

## **LITTLEPORT NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL**

**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

**Littleport Community Primary School**

<b>PRESENT</b>	
Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Andy Wright	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Neil Morrison	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Francis Brown	Littleport Parish Council
Cllr Darrell Gardiner	Littleport Parish Council
Cllr Brian Hayes	Littleport Parish Council
Cllr James Lee	Littleport Parish Council
<b>OFFICERS</b>	
Andrew Killington	Deputy Chief Executive East Cambridgeshire District Council
Inspector Paul Ormerod	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Terry Jordan	Cambridgeshire County Council
Nick Ball	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Patrick Pierrepont	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Emma Grima	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Janis Murfet	East Cambridgeshire District Council

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Members of the public: 12

### **LNHP 13/01 Welcome**

Andrew Killington, Deputy Chief Executive, welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that with the agreement of the Panel, Cllr Andy Wright would take the chair for the duration of this evening's meeting.

The election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman would still go ahead because although Cllr David Ambrose Smith had offered apologies, he had indicated his willingness to be nominated as Chairman.

### **LNHP 13/02 Introductions and Apologies**

At the request of the Chairman, the Officers present at the meeting introduced themselves.

The following apologies for absence were received:

Cllr David Ambrose Smith  
Cllr Diane Boyd

ECDC  
Littleport Parish Council

### **LNHP 13/03 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Cllr David Ambrose Smith was proposed and seconded and duly appointed as Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing municipal year.

Cllr James Lee was proposed and seconded and duly appointed as Vice Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing municipal year.

### **LNHP 13/04 Chairman's Announcements and Consultation Items**

The Deputy Chief Executive asked everyone to ensure that they had signed the attendance sheet (including their email addresses and postcodes) and completed the feedback questionnaire. He also reminded them of the fire instructions.

He highlighted the following consultation item:

- East Cambs District Council Consultee Register

### **LNHP 13/05 Neighbourhood Update (Action since the last Panel Meeting)**

Andrew Killington, East Cambridgeshire District Council, summarised the issues relating to the District Council.

- Dog fouling at various locations throughout Littleport – There had been patrols, at least once a week, at various times in the highlighted areas. A number of dog owners had been spoken to and issued with bags, but no offences had been observed. Incidences of fouling can be reported confidentially, either by telephone or via the ECDC website to Environmental Health.
- Damage to grass verges at Gilbert Road/Longfield Road/Queens Road/Woodfen Road – This is a “no win” situation; it is not possible to erect a physical barrier, as nothing can be constructed within a half metre of the kerb edge. Repairs would be a waste of time and money as the damage will only continue.
- Flytipped rubbish – The rubbish left in the dyke behind the Holmewood development at Cottier Drive has been removed by Community Payback and taken away for disposal.

Terry Jordan, Cambridgeshire County Council, summarised the issues relating to the County Council.

- Mud on the road opposite the Environment Agency depot, Station Road - generally, to deposit mud or anything on the highway which could cause a potential danger is an offence under the Highways Act and Road Traffic Act. The Police do try to approach culprits to prompt a clear up but this is not always possible. The County Council is loathed to send out sweepers to clear mud from the roads as this sends a message that there will be a clear up funded from the public purse.
- Speed activated signs at Grange Lane and Wisbech Road – the engineer attended on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and reset the devices. The sign at Woodfen Road is beyond repair and the cost of a new one is being investigated, possibly an updated model that shows the exact speed of travel.
- Absence of timetables at bus stops across town – This is in the hands of the operator, as it is up to Stagecoach how they promote their services. However, the Public Transport Manager at the County Council has undertaken to contact Stagecoach with a request that more timetable information is provided at bus stops.

There were no action updates in respect of Sanctuary Housing and no representative was present.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Inspector Paul Ormerod provided an update on the actions taken by the Neighbourhood Policing Team to address the priorities set by the Panel at its last meeting in March 2013.

Speaking first of speeding and parking issues throughout the Panel area, Inspector Ormerod said that PCSO patrols had taken place at problem areas, primarily around the schools and in the town centre. As a result of this, 25 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued and 2 vehicles reported for having no tax. Tickets had also been issued for parking immediately outside a school, parking on a junction close to a school, and blocking a footpath close to a school.

With regard to speeding throughout the Panel area, it was noted that Police enforcement had been conducted in Wisbech Road, with 1 person reported for speeding and 2 people offered words of advice.

