

**North Area Committee
Minutes**
At Manor Community College

22 January 2009
6.30pm – 09.40 pm

PRESENT:

**THOSE PRESENT FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR
PLANNING PERMISSION**

City Cllrs: Armstrong, Blair, Liddle, McGovern, Nimmo-Smith and Pitt

THOSE PRESENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING

City Cllrs: Armstrong, Blair, Liddle, McGovern, Nimmo-Smith, Pitt, Todd-Jones
and Upstone

County Cllr: Rupert Moss-Eccardt (Arbury).

09/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

City Cllrs: Boyce, Holness, Levy and Ward,
County Cllr: Hughes, Huppert and Wilkin

09/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

09/04.1 Cllr McGovern declared a personal interest as the applicant, while not a social acquaintance, is appointed by the same employer.

09/04.1 Cllr Nimmo-Smith declared a personal interest as has had discussions with both applicant and objectors.

09/04.3 Cllr. Pitt declared a personal interest as he has had correspondence with the applicant.

09/03 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 08/1083/FUL
Site 127 Milton Road, Cambridge

Proposal Applicant Erection of six one bedroom apartments
Mark Smith And Debra Allard
11 Long Road Comberton CB23 7DG

Recommendation **REFUSE**

Public Speakers Agent: Richard Ball

Decision **REFUSED** As Agenda 6 votes to 0 with delegated authority to complete s106 in the event of an Appeal.

2 08/1568/FUL

Site 1 & 1A Hertford Street. Cambridge

Proposal Demolition of house and flats, and erection of new building containing six one-bedroom flats, with cycle parking and waste storage area.

Applicant Mr Sean Kelly Jonas Farm House Cromer Road
Roughton Norwich NR11 8PF

Recommendation **APPROVE**

Public Speakers

Decision **Approved** 4 votes to 2 Agenda subject to completion of s106 by 28/01/09, the additional conditions as set out above and the following additional informative:

The Applicant is requested to use all reasonable endeavours to integrate the principles of Sustainable Urban Drainage into the detailed design in particular through the use of permeable paving for all hard surfaced external spaces.

3 08/1521/FUL

Site 42 Ramsden Square, Cambridge

Proposal Erection of detached two storey dwelling with access and off street parking

Applicant Mr Darren Chandler, 7 Calford Drive Haverhill, Suffolk

Recommendation **REFUSE**

Public Speakers Mr Reed

Decision **REFUSED** 3 votes to 3 (refused on chairs casting vote) as Agenda with delegated authority to complete s106 in the event of an Appeal.

09/04 MINUTES

The minutes of the 11 December 2008 were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

Item **08/57** Matters Arising **08/28** Pye Recreation Ground to read: The enhancement of the informal path was still under investigation by Active Communities with a possibility of funding it through S106 monies.

09/05 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- **08/55 TASER use.**

In County Cllr Wilkins absence Cllr Nimmo-Smith responded. Cllr Wilkin has e-mailed the person who asked the question with a full answer. Earlier this month members of the Police Authority met with the Chief Constable and other senior officers to discuss the issues of TASER. The Home Office has purchased them and is keen to distribute them to local authorities. County council members have expressed concern at the prospect of widespread deployment. At present there is no plan to proceed with routine use of TASER in Cambridgeshire. There will be a higher number of officers trained in TASER use than firearm trained.

- **08/41 Arbury Court Toilets**

Work will commence on the 2nd February and is due to be completed by 31st March.

- **08/58 Chairs Invitation to Martin Curtis**

County Cllr Martin Curtis is unable to attend tonight and will be invited to attend the next meeting. A meeting with the Chair of this Committee and interested councillors has been arranged.

Action: Wendy Lansdown, Neighbourhood Panel Liaison Officer for the County to assist with this.

09/06 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. Members discussed the projects in the report and agreed that this list needed to be revised.

Members expressed disappointment at the lack of progress for schemes in the North Area. It was agreed that a number of high cost schemes had been included in the programme as deferred items for some time with very little progress and which were not felt to be necessary. If removed, they could be replaced with smaller, achievable projects. Workshops, member training and cross area working were all proposed as ways to make progress on priorities and achieve results.

Members considered the deferred projects and agreed to remove the following items in order to free up the budget for smaller projects:

- Chesterton High Street shop forecourts
- Arbury Road/Milton road shop forecourts
- Windsor Road/Histon Road shop forecourts

Campkin Road shop forecourts:

The chair proposed that the lead member for the project, Cllr Pitt, approve the project plans prior to public consultation. Cllr Pitt suggested that the ward councillors and opposition spokes should also be consulted. This was agreed unanimously. It was also agreed that the project would go to public consultation as soon as Cllr Pitt, ward councillors and opposition spokes have agreed the scheme without having to return to Committee again.

