

**North Area Committee****Minutes**

At Manor Community College

**19 March 2009**

6.30pm – 10.40pm

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

City Cllrs: Blair, Holness , Liddle, McGovern, Pitt, and Ward

**THOSE PRESENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING**City Cllrs: Blair, Holness Liddle, McGovern, Nimmo-Smith, Pitt and Todd-Jones  
County Cllr: Wilkin and Moss-Eccardt**09/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**City Cllrs: Boyce, Levy, Armstrong, Upstone  
County Cllr: Hughes and Huppert**09/10 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, Cllr McGovern nominated Cllr Blair as Chair for this meeting. Cllr Liddle seconded this and it was agreed unanimously.

**09/101 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Holness	3.2	Personal and prejudicial. Left the room for the consideration of this item.
Ward	3.5	Personal and non prejudicial as wife has sung in the church.
McGovern	10	Personal and non-prejudicial interest. Trustee of Arbury Community Association
Todd-Jones	10	Personal and non-prejudicial interest. Trustee of Arbury Community Association
Blair	10	Personal and non-prejudicial interest. Has attended Chesterton Festival planning meetings

**09/12 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**
- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Site</b>            | 82-84 Victoria Road  |
| <b>Proposal</b>        | Erection of one 2-bed house (following demolition of existing outbuilding).  |
| <b>Applicant</b>       | Mr And Mrs C Brown<br>Academy Works Norman Way Over<br>Cambridgeshire CB24 5QE   |
| <b>Application No</b>  | 09/0015/FUL  |
| <b>Recommendation</b>  | <b>APPROVE</b> and subject to conditions   |
| <b>Public Speakers</b> | Mrs Walton   |
| <b>Decision</b>        | <b>APPROVED</b> (by a vote of 3 to 2) and subject to the amendment of condition 11 to read as follows:<br><br>11. The proposed first floor rear inverted bay window shall be obscure glazed and non-opening and permanently retained in that condition unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. |
- 2**
- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Site</b>            | 9, 11 and land to the rear of 9-15 Green park  |
| <b>Proposal</b>        | Erection of two 1-bed flats ,3 1-bed and three 2-bed link detached houses, following demolition of 9 and 11 Green Park   |
| <b>Applicant</b>       | Prof. Simon Maddrell   |
| <b>Application No</b>  | 09/0030/FUL  |
| <b>Recommendation</b>  | <b>APPROVE</b> subject to the completion of a Section 106 agreement by 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2009 and subject to conditions   |
| <b>Public Speakers</b> | Bob Blair  |
| <b>Decision</b>        | <b>REFUSED</b> (recommendation overturned by a vote of 1 to 5) chair to approve reasons for refusal.<br>The following draft reasons for refusal have been sent to the Chair (Councillor Blair in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair); |

1. The proposed development by virtue of its layout, density, inter-relationship with adjacent buildings and lack of amenity space constitutes poor design and overdevelopment of the site. The development fails to provide an attractive and high quality living environment, would detract from the prevailing character and appearance of the area and would not have a positive impact on its setting. In so doing the development fails to respond to its context or to draw inspiration from the key characteristics of the surrounding area. The development is therefore contrary to policy ENV 7 of the East of England Plan 2008, policies 3/4, 3/7, 3/10, 3/11 and 3/12 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 and to guidance provided by PPS 1 Delivering Sustainable Development.
2. The proposed development by virtue of the scale of private and shared amenity space would create a poor quality living environment for future occupiers of the dwellings. The design of external spaces fails to provide spaces that are usable and enjoyable to use and represent an unacceptable scale of provision of amenity space for the size of the proposed dwellings. The development is therefore contrary to policy ENV 7 of the East of England Plan 2008 and policies 3/7, 3/10 and 3/11 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2006.
3. The proposed development does not make appropriate provision for public open space, community development facilities, education and life-long learning facilities, or transport mitigation measures, in accordance with policies 3/7, 3/8, 5/14, 8/3 and 10/1 of the Cambridge Local Plan 2006 and policies P6/1 and P9/8 of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003; and as detailed in the Planning Obligation Strategy 2004, Northern Corridor Area Transport Plan 2003, and Guidance for Interpretation and Implementation of Open Space Standards 2006.

