

SOUTH AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL

Monday, 7th January 2013, Bottisham Village College, Bottisham

Panel Members Present

Cllr Tom Kerby (Chair)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Robert Stevens	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Allen Alderson	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr David Brown	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Andrew Camps	Swaffham Prior Parish Council
Cllr Peter Taylor	Kirtling and Upend Parish Council
Mr Martin Golding	
Cllr Olive Oakervee	Ashley Parish Council
Cllr Clifford Pettitt	Woodditton Parish Council
Cllr Michel Scarff	Burwell Parish Council
Cllr Mathew Shuter	Brinkley Parish Council
Cllr Mary Smith	Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council
Cllr Lily Whymer	Stetchworth Parish Council

Others Present

Darren Dixon	Head of Community Services
	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Natalie Osborne	Sanctuary Housing
Terry Jordan	Neighbourhood Panel Liaison Officer
	Cambridgeshire County Council
Inspector Paul Ormerod	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Lewis Bage	Project Officer (Leisure & Community Services)
	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Janis Murfet	Democratic Services Officer
	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Anne Marie Taylor	District Co-ordinator – Care Network

IN ATTENDANCE: 4 members of the public

SNP12/19 Welcome

The Chairman, Councillor Tom Kerby, welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a happy New year.

SNP12/20 Introductions and Apologies

Apologies were received from Bottisham Parish Council, Parish Councillor Maggie Carvalho, and District Councillors Lavinia Edwards and Chris Morris.

SNP12/21 Chairman's Announcements and Consultation Items

The Chairman referred to the new layout of the tables for this meeting, saying that, at the previous Panel, people seemed to like it. He would ask for comments at the end of this meeting.

The Chairman asked those present to fill in the attendance sheet and complete the "Have Your Say" questionnaire.

The Chairman highlighted the following consultation items:

- Local Plan
- Independent Remuneration Panel Review of Members Allowances
- Ely's Car Parking Consultation

SNP12/22 Neighbourhood Update

East Cambridgeshire District Council

- All training sessions in respect of changes to the Code of Conduct had been completed. There is a strong feeling that some of the requirements of the new Code are "Over the Top". Will be discussed further later in meeting.
- A litter clearing team had been assigned to Eagle Lane, Dullingham on the week commencing 29th October 2012, and it was hoped that the problems had now been addressed.
- A meeting had taken place with representatives of Dullingham Parish Council, to look into a number of planning related issues. A planning application had now been submitted in respect of the Old Salt Depot.
- The District Council had recently launched a new online sport club directory, and wished to encourage sports clubs to register online to help raise the profile of sports clubs, promote new sessions and increase membership.
- East Cambridgeshire District Council had been successful in its bid for £5 million from Central Government to fund a new recycling service and retain weekly waste collections. It was hoped to have the service up and running from late 2013 or early 2014.

Cambridgeshire County Council

- The relevant Highways Supervisor would inspect the worn rumble strips on Heath Road, Swaffham Bulbeck and any repair works found to be necessary, would be included in the 2013/14 maintenance programme.
- The issue of overgrown hedges and encroaching greenery had been raised in respect of Abbey Lane, Swaffham Bulbeck, Westley Waterless High Street, and footpaths in Reach. In the first instance this was being addressed by the Parish Councils. Although the County Council could take action, it was considered that a community approach to the property/landowner was more appropriate.
- There had been a request for a salt bin to be sited in Malvern Close, Newmarket. It was noted that the Parish Council would have to buy the bin in the first instance and then the County Council would fill it with salt. Responsibility for spreading the salt would fall to the Parish Council or residents.
- With regard to statistics for dog fouling, it was drawn to the Panel's attention that at the last two meetings, a request had been made for the figures for the whole of the last year to be provided, and this had yet to be carried out. Darren Dixon said that he would take it upon himself to follow up on this.

Sanctuary Hereward

Natalie Osborne informed the Panel that as from April 2013 the Government was reducing the amount of housing benefit that some people could claim, and there would also be changes to Council Tax benefit. As a result, many tenants had indicated that they wanted to move, and the challenge would be to find suitable properties for them. Anyone who had concerns regarding the forthcoming changes was advised to contact Sanctuary's new Welfare Officer.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Inspector Ormerod reported that the reduction of speeding and parking offences across the Panel area remained a policing priority. Speed enforcement and speedwatch activity since the last Panel meeting had resulted in:

23 Fixed Penalty Notices
 2 drivers reported for process
 141 speed awareness courses offered
 5 verbal warnings
 3 Speedwatch letters

However, speeding remained a problem and Inspector Ormerod suggested that if the Panel was so minded, enforcement action should remain as a priority. He asked that people should be specific in reporting problem locations, so that they could be targeted.

In relation to parking, the Panel noted that PCSOs had been conducting regular checks. The only vehicle seen parking on double yellow lines in Bottisham was displaying a Disabled Badge. Patrols had also been conducted outside the school and a number of parents spoken to. A Fixed Penalty Notice had been issued for the obstruction of a dropped kerb in the village. Regular checks had also been made in Brinkley and Burwell, but no offences had been observed.