There had been Speedwatch activity in Ely Road, Wisbech Road and Lynn Road, supported on occasion by PCSOs. As a result of this activity over 5,000 vehicles had

been monitored and 300 letters sent out to speeding motorists. The Panel was informed that there was now a new procedure whereby everyone caught speeding was reported and a decision made afterwards as to whether the matter would be taken forward.

The Safety Camera Van had been deployed, but unfortunately the data was not available for this meeting as it was being administered by a collaborative team in Stevenage.

Inspector Ormerod next addressed the issue of motorcyclists and mini moto riders. Officers had spoken to persons believed to have been riding motorcycles or quad bikes inappropriately in the Camel Road area. One resident was spoken to following a specific complaint about the riding of a quad bike in the area without a helmet. There is no requirement in law for a rider to have to wear a helmet, and all the documentation relating to the bike was in order. However, the rider was given words of advice about the noise caused by his bike, and the manner of his riding.

There had also been complaints about people riding motorbikes at Horseley Hale but no further information was available at present.

In terms of statistical information, it was noted that there had been an increase in the total crime figures in 2013/14. When compared to the figures for the same period in 2012, burglary dwelling and burglary non dwelling had both reduced in 2013. However, there had been a sharp increase in reports of criminal damage (mainly to vehicles and dwellings) and this was believed to be linked to antisocial behaviour issues.

Inspector Ormerod reported that there had been a problem with a particular group of young people causing criminal damage in the village. They were believed to be responsible for a number of recent thefts from vehicles, thefts of pedal cycles, a burglary dwelling and a burglary non dwelling. It was not possible to name them because of their ages, but they were being dealt with by the Police.

With regard to antisocial behaviour, patrols had been conducted in the area of the St George's Medical Centre, especially on the evenings when the Connections Bus was at the location.

Statistics showed a significant increase in reports of antisocial behaviour in June 2013, with the problem areas appearing to be the Camel Road Leisure Centre, the Riverside, and the St George's Medical Centre.

Inspector Ormerod concluded by saying that crime and antisocial behaviour were a priority for the Police in Littleport, and as there were signs of it starting to increase,

the Panel might wish to consider having it as a priority. He then responded to comments and questions.

A member of the public referred to the incident at Littleport Station where a man was beaten up by a gang in front of his young son and asked if any progress had been made. Inspector Ormerod said that this would have been dealt with by the British Transport Police, but he would take it as an action and check up on it.

Another member of the public, referring to Speedwatch, brought up the parking problems at the school at Bank Row and at Ten Mile Bank. Inspector Ormerod said that he already had a note of this and parking on the grass verges was problematic for the Police too. Unless they were HGVs, no offence was being committed; however, if there were parking restrictions, then something could be done.

Cllr James Lee said that a mother had raised a complaint about people driving along the footpath near to the Littleport Community Primary School, giving no thought for the people using the path at the time. Inspector Ormerod said he would ask the PCSOs to patrol the area.

A member of the public said there were still problems with 2 cars parking outside 6 Gilbert Road, although they were not parking on the pavement. Inspector Ormerod replied that he would send a PCSO to ask for specific feedback, but the cars could park there as long as they did not cause an obstruction.

A gentleman raised the issue of obstructive parking at The Crescent, saying that it was often impossible for people with pushchairs or in wheelchairs to get past the vehicles. Inspector Ormerod replied, saying that an Officer would have to come out and assess each report, and he urged the public to continue reporting such incidences.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Jon Wade, Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service, addressed the Panel. He said that the Fire Service had been working with the Police regarding antisocial behaviour. With the arrival of the hot weather there had been an increase in grass fires, and also fires caused by residents. He asked everyone to be mindful of what they were doing and said he would be happy to speak to anyone at the end of the meeting if they had any concerns.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Inspector Ormerod for his presentation.

## **LNHP 13/06 Waste Services Update**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Patrick Pierrepont, Project Manager (Waste Services), East Cambridgeshire District Council, gave a presentation on the new collection service, and made the following points:

