

# Soham & East Area Neighbourhood Panel

Chippenham • Fordham • Isleham • Kennett • Snailwell • Soham • Wicken



**W**elcome to the Soham and East Area Neighbourhood Panel newsletter! It summarises the main topics and points raised at the recent Neighbourhood Panel meeting held on **Wednesday 19th March 2013 at Soham Village College.**

Neighbourhood Panels are your opportunity to tell agencies working in your area what you would like to see improved and will ultimately make your locality a better place to live. Please come along to the next Panel meeting and help shape the discussions about your community!

**The next meeting is being held on Tuesday 18th June 2013, Soham Village College (Performing Arts Centre) 7- 9pm.**

Please use the link to access the Neighbourhood Panel webpage, which provides background information and all up-to-date documents  
[www.eastcamb.gov.uk/neighbourhood-panels/](http://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/neighbourhood-panels/)

## Hot Topics

### Chairman and Vice-chairman

The Soham and East Neighbourhood Panel Area Chairman is Cllr Derrick Beckett and Vice-Chairman is Cllr Tony Cornell.



Cllr Derrick Beckett



Cllr Tony Cornell



### Well done

#### East Cambs Policing Team!!

January 2013 was the lowest recorded month for crime in East Cambridgeshire since the introduction of current recording systems in April 2007. Under 200 crimes were recorded in East Cambs in Dec 12, Jan 13 and Feb 13 – which has never happened before!

East Cambridgeshire is showing the highest crime reduction rates of any area in the Constabulary for 2012-13.

#### Keep up the good work!

### Crime Reduction Figures

April 2012 to February 2013 – 653 fewer crimes recorded than the same period last year

February 2013 showed recorded crime down 42 offences (17.7%) compared to February 2013

April 2012 to February 2013 – 545 fewer victims of crime than the same period last year

## March – June 2013

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- Affordable Housing

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- Burglary (Dwelling)
- Anti Social Behaviour (Soham)

## Community Right to Challenge

The 'Community Right to Challenge' is a key part of the Localism Act 2011 and is part of the Government's attempt to give power and responsibility for services to local communities. From 27th June 2012, local authorities have a duty to accept 'expressions of interest' from the local community, including parish councils or other community groups, wishing to run council services.

The 'expressions of interest' have to meet certain criteria: for example the group submitting the request have to be judged as being capable of running the service it was interested in. An explanation would also have to be given as to how the needs of services users would be met. If the council rejects the expression of interest there is no right of appeal but the council would have to explain its decision. Certain functions of the council are not included, such as decision making around planning applications.

If the 'expression of interest' is deemed acceptable a procurement exercise would have to be run. This would mean that the group expressing an interest would have to tender for the service and that the tendering process would be open to anyone, including private companies.

Even services under contract could be subject to an 'expression of interest'. East Cambridgeshire District Council's Community Right to Challenge Protocol and Expression of Interest Form are available on ECDC's website:

[www.eastcambs.gov.uk/community/community-right-challenge](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/community/community-right-challenge).

For more information contact Julie Cornwell, Partnerships Officer, ECDC, Tel: 01353 665555 or e-mail [julie.cornwell@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:julie.cornwell@eastcambs.gov.uk).

## Affordable Housing

At the meeting Oliver Cook, Housing Development and Enabling Officer (East Cambridgeshire District Council) gave a presentation on affordable housing in the Soham and East Panel Area. The following are some of the key policies and schemes which affect affordable housing in the panel area.

## Allocations Policy

Homes are let according to the Council's Allocations Policy. The Council, in conjunction with the six other district councils of the Cambridgeshire sub-region, has produced a new allocations policy. This policy takes into account the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, The Housing Act 1996 and other homelessness legislation, the changes in Welfare reforms due between 2011 and 2014 and the restriction on numbers of bedrooms for future recipients of housing benefit and universal credit. It does not include this Council's specific requirement to prioritise people who work in the district, but it does include a suggestion of a method to achieve this.

