

Presentation to Southern Fringe Community Forum – 28/6/11

Nick Milne

The Cambridge City Council Considerate Contractor Scheme was introduced in 1998 with contractors pay an annual membership fee to take part.

As well as the local scheme there is also the National Considerate Constructors Scheme and I am sure many of you will have seen their green and red banners. Obviously both schemes have the same intentions although locally my role is far more proactive and I like to think that I will be visible to you. ( My opinion National Scheme is becoming more and more a box ticking exercise.)

Over the years the scheme has been well supported by in particular Addenbrooke's, and the University of Cambridge. Most principal contractors working in the city do participate.

We do also try to encourage smaller builders to take part and there is a category for smaller projects as well. I have in the past visited house holders works, loft conversions, extensions new build etc.

I currently have 24 scheme members and have 34 projects that I visit. ( I have had 35 members and over 50 current projects registered.)

The point of the scheme is to try and encourage contractor's to take more pride in their public image and to help ensure that their activities take place with as little disruption in the locality as possible.

**THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT BY TAKING PART THAT ALL SITES WILL THEN RUN SMOOTHLY. ANY CONSTRUCTION WORKS WILL ALWAYS CAUSE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DISRUPTION AND INCONVENIENCE NO MATTER HOW CONSIDERATE A CONTRACTOR IS.**

What the scheme does however do is give local people an additional contact point for any issues to be raised.

I do look to try and work closely with local resident groups, and ward councillors (Brooklands Avenue Phillipa Slatter ) and do also try to make a point of visiting local residents as well. I have in the past tried to encourage interaction between residents and the contractor, which has worked quite well. I know that here the Community Forum has already been established but I have in the past looked for contractor's to establish local site meetings and have also arranged for actual site visits depending of course upon site activities and works at the time.

On a personal note I would be happy to consider coming along to your local resident group meetings if you felt that this would be useful. ( National Scheme would not consider this )

The frequency of my site visits can be tailored depending on site activities. I would always look to visit as a minimum on a monthly basis. I have also in the past visited for example to monitor compliance with working hours both in the morning and evening and can attend site daily if needed to do so.

There is an 8 point code of good practice that contractors that sites are marked too, Considerate, Quiet, Clean, Tidy, Safe, Responsible, Accountable and we now have a Sustainable criteria added as well.

Following my site visits I write a report and at the end of each year a judging panel is convened to look at all of these. They also get to see complaints that have been raised, any praise, photographs etc. and in conjunction with the Cambridge Forum for the Construction Industry and Ridgeons Builders Merchants award winners are determined. There is I must say quite a lot of rivalry between the local contractors who participate and the announcement of the award winners is eagerly anticipated.

For more information contact:

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