

Draft until 9 July 2009

East Area Committee

Cherry Trees Day Centre, St Thursday 7 May 2009
Mathews Street 7.00pm – 11.50 pm

Minutes & Actions

Councillors Present:

Abbey: Caroline Hart, Margaret Wright, Miriam Lynn,

Coleridge: Jeremy Benstead, Lewis Herbert, Chris Howell

Petersfield: Kevin Blencowe, Ben Bradnack, Lucy Walker

Romsey: Raj Shah, Catherine Smart

County Councillors: Kilian Bourke (Romsey), Nichola Harrison (Petersfield)

09/17 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 12 March 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

09/18 Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

Minute number **09/15** Mill Road resurfacing:

The schedule of works for the area is due to be announced very soon and it is expected that the Mill Road work will begin in late July.

09/19 Change to the order of the agenda

Under paragraph 4.2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules, the Chair used his discretion to alter the order of business. However, for ease of the reader, these minutes will follow the order of the agenda.

09/20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sarah Ellis-Miller and County Cllrs Paul Sales and Martin Ballard

09/21 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Agenda item	Interest
Benstead	9	Member Cambridge Cycling Campaign
Howell	9	Member Cambridge Cycling Campaign

Walker	9	Member Cambridge Cycling Campaign
Wright	9	Member Cambridge Cycling Campaign
Bradnock	5 (Riverside)	Personal: Lives in the area

09/22 Open Forum

Q1 Riverside

Residents (3) from the riverside area were present and raised a number of issues:

- Residents were unaware of the proposal until very recently
- Proposed sharing by cars and cycles of a single lane will lead to conflict
- Adding 11 benches to a residential street is inappropriate
- Changing nature of the area at night is causing concerns and proposal would add to this. Problems include drug use, noise, litter and anti social behaviour
- Additional trees will block view from bedroom windows and result is loss of light
- Cost: this area is relatively prosperous and there are other parts of the City that need improvements more urgently
- Rowing coaches on bicycles will use footpaths next to river rather than designated cycle paths further away
- Riverside is an access route not a leisure area
- Residents feel they have been ignored in the consultation process

Cllr Bradnock supported the residents point of view. He suggested that the area does not need to be made pretty and the costs are not justified. He suggested that the plan could be improved by putting cyclist first by relocating the cycle path next to the river. This would also improve the Abbey Road corner conflict.

Cllr Lynn expressed disappointment at the level of consultation and felt it was very sad if residents felt they had no option but to move.

Cllr Howell agreed that the plan was flawed if it did not site cyclist next to the river and take into account the needs of the rowing community. He was also concerned that this project was about spending S106 money rather than looking for improvements that residents actually want.

The Chair outlined the recent history of the area and asked for further questions and comment. The following points were raised:

- The consultation was not publicised enough
- Regular flooding, due to drainage problems, in the area has not been addressed
- The road surface is slippery in bad weather

General concern was expressed about how far the project had progressed and what elements could still be changed. It was agreed that this item would be added to the agenda of the next meeting for further debate.

Q2 Gwydir Street Pavements

The pavements in Gwydir Street are dangerous and do not appear in any

improvement programme.

A. The Neighbourhood Panel Liaison Officer will look into this.

Action: Wendy Landsdown

Q3 Future of Seymour Court

Seymour Court residents are concerned about their future. Is this scheme to be refurbished or sold?

A. A rolling programme of refurbishment is on going for sheltered housing across the City. Some schemes have been sold to fund improvement to others based on projections that there will be decreased demand for sheltered housing in the future. Seymour Court will be the last scheme to be considered and no decision has yet been made. It will not be left as it is and if residents have to leave there will be compensation. The initial costings are now out of date and circumstances have changed. The Chair will ask Robert Hollingsworth for information and timeframes to be shared with the residents of Seymour Court and their families.

Action: Cllr Blencowe

Q4 St Matthew's Gardens ASB

The open spaces of St Matthews Gardens are attracting young people to gather and this is resulting in anti social behaviour.

A. The police are aware of the problem and are taking action. This will also be addressed by the priorities for the summer period.

Q5 Tiverton Way/Tiverton House

Residents of the Tiverton Way area handed in a petition expressing their concerns over: the changes to the dwelling numbers, the increased number of cars using the area and the inconsiderate contractors on the former Tiverton House site. The Chair accepted the petition which had insufficient signature to enable it to be submitted to Full Council. It was suggested that the residents ask a question at the Council meeting on the 21st May instead.

Cllr Herbert stated that there had been little consultation on the change of use of this site in a quiet residential area. He felt that opportunities to limit the changes the developer could make to the building had been lost.

Cllr Smart responded that the sheltered housing funders, Supporting People, believed that there was overprovision in the City. Cuts to services had been resisted. However, Tiverton House was not up to current standards and would have required major improvement. As there are other schemes in the area a decision was made to sell Tiverton House to fund improvements to other schemes. Had the property been put on the Market with restrictions, this would have limited the price and had a knock on impact on the improvement to other schemes. The purchaser had been allowed to start work ahead of the completion of the sale on receipt of twice the normal deposit.

Cllr Howell was concerned that the sale had been handled badly with the needs of the area and it's residents ignored. More thought and additional controls would have been in place had this been a new build project and if

the Council had not stood to gain from the sale.

09/23 Safer Neighbourhoods

Sergeant Fasey introduced the report. He outlined progress since the last priorities were set: see report for details.

He then introduced the Police Pledge and the standards the public can expect from their local force. Full details of the pledge can be found on the Police Website: <http://www.cambs.police.uk/about/pledge/index.asp>

A street surgery was held in William Street and this was very successful. Follow up action on issues raised has taken place. Further street surgeries are planned.