To view the housing allocations policy visit:  
[www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

## Home-Link

Home-Link is a scheme offering more choice to housing register applicants across East Cambridgeshire and six neighboring authorities. Homelink incorporates the Council's housing register. Home-Link choice based lettings (CBL) offers greater flexibility for applicants allowing them to choose properties from across all authority areas.

For more information visit: [www.home-link.org.uk](http://www.home-link.org.uk)

## Shared Ownership Housing

If you are interested in part rent, part buy, shared ownership or Homebuy you should first contact the zone agent, Orbit first step. Orbit manage the application process for a range of low cost home ownership and discounted market rent products developed to make home ownership more affordable and help you get a foot on the property ladder, Orbit HomeBuy Agents provide a one stop shop service to people interested in any of the HomeBuy products within Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

For more information visit:  
[www.orbithomebuyagents.co.uk](http://www.orbithomebuyagents.co.uk)

If you would like more information about affordable housing please contact 01353 665555 or visit [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

## What we've been doing since the last meeting

Cambridgeshire Constabulary were tasked with tackling two priorities at the last Soham and East Area Neighbourhood Panel meeting:

- Cyclists and lights (education) / cycling on the pavement
- Parking outside schools (across the panel area)

Here is a summary of what action has been taken:

- The police spoke with 2 persons during the time period, who had been cycling on the pavement and were given words of advice.
- No cyclists were seen without light in the reporting period.
- The review period was only 7 weeks, and poor weather during this period reduced offences.

Parking outside schools (across the panel area)

- Areas outside schools were monitored and 2 tickets issued at the Weatheralls School.
- 4 tickets were also issued on Sand Street - outside SVC - during the review period.
- Police presence, ongoing education of motorists and the deterrent effect of seeing tickets issued appears to have modified behaviour to some extent.
- The review period is only 7 weeks.

## What you have asked us to address next

- Parking in the causeway by the cemeteries and Pound Lane lorries turning (Isleham)
- Fordham Road lorries turning into the entrance of the building site and mud in the road (Soham)
- Litter on roadside – B1085 (Kennet)

If you would like to raise an issue of concern, but are unable to come to the next Panel meeting, please contact your local Neighbourhood Panel representative on 01353 665555 or alternatively visit [www.Shapeyourplace.org](http://www.Shapeyourplace.org) and have your say!.

### Priorities for Action

The Panel agreed that the priorities for the 3 months to the end of June 2013 should be:

- **Burglary (Dwelling)**
- **Anti Social Behaviour (Soham)**

## Did You Know.....

....Soham and East has it's own page and since the launch of the website in on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

You can expect a response from the agency that is responsible for sorting out your concerns within 10 working days of posting your issue, and you can also add your thoughts about issues already raised by others on the site.



**SHAPE  
YOUR  
PLACE** .org

So visit [www.shapeyourplace.org](http://www.shapeyourplace.org) and join in the conversation in your local community!!

## Did you know?....

....that stickers reminding people to clean up after their dog can be purchased by the Parish Council for £1 (minimum order of 10) from East Cambs District Council? Every Parish Council in East Cambridgeshire has been offered the opportunity to purchase the stickers, so if there is an area that you feel needs to have a sticker (or perhaps you feel there is an area that needs a dog bin), contact your Parish Council.

Failing to remove dog faeces is an offence under the 'Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. In order for the District Council to take action against the dog owner any witnesses to the offence must note what has happened. Include:

- The name and address of the person in charge of the dog
- A description of the dog
- The date and time of the offence
- The place the offence occurred.

Contact East Cambs District Council as soon as possible with the information you have obtained by phoning: 01353 665555



If you would like to raise an issue of concern, but are unable to come to the next Panel meeting, please contact your local Neighbourhood Panel representative or contact Alistair McKie, Sports and Health Development Officer on 01353 665555. Alternatively visit [www.Shapeyourplace.org](http://www.Shapeyourplace.org) and have your say!

### Dates for your diary:

The next meeting is on

**Tuesday 18th June 2013, Soham Village College (Performing Arts Centre).**