Trafalgar Street/Victoria Avenue junction bollards:

Members discussed the value of this project. Cllr Nimmo-Smith suggested that the bollards are needed to protect shop fronts and preserve the character of the area and suggested that an additional bollard was needed on the opposite corner.

The Ship Public House Recycling Centre:

Cllr McGovern gave an update on this project. The brewery had asked for a fee at a late stage of the plan claiming that the recycling vehicles were causing damage to the car park surface. A compromise has not been agreed and a new site will need to be sought. This is now urgent as the previous site has been removed.

Penny Ferry, The Haling Way:

A representative of the Cambridge Cycling Campaign addressed the meeting and suggested that the amended proposal was a poor compromise. Cambridge Cycling Campaign wish to see a sensible, direct route from the Haling Way to Water Street, rather than wiggling round the pavement. He suggested that there is little danger of cars reversing into cyclists as the bays are almost twice the length of cars. The current proposal maintains the blind corner at the corner of the pub garden which would put both cyclists and pedestrians at risk.

A representative of Old Chesterton Residents Association suggested that there was a need for a design which allowed orderly joining points for cyclists to the main highway. He also suggested that the parking spaces which allowed views of the river were an asset to be preserved. He thought the site of the proposed seats was questionable and suggested the plan might be revised to incorporate a memorial.

Cllrs Blair and Liddle felt that an application should be made to the Public Art Initiative Fund in order to incorporate a piece of art into the project.

Members discussed the plans and considered a number of revisions. Cllr Upstone outlined a proposal to make a number of changes to the plans to accommodate the suggestions made. It was agreed that the design will be modified and then sent to the Chair, the lead and the ward councillors for approval. Following agreement from the Environment Agency, implementation work should then commence as soon as possible with an agreed increased budget of £62,523 in accordance with the explanation in the EIP report

Procedural change to be approved

Members discussed the proposed procedural change to allow officers to spend up to £1000 on investigatory work on such things as trial pits once Committee had approved a scheme in principle. Members were concerned that they had not been given more notice of this item. Cllr Pitt asked for more time to consider the proposal and suggested deferring the decision until the next area committee. Other member felt that delaying making a decision which was intended to speed up the EIP process in line with members requests would be counter productive. It was agreed that it would be helpful to carry out preliminary investigatory work, at an early stage and on officer's authority, as this would avoid costly delays later in the process. The procedural change approved.

09/07 OPEN FORUM

Q 1 Verge parking

Garry Drive tree pruning has resulted in improvements, however, two trees removed some time ago have never been removed and grass verge parking continues to be problem.

A. Cllr Upstone responded. The parking issues are confined to one individual and officers are taking action.

Q 2 Project Funding

When applying for funding for a community project recently the applicant was told that applications are not currently being accepted. This is creating difficulties for longer-term projects.

A. Cllr Nimmo-Smith will look into this.

Action: Cllr Nimmo-Smith

Q 3 Street Lighting.

Some councils have looked into the possibility of turning off street lights at certain times to save money and energy. What is the opinion locally?

Also, some local lighting is very dim. Are improvements planned?

A. This is a county issues. Private Funding Initiatives are being used to upgrade lighting whenever possible. Replacement lights are more efficient in terms of energy and give better down light and less light pollution. The new lights can be programmed to give a lower level of light in the early hours of the morning and brighter light in the early evening or when needed.

Q 4 Dog Fouling in Recreation Grounds

Dog fouling in Green End Recreation ground is creating a health hazard. What can be done?

A. There is already a legal requirement on owners to clean up after their pets. It is very difficult to police this issue. The dog Warden can be called to assist.

The City Ranger present at the meeting confirmed that Streetscene have been informed of this problem and have attended to clean up.

Cllr Blair confirmed that consultation on improvements to the play area are ongoing. Anti-social behaviour issues will be taken into account in the consultation process.

Meeting Announcement

Michael Bond announced a meeting to be held at 7.30pm on 18th February 2009 at St Andrews Hall to consider the formation of a Chesterton Community Association. The Lil Speed award for 2009 will be presented at this meeting.

09/08 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

The Chair announced that representatives from Stagecoach and the Guided Bus have been invited to the next meeting to answer residents' questions.

There will also be a display from Miller Homes on their Public Art proposal for the George Nuttall Close development. It was hoped that the consultants would link with the Art Dept at Manor Community College in regard to the proposal as well.

Meeting finished at 9.40pm.

Chair