Problems in the Carter Bridge area were discussed. Paul Griffin will investigate the possibility of the mobile CCTV cameras returning to this area.

The Speedwatch pilot was discussed. Recruitment of volunteers has been disappointing and therefore there have been very few sessions. It was suggested that potential volunteers could be invited to observe a session. This might dispel safety fear. Use of case studies from other areas was discussed as a way to encourage more volunteers.

Members agreed the following priorities unanimously:

- **Underage drinking in green spaces across Cambridge City (East).**
- **Youth Related Anti-Social Behaviour – Thorpe Way / Ditton Fields Estate.**
- **Anti-Social Behaviour in the Argyle Street area of the Neighbourhood.**

Cllr Howell suggested adding the following priority regarding speeding:

- **Tackling speeding on residential roads in East Area to include systematic evaluation of the problems and police enforcement action.**
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This was agreed by a vote 4 to 3.

09/24 Street Lighting

Alan Hitch and Chris Capps from the County Council lighting team attended to answer questions about lighting in Mortimer Road. A meeting on site had resulted in a plan of action which includes retaining the existing columns and replacing the lights with more efficient, white lighting. A decision on costings is expected shortly.

A decision on additional lights for the Donkey Common area behind the swimming pool has been put on hold until the Mortimer Road improvements have been completed. A clearer picture of what is needed will then be available.

Cllr Howell asked for an update on the Corrie and Bracken Road area. The County, as highways authority, are willing to cover maintenance and energy costs but not the capital costs.

Discussion followed on the erratic nature of street lights in the area: some areas are good and some are bad. There are a number of factors behind this. Some footpaths are unadopted and therefore not classed as highways. The age of lights is also a factor as standards have improved over time.

A Private Finance Initiative bid has been made to central government and it is hoped that this will result in a five year programme on improvements across the City. It is not yet possible to give an estimate of when the Mill Road area can expect improvements.

Cllr Wright asked how residents could input in to the lighting planned for the Riverside area. Residents suggested they should match existing lights on Midsummer Common. This might not be possible due to design standards and the need to use standard items.

Discussions followed on on-going repairs issues and delays in answering the freephone number for reporting repairs. The freephone should be answered promptly. However, at busy times there may be delays.

Repeat problems with the same light should be picked up by the repair database and remedial action taken.

09/25 Environmental Improvement Programme 2009/10

The Principal Landscape Architect tabled an addendum relating to trees in central areas of the City. Whilst the East Area Committee fully support tree planting, this item was rejected by a unanimous vote. It was not considered an item for area committees to discuss or fund.

The Officer presented the EIP report and updated on progress to-date.

Members asked for outline plans at the earliest possible point for larger projects together with regular updates on progress.

Members also wanted some way of tracking issues that the committee supported but had been passed on to other departments or organization to action. One suggestion was to ask someone from the County Council to attend the East Area Committee once or twice a year to give updates.

New and existing EIP projects to be adopted and prioritised

Items 1 to 7 were discussed.

Item 1: Cherry Hinton Road shop forecourts. Safety concerns were raised about this item and it was agreed that the design should be approved by the Road Safety Team.

Item 7: Devonshire Road/Carter Bridge planting. Members ask for assurance that this would cause minimal disturbance to the exiting planting in

the area. It was agreed that the CB1 Project is likely to be delayed long enough for this project to be worthwhile.

Items 18 to 34 were agreed to be worthy project but not the East Area Committee first priority. They may be revisited if the work is not done by other bodies such as the County Council.

Item 1 to 7 were adopted as future EIP projects.

The word *formalise* was removed from item 14.

Members were asked to agree priorities for these items and it was agreed that one project from each ward was the fairest solution.

The following projects were selected:

Abbey Item 14 Barnwell Road shops

Coleridge Item 12 Pedestrian Crossing on Perne Road (subject to this being possible)

Petersfield Item 7 Devonshire Road cycle bridge replanting

Romsey Item 11 Cromwell Road tree planting

09/26 Historic Environment: Presentation

The Historic Environment Manager outlined current projects and explained the planned Suburbs and Approaches Studies. These innovative studies will provide assessments of Local Distinctiveness. They will not in themselves provide the basis for Conservation Area designations, but will identify areas potentially worthy of such status, and buildings of local interest. Following consultation with members and residents' groups, Huntingdon Road, Madingley Road and Barton Road were identified as the highest priorities (draft studies now received). Drafts for these studies will be brought to the relevant Area Committee for factual correction, prior to consideration by Environment Scrutiny Committee.

The programme of works agreed by Environment Scrutiny Committee for the early part of 2009-10 (until July) includes Conservation Area Appraisals for West Cambridge and for Mill Road St Matthews and Romsey, and Suburbs and Approaches studies for Trumpington Road, Long Road, Hills Road and Newmarket Road. The briefs for these studies will be prepared shortly. Residents knowledge of the area and input into the studies is welcomed. As part of the work an Environment Week event on "Historic Environment and Climate Change" has been arranged on 24th June at 7pm in the Guildhall (Small Hall). All welcome.

09/27 USE OF MIDSUMMER COMMON BY STRAWBERRY FAIR IN 2009

The officer outlined the contents of the report and the committee noted this. Members expressed an interest in the post fair evaluation.

09/28 Dates of Meetings 2009-2010

Members agreed the following dates for future meetings:

8 July 2009 (Please note this is a Wednesday and the meeting will be at Lichfield Hall)

3 September 2009, 29 October 2009, 17 December 2009, 18 February 2010 and 15 April 2010 (All at Cherry Trees Day Centre).

Meeting closed at 11:50 pm

CHAIR