Delegated authority has been sought to allow the

completion of the necessary section 106 Agreement in the event of an appeal against the decision to refuse planning permission.

**3**  
**Site** 208 Green End Road  
**Proposal** Erection of 5 terrace houses (following demolition of existing bungalow)  
**Applicant** The late Mrs MA Neech  
The Trapezium 186A Victoria Road Cambridge  
Cambridgeshire CB4 3LG  
**Application No** 08/1707/FUL  
**Recommendation** **APPROVE**  
**Public Speakers** Agent Don Proctor  
Ms Alex Taylor  
**Decision** **APPROVED** (by a vote of 3 to 2) as Agenda and as amended by the Amendment Sheet, subject to the conditions and reasons set out on the Amendment Sheet.

**4**  
**Site** St Leonards, East Hertford Street  
**Proposal** Reserved matters (following outline permission 07/1263/OUT) application for erection of a two storey student hostel (following demolition of existing house).  
**Applicant** Link House Trust  
17-19 Chesterton Road Cambridge CB4 3AL  
**Application No** 09/0049/REM  
**Recommendation** **APPROVE**  
**Public Speakers**  
**Decision** Not considered at this committee.

**5**  
**Site** 56 Frenchs Road  
**Proposal** Change of use from photographic studio to Orthodox Christian Church  
**Applicant** Mrs Frances Isacke  
**Application No** 09/0096/FUL  
**Recommendation** **REFUSE**  
**Public Speakers** Peter Cremer  
**Decision** **REFUSED** (By a vote of 3 to 2)

**6**  
**Site** 58 De Freville Ave  
**Proposal** Amendments to the approved scheme of C/03/1254/FP (conversion of side conservatory into habitable room) concerning the ground floor only  
**Applicant** Mr Simon Young  
**Application No** 08/0765/FUL  
**Recommendation** **REFUSE**  
**Public Speakers** Trevor Hollinger  
**Decision** **REFUSED** (by a vote of 6 to 0) for the following reason (as modified and agreed by Committee at the meeting):

The proposed amendments to the approved scheme under reference C/03/1254/FUL would by reason of their scale, bulk, height and prominent location at the junction of De Freville Avenue and Aylestone Road, represent a poor design that would be visually dominant and intrusive in the streetscene. In so doing the development fails to respect the character of the area and the constraints of the site and would cause demonstrable harm to the quality of the townscape and surrounding Conservation Area. The development is therefore contrary to policies ENV6 and ENV7 of the East of England Plan, policies 3/4, 3/14 and 4/11 of the Cambridge Local Plan and guidance provided by Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) Delivering Sustainable Development and Planning Policy Guidance 15 (PPG15) Planning and the Historic Environment.

**ENFORCEMENT ACTION** agreed (by a vote of 6 to 0) subject to the following steps required to comply with the notice (as modified and agreed by Committee at the meeting):

Steps required to comply with the notice:

To carry out such demolition and alteration works as are required to comply with approved plans drawing numbers P1 to P9 inclusive approved under planning reference C/03/1254/FP.

Sgt Wragg introduced the item and gave an update on the current situation as per the agenda. Hot spot working has been used to tackle anti-social behaviour. Partnership work is on-going to tackle vehicle crime and has achieved some results. However, along with dwelling burglaries, this is an emerging problem across the City and the wider area of East Anglia. Crime figures in general show an increase over the same period last year.

**Q1.** Why are victims of bag thefts advised not to fight back?

**A.** Victims are advised to put their personal safety first and not risk injury to protect a handbag. However, additional advice is available from the Community Safety Team and a personal alarm can be useful.

**Q2.** Smartwater can be useful to reunite people with stolen property. However, as properties that back on to waste-land are being targeted, could improved fencing offer protection?

**A.** This is outside the remit of the police. However, joint working with Housing Officers looks at issues such as this.

**Q3.** Publicity about this meeting was questioned. Why is it not mentioned on E.Cops?

**A.** Increased public awareness of all meeting was agreed to be a goal.

**Q4.** The real cost of crime was questioned. The financial cost of damage to property and personal loss appears to be unrecorded.

