.

The Engineering Project Manager, outlined the project and explained how the contribution the committee was being asked to approve was part of the overall sum which the Area committee was being asked to set aside. One significant part of this was to commission W. S. Atkins, (as part of the County Council's procurement partnership), to undertake site investigations, the detailed design work, quantification and costings. The cost of this preparatory work is estimated to be £60,000. Riverside could be an asset to the City.

Members asked if other Area Committees would also be contributing as this area is enjoyed by residents from across the City. This will need to be decided by the members of those committees. Members also wanted to know when phase two and three of the project would be completed. The officer responded that without the initial work to produce costings little progress can be made.

A representative of Riverside Residents Association spoke and suggested that residents would like to see this work completed. The latest figures show high use by cyclists and walkers. The current junction is a hazard. Riverside could become a promenade between the two commons.

Cllr Howell questioned where this project had appeared from as it had not been on previous lists, was it urgent and why as the cost so high. He also

asked where the money would come from if the committee rejected this proposal. The Director of Environment and Planning explained that there is not a central EIP pot. Other potential sources of funding would be the S106 money and the Capital Cycleways Fund.

Cllr Herbert suggested that the East Area offer one third of the funding. Cllr Howell suggested offering to fund £20,000 towards this project and asking the North and Central areas to contribute the remainder. The Chair reminded the committee that there are time limits on S106 money and that Capital Cycleways Fund is available now but may not be in future.

It was suggested that the East Area offer to fund the £60,000 but this would be the full contribution from this area. The Chair to open negotiations with other area chairs about match funding.

**Action:** Cllr Blencowe

Chair proposed:

*We as East Area Committee will contribute £60,000 to the scheme and invite North and West Central to match this amount.*

The Director of Environment and Planning asked for clarity on what was being proposed for audit purposes. Members confirmed that this funding was to be used for the initial consultant work.

The committee then voted: Approved unanimously.

### **Procedural Change to be Approved**

The proposed procedural change was discussed. Agreed subject to the additions working underlined and in bold below.

Decisions to be made:

To approve the default allocation of £1,000 per project to be spent carrying out site investigation works (e.g. trial holes) prior to producing draft proposals with prior approval of the Area Chair **and spokesperson.**

### **09/09 Applications for Planning Permission**

Before the start of the planning applications, Councillors Bradnack, Howell and Lynn explained that they would not be taking part as they did not agree with considering planning applications at area committees. Councillor Herbert explained that he did not take part in Coleridge ward applications so that he could act as advocate for his constituents.

The Councillors present for the Planning applications were Blencowe, Ellis-Miller, Herbert, Shah, Smart, Walker and Wright.

*Full details of the decisions, conditions of permissions and reasons for refusal may be inspected in the Environment and Planning Department, including those that 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>Application No</b>	<b>08/1531/FUL</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	8.1
<b>Date Received</b>	12.11.2008	<b>Case Officer</b>	James D'Arcy
<b>Target Date</b>	07.01.2009		
<b>Ward</b>	Coleridge		
<b>Site</b>	Unit 1 & 2 Cambridge Leisure Park Cambridge Cams CB1 7DZ		
<b>Proposal</b>	Shop front alterations and installation of ATM machine		
<b>Applicant</b>	C/O Pegasus Planning Group 5 The Priory Old London Road Canwell Sutton Coldfield West Midlands B75 5SH		
<b>Recommendation</b>	Approve		
<b>Public Speakers</b>	Ugur Adif Geraldine O'Brien Pegasus Planning representative		
<b>Decision</b>	<b>APPROVED</b> (Unanimously )		

<b>2</b>			
<b>Application No</b>	<b>08/1532/FUL</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	8.2
<b>Date Received</b>	12.11.2008	<b>Case Officer</b>	James D'Arcy
<b>Target Date</b>	07.01.2009		
<b>Ward</b>	Coleridge		
<b>Site</b>	Unit 1 & 2 Cambridge Leisure Park Cambridge Cams CB1 7DZ		
<b>Proposal</b>	Formation of covered service yard and associated plant works including the erection of a 2m fence		
<b>Applicant</b>	C/O Pegasus Planning Group 5 The Priory Old London Road Canwell Sutton Coldfield West Midlands B75 5SH		
<b>Recommendation</b>	Approve		
<b>Public Speakers</b>	Ugur Adif Geraldine O'Brien Pegasus Planning representative Tariq Sadiq		
<b>Decision</b>	<b>Approved</b> (by 5 votes to 0) As Agenda and subject to the following additional condition:		

Prior to the commencement of use of the covered service yard and associated plant hereby approved, external lighting shall be installed on the side elevations (north and south) of the canopy, the details of which shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority prior to the commencement of development. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans.

Reason In the interests of the residential amenity and safety of residents of the adjacent flats which are afforded access adjacent to the proposed development. (Cambridge Local Plan policies 3/4 and 3/7)

<b>3</b>			
<b>Application No</b>	<b>08/1533/FUL</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	8.3
<b>Date Received</b>	16.09.08	<b>Officer</b>	James D'Arcy
<b>Target Date</b>	10.12.08		
<b>Ward</b>	Coleridge		
<b>Site</b>	Unit 1 & 2 Cambridge Leisure Park Cambridge Cambs CB1 7DZ		
<b>Proposal</b>	Installation of two fascia signs (internally illuminated) and two projecting signs (internally illuminated)		
<b>Applicant</b>	C/O Pegasus Planning Group 5 The Priory Old London Road Canwell Sutton Coldfield West Midlands B75 5SH		
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Approve</b>		
<b>Public Speakers</b>	Ugur Adif Geraldine O'Brien Pegasus Planning representative		
<b>Decision</b>	<b>APPROVED</b> (by 5 votes to 1) as agenda.		

<b>4</b>			
<b>Application No</b>	<b>08/1393/FUL</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	8.4
<b>Date Received</b>	08.10.2008	<b>Officer</b>	John Evans
<b>Target Date</b>	03.12.2008		
<b>Ward</b>	Abbey		
<b>Site</b>	2-14 Oyster Row Cambridge Cambs CB5 8LJ		
<b>Proposal</b>	Provision of 5 self-contained apartments, including rear extension, part-roof alteration, link block, ancillary parking, cycle storage, bin store, amenity areas.		
<b>Applicant</b>	Murfet Developments Ltd First Floor, 40a High Street Sawston Cambridge Cb22 3BG		
<b>Recommendation</b>	Approve		
<b>Public Speakers</b>	Graham Garrett		

**Decision** Don proctor (Agent of applicant)  
**APPROVED** (by 5 votes to 1) as agenda.

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**09/10 Start time of Future Meetings**

Members agreed to continue with the 7.00pm start time.

Meeting closed at 10.50.

**CHAIR**