- East Cambridgeshire District Council originally was a recycling pioneer and one of the first authorities to introduce kerbside recycling. However, services had not continued to progress and now the district recycled less than any other authority in the Cambridgeshire District.
- Recycling performance is deteriorating. In 2008/2009 recycling performance was 37%. In 2012/2013 this had reduced to 34%.
- Following a successful bid to the Departments for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) the Council was awarded £4,993,512.30 via its 'Supporting Weekly Collections Fund' Scheme. The aim of the grant was to encourage Councils to retain or return to weekly refuse collections. If refuse collections were weekly, funds were targeted at improving recycling services. The maximum bid amount that could have been received was £5 million.
- Currently paper, glass and cans, which have to be separated, were collected via a black box. A wheeled bin, where materials could be mixed, would replace the black box scheme. In addition plastic, tetrapak and cardboard would also be collected via this wheeled bin. Currently garden waste, food waste and cardboard is collected via a brown sack. A separate wheeled bin would replace this service. Due to the value of cardboard this would no longer be collected with compostable waste, but with the recyclables. There would be no change to the black bag service other than a yearly supply of black bags would be delivered once a year rather than a replacement bag issued each week.
- Alternative services will be provided where space or access issues prevent a wheeled bin service, for instance the black bag and brown sack service would be retained with a clear plastic sack issued instead of a black box.
- Changes to the waste collection service were required in order to: improve the districts recycling rate from 34% to 45-50%; comply with the EU target that had been imposed on central government that plastic kerbside recycling should be introduced by 2015 and authorities should be achieving a recycling target of 50% by 2020; to recycle a wider range of materials; to provide a simpler service for users; to increase customer satisfaction with services and increase service alignment with neighbouring councils.
- Failure to achieve the EU targets would result in fines, which would ultimately be passed to the offending authorities or to those

authorities that had done the least to improve its recycling performance.

- A breakdown of how the funding obtained via the 'Supporting Weekly Collections Fund' Scheme had been used was presented.
- Prior to the implementation of the new waste collection service the Council had undertaken a public consultation exercise which had generated 347 responses. The responses had mostly been positive and a sample of the responses was provided. Overall, 53% of respondents were in support of wheeled bins.
- The Place Survey conducted in 2009 indicated that the public were least satisfied with the doorstep recycling service provided by East Cambridgeshire District Council in comparison to Fenland District Council, Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Huntingdonshire District Council.
- Progress with the project to date was on budget and on schedule. Additional temporary staff had been recruited (1 Project Manager, 2 Project Officers and 4 Promotions Officers), vehicles, wheeled bins and recycling facility services had been purchased. There would be no changes to collection days and a survey of properties had been conducted to assess their suitability to receive the new service.
- The wheeled bins would be delivered over 10 weeks commencing on 2 September 2013.
- Recyclables and garden and food waste would be collected on alternate weeks to reduce the number of bins that are placed out for collection and to reduce the number of vehicles in an area at any one time.
- The Project Manager concluded by saying that it was intended to have the Recycling Team out on the road 5 days a week to promote the new service. They would be at the Littleport Co-op for 3 days at the end of the month, there would be a schools programme and attendance at local events as well as media releases. He said that he had brought some leaflets with him, which people were welcome to take away, and he was happy to take telephone queries.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr Pierrepont responded to comments and questions from the Panel and members of the public.

A lady asked whether any people in Littleport had been given the chance to express their opinions on the new service. Mr Pierrepont replied that Littleport had been included in the consultation and was now starting to be specifically targeted. The lady then went on to ask how individual houses had been looked at to see whether they were suitable for wheeled bins. She was informed that a list of properties considered to be unsuitable for the bins had been drawn up; it was not draconian, but if anyone had concerns, they should contact the Waste Team.

The issue of excess garden waste was raised by a number of members of the public, the concern being how to dispose of anything that would not fit into the bin. A lady

said she had been advised to put any “overflow” into black bags. Mr Pierrepont replied that this was not right and he suggested people should either retain the excess until their bin had been emptied or ask a neighbour if they could put it in their bin. At present residents would only be issued with one green bin, but this would be reviewed in 12 months time.

Cllr Brian Hayes asked if the increase in credits would offset the additional costs now, and in the future. Mr Pierrepont advised that they would cover for 5 years and go a long way towards mitigating costs.

A lady drew attention to the fact that wheelchair users had problems negotiating around bins and recycling boxes that had been left out on footpaths, and she asked if the Recycling Team would be educated in this respect. The Chairman agreed that this point needed addressing, and Mr Pierrepont confirmed that it would be covered through promotional work.

In response to a question from Cllr Neil Morrison, Mr Pierrepont confirmed that bins would be replaced free of charge if they were damaged.

The Chairman thanked Mr Pierrepont for his presentation.