**A.** All victims are offered compensation forms and victims of personal injuries are advised how to claim. Financial loss is taken into account and reparation is taken into account when sentencing.

**Q5.** Changes to PACE requirements and stop and account procedures were questioned.

**A.** Local police are following local guidance. Any change would be a policy decision.

**Q6.** It was suggested that the way crime figures are recorded is misleading as they record where a crime happened rather than where the perpetrator comes from.

**A.** Resource targeting dictates the way that crimes are recorded. Recording where a perpetrator comes from is also only possible when an offender is caught.

**Q7.** Could the priority of tackling vehicle crime be extended to include Arbury?

**A.** This would spread resources thinly and reduce the impact of the work. East Chesterton needs to remain a priority as the new footbridge has opened the area to increased criminal activity.

**Q8.** Fly tipping in King's Hedges has resulted in a fire recently. What has been done?

**A.** While fly tipping is not regarded as a major problem, all incidents are investigated and the Rangers have had some success in tracing these incidents back to local residents.

**Q9.** Is Arbury Court still a priority area?

**A.** Arbury court is a natural hub of the community and as such problems may

arise but will be deal with quickly. A monthly Street Surgery happens on the last Wednesday of the month and is proving useful for information gathering.

**Q10** What is the current situation with TASER use?

**A.** Discussions have taken place but there has been no change to the policy. The Police Authority have been given TASERS but they are not routinely carried by officers. Some officers have been TASER trained. A paper on this issue will be going the County Council in the near future.

## **POLICE PLEDGE**

Discussions took place on the more visible countywide and local neighbourhood approach to the Police Pledge in other areas of the country. A high profile approach is planned for later in the year as it was agreed this is a worthwhile initiative.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The recommendations were discussed and Cllr Pitt proposed and Cllr Todd-Jones seconded the following amendment:

The words *with a specific focus on Arbury and Kings Hedge's* to be inserted after the words North of the City, on recommendation 3.

This was rejected (by a vote of 2 to 4).

### **The following were agreed unanimously as per agenda:**

1. Consider the continuation of East Chesterton vehicle crime as a priority with a specific focus on the Vie residential development at Church Street and its vicinity.
2. With the expansion of the Cambridge Regional College and an increased number of foreign students studying there, promote the concept of citizenship, personal safety and awareness through educational premises to seek to prevent victims of crime
3. Consider the continuation of multi-agency preventative work across the North of the City, seeking to prevent Dwelling Burglary. Identify additional tightly-focused locations for preventative activity.
4. Consider continuing work to tackle anti-social behaviour in East Chesterton, including considering a response to issues of mini motos in the ward.

## **09/14 SKYSTATION**

Julia Alvarez and Lucy Tyler from Future City outlined the proposed Skystation artwork being planned for George Nuttall Park. Those present considered pictures of the piece and were told how it focused on the skyscape. Workshops are planned with the artist and there will be an associated web-site which will capture 'The Sky of Cambridge'. This will comprise of photos taken from the Skystation.

Colours, finishes and durability were discussed. The durable structure has been designed to be climbed on, sat on and generally enjoyed by the community. Graffiti can be removed in the same way as from other park furniture. The completed piece will require maintenance twice a year when it will need to be lifted for cleaning. For general use it will be pegged to the ground.

Finance was discussed with questions from a member of the public about the funding sources of the project. Was this project funded by public money? Cllr Blair responded that the money was part of the developments S106 commitments. The member of the public then replied by questioning why the proposal was being presented at committee at all given that it was not funded by public money, when there were many more important things to discuss. Members stressed their commitment to involve local residents in this type of decision. The idea has been presented to resident groups and was well received. A community launch is planned. It was also likely that a sum of money would be commuted for on-going maintenance.

#### **09/15 MINUTES**

The minutes of the 15 January 2009 were approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **09/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- **09/08 Invitation to Stagecoach and the Guided Bus Team**

Stagecoach sent apologies, as they were unable to attend this meeting. The Guided Bus Team declined the invitation.

- **09/05 and 08/58 Meeting with Martin Curtis**

This meeting has taken place. Interested parties were invited and full, open discussions took place.

- **09/07 Q2 Grant Funding Applications.**

New applications for funding were temporarily suspended during the set-up process for the Cambridgeshire Community Fund. This situation is now resolved and applications should be submitted in the usual way. The new and improved system will ensure that applications have access to a range of funding resources.

#### **09/17 OPEN FORUM**

**Q1.** When will public spaces be handed over and what is the situation with the adoption of the roads in the Vie development?

**A.** Cllr Blair answered. Some aspects of the open spaces are currently not up to the standards required for the handover and consultation on the play area

design will start shortly. No handover will take place until all issues are satisfactorily resolved.

Cllr Blair offered to meet with residents about adoption of the internal roads and will take this forward. Residents thanked Cllr Blair for her work on their behalf.

**Action: Cllr Blair**

**Q2.** Are the original plans for the open spaces on the Miller Homes development being monitored and adhered to?

**Action: Cllr Blair**

**A.** Cllr Blair will talk to the planning department and feed back direct to the residents involved.

**Q3.** Can anything be done about learner drivers using the Woodhead Drive area to practise three point turns and parallel parking?

**A.** It was suggested that residents write to the Driving Standards Agency who can put up notices at Test Centres asking driving schools not to use this area.

**Q4.** Every day council workers clear the rubbish from Nuns Way and Campkin Road outside the Tesco Express. This appears to be caused by students from the CRC campus. What is being done?

**A.** The enforcement team are working with the college on a programme of education.

**Q5.** Residents had been told action would be taken over dangerous vehicles parked in Garry Drive. Why has nothing happened?

**A.** It had been expected that officers would have taken action. Cllr Pitt will look into this in Cllr Upstone's absence.

**Action: Cllr Pitt**

**Q6.** Will the Guided Bus use a canopy to reduce noise?

**A.** There is no plan for this. Cllr Pitt invited the resident to attend the next Local Liaison Forum on the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Discussions followed on who is responsible for various aspect of the project, such as noise.

### **Chesterton Community Association**

Mr Bond gave an update. A successful first meeting took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> February and a second meeting is planned for June.

## **09/18 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME**

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.

Cllr Pitt expressed his annoyance that the shop forecourt work in Campkin Road area had not progressed.

## **DECISIONS**

### **Path between Ramsden Square and Campkin Road (Cllr. Pitt)**

Members agreed (unanimously) to approve the budget of £2,300 and implementation subject to consultation with local residents.

### **Chesterton High Street hanging baskets**

It was agreed that the baskets were a great success. Members agreed (unanimously) a budget of £4,800.

### **Riverside/Abbey Road conflict reduction**

The project was discussed and members agreed that improvements to the riverside area, although not part of the north area geographically, would be of benefit to north area residents. However, Cllr Pitt was concerned that committing such a large sum of money to a project outside the north area did not offer good value for residents when there are many projects on the deferred list. Members were reminded that the initial allocation of the funds to area committee assumed that some large projects would be cross-area funded as there is no longer a central budget allocation. Members were concerned that the cost of this project should be apportioned fairly.

Members agreed (by a vote of 5 to 0) provisionally to allocate an estimated budget of £81,700. However, this was on the basis that East and West Central Area Committees will match this funding and that the area committee contributions to the overall project costs are capped at this amount.

Members also requested that member consultation on the detail of the project should be carried out as soon as that detail is available.

## **09/19 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE GRANTS**

The Grants Officer introduced the report and gave a brief outline of applications.

Members considered the following grant applications:

<b>Community Development current applications.</b>			<b>Available: £25,896</b>
	<b>Group</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Offer £</b>
CD1	Ambaby's	2 x trips	800
CD2	Arbury Carnival	Arbury Carnival costs	2,700
CD3	Arbury Townswomen's Guild	Microphone system	150
CD4	St Andrew's Hall	Chesterton Carnival costs	2,500
<b>Total</b>			<b>6,150</b>
<b>Remaining</b>			<b>19,746</b>

Agreed (Unanimously).

Meeting finished at 10.40 pm.

**Chair**