### **LNHP 13/07 Community Infrastructure Levy Update**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Emma Grima, Infrastructure Programme Manager, ECDC, gave a short presentation on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), and made the following comments:

- The Council Introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy (‘CIL’) on 1 February 2013.
- The levy is charged on most new development in the district.
- Proceeds from the levy will be used to assist in the provision of strategic infrastructure required to support development in the district.
- The Development Type CIL rates per square metre in East Cambridgeshire were illustrated.
- The Council was required to publish a Regulation 123 list of infrastructure that will benefit from CIL funding. For the year 2013/14 the Council, through its Annual Delivery Plan, in consultation with relevant stakeholders had prioritised the following strategic projects: Ely Leisure Centre; Littleport Secondary School and Soham Railway Station.
- The District Council was required to pass 15% of CIL receipts (the “Meaningful Proportion”) to the relevant Parish where the development had arisen, payments would be transferred on a 6 monthly basis to the relevant Parish in October and April each year.
- Once the Parish received the 15% CIL receipt, the Parish had full discretion on its expenditure provided that it accorded with the Regulations. CIL receipts could be used to support the development of the local council’s area, or any part of that area, by funding: (a) The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or (b) Anything else that is

concerned with addressing the demands that development places on that area, such as, play areas, village halls, community facilities or affordable housing.

- The Regulations require the Parish to produce an annual report setting out the Parish's total CIL receipts; total CIL expenditure; a summary of what CIL was spent on; and the total amount of receipts retained at the end of the reported year.
- The report must be submitted to the District Council for their information; published on the Parish Council's website (where the Parish Council did not have a website, the District Council would publish the report on its website).
- The report required by the Regulations could be combined with other reports already produced by the Parish.
- If a Parish Council had not spent the receipts in accordance with the Regulations (59C); or had not spent the receipts within a five year period the District Council could serve a notice on the Parish Council requiring it to repay some or all the money. Should this occur, the District Council was required to spend the recovered funds in the Parish's area
- If a Parish did not have any projects that they wished to spend their receipts on, or where they shared the same priorities as the District Council, it was possible for the Parish, should they wish, to agree not to receive their 'meaningful proportion' and opt to allow the District Council to spend these receipts on the infrastructure set out in the Annual Delivery Plan.
- Further information was available on the Council's website and queries could be emailed to [cil@eastcamb.gov.uk](mailto:cil@eastcamb.gov.uk) . Officers were also available to visit individual Parish Councils to advise on the CIL process and procedures.

Ms Grima then took questions and comments from the Panel and members of the public.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Ms Grima said that CIL had been introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013 and the Council had had its first receipt of monies from Sutton.

A gentleman asked whether social housing was subject to the Levy and he was advised it would be exempt, provided the developer had applied for relief.

Another member of the public enquired about the cost for private housing and wondered whether the Highfields development would ever be completed. Ms Grima explained that Highfields had been started before CIL was introduced, however, it was a phased development and 61 properties would be subject to the Levy.

Cllr Hayes wished to know if CIL would replace S106 contributions. Ms Grima replied that they would sit side by side, as S106 would only deal with on-site mitigation and the charge would be covered by CIL. It was noted that regulations prohibited double charging.

The Chairman thanked Ms Grima for her presentation.

### **LNHP 13/08 Neighbourhood Issues**

The following issues were raised by Parish representatives/members of the public:

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>ISSUE OF CONCERN</b>
Sandhill, Littleport	Fatal road traffic accident. Speed of vehicles and obstructions to visibility on the riverbank.
Woodfen Road	When is the erection of wooden fencing to commence ?
BP Garage	Safety problems. Many near misses involving cars and pedestrians, as vehicles coming off the roundabout accelerate without taking notice of the traffic.
Location to be confirmed	Bird scarers going off in the early hours of the morning ( 4am, 5am).
Parsons Lane, Littleport	Road gulleys in a terrible state.
West side of Ashley Gardens	Overhanging branches need cutting back.
Upton Lane	Hedges overgrown to the extent that footpath can't be used.
Various	BT public telephone booths are an eyesore. They need to be repainted or removed.
Location to be confirmed	Lack of lighting since columns installed.
Beech Court	Access to the land at the side is like a jungle and is now being used for flytipping.
Littleport area	People in food crisis. Engagement of people within a 15 mile radius of Ely, so that they can have access to the Ely Food Bank if they need it.

### **LNHP 13/09 Panel Prioritisation**

The Panel agreed that the policing priority should be:

- Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

### **LNHP 13/10 Forward Agenda**

Forward Agenda Plan received.

- Deputy Chief Executive to discuss the forward plan with the Chairman.
- An item regarding Food Banks to be added to the list for October's meeting.

Next meeting:       Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013, 19:00 – 21:00hrs  
                          Littleport Community Primary School

(room to be set up in a new layout.)

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.