Inspector Ormerod said that there was still much work to be done regarding inconsiderate/obstructive parking and if the Panel wished to retain this as a priority, people should specify problem areas so that the Police could target them.

The crime statistics showed a reduction in total crime figures when compared to the previous year, but there had been an increase in antisocial behaviour (ASB). There did not appear to be any particular pattern or village involved; the problems went right across the board, and were not the “traditional” ASB issues involving youngsters.

With regard to parking issues, Councillor Stevens asked whether the Police had considered holding sessions at school with the children, so that they could then go home and “educate” their parents. Inspector Ormerod replied that this was under consideration; the District Council had such an initiative at a primary school in Littleport, and if it was successful, it would be rolled out across the District.

Mr Fitch, a member of the public, said that antisocial behaviour was a major problem in Bottisham. He felt that the Parish Council could do something about a place for youngsters to go in the evenings, and believed that pressure from the Police might help. Inspector Ormerod said he would mention this to his colleagues in the locality team.

A member of the public felt that the Police should carry out foot patrols around Burwell because they were missing offences by spending too much time in their vehicles. Inspector Ormerod replied that this was on the Action Plan and he would provide more details of how officers’ time was spent at the next meeting.

In response to a question regarding penalties for speeding, Inspector Ormerod advised that it all depended on the speed at which the motorist was travelling. There was a threshold below which the Police would not prosecute, and in certain circumstances the offender could attend a Speed Awareness Course and incur a fine but would not be given any points on their licence. It was noted that a speed awareness course could not be repeated within a 3 year period.

SNP12/23 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Shirley Blake, Principal Sustainable Development Officer, ECDC, gave a brief presentation on the Community Infrastructure Levy and made the following points:

- CIL will be a levy on new developments, with a standard charge being made per square metre. It will be a mechanism to help collect developer contributions, payable on commencement of the development rather than on completion or occupancy;
- Payments can be pooled towards an infrastructure project in the District and there will be no time limit on when funds can be used;
- The Council will continue to use S106 agreements for site specific work required to mitigate an individual development;
- Town/Parish Councils will receive a “meaningful proportion” of the CIL income for their area. The proportion has not yet been set by Government – an announcement is awaited.
- Town/Parish Councils will have full discretion in the use of these funds for infrastructure projects in their area;
- CIL will be implemented from 1st February 2013 and it is estimated that income will be in the region of £33 million District-wide over 20 years, based on current trajectories of growth;
- The Charging Schedule will be based on development type;
- The legislation is fairly complex, but once the Government has announced the level of the “meaningful proportion”, ECDC Officers will be happy to come out and explain the procedures and processes.

In response to a question from Councillor Brown, Ms Blake confirmed that affordable housing would be exempt from the levy, but she would check regarding gypsy and traveller sites.

Councillor Shuter asked what the main proportion of the money would be spent on and was advised that the District Council would decide. It was proposed to have an annual delivery plan and it had been recommended that any monies received in the first year be banked.

Councillor Shuter next enquired about enforcement procedures. Ms Blake said that if developers failed to pay, there were strict regulations regarding sanctions, the ultimate being 3 months imprisonment.

SNP12/24 Community Navigators

At the invitation of the Chairman, Anne Marie Taylor, District Co-ordinator for Care Network addressed the Panel regarding the Community Navigator project, and made the following points:

- This was a new project funded by Cambridgeshire County Council, and its mission was to help older, isolated and vulnerable people living in Cambridgeshire to stay independent and maintain social contact with friends and the community;
- The Vision Statement was “For a Cambridgeshire where all older and vulnerable people at risk of isolation, loneliness or ill health
 - feel supported in their local community
 - achieve greater independence, and a healthier, happier life
 - are enabled to support each other for mutual benefit.”
- Direct services included the following schemes: Help at Home, Welcome Home from Hospital, Admissions Avoidance, Independence at Home, Information@GPs (from April 2012, Ely Area), and the Warm Homes Healthy People Winter project.
- There was to be a public launch of the Community Navigator project in April 2013.
- The structure comprised 5 District Co-ordinators, who would support a network of Community Navigators to cover the districts of Cambridge City, South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland.
- The project would be delivered by CRB checked volunteers, who would do as much or as little as was wanted. There was no charge for help, but donations would be welcome.
- Although the project was aimed at older people, nobody under the age of 60 would be turned away if they were alone and/or vulnerable.

A member of the public remarked that it was difficult to know how to get hold of mobility aids; Mrs Taylor replied that all Navigators would be trained in assisted technology and she herself could make a referral.

Another person asked how the project could help in respect of modification to homes, as this required funding. Mrs Taylor said that the scheme could act as a facilitator with grant requests and Occupational Health referrals etc.

Mrs Taylor concluded by saying that as well as having volunteers all over Cambridgeshire, the Care Network also wanted to get organisations on board to work with them.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Mrs Taylor for an interesting and informative presentation.

SNP12/25 Neighbourhood Issues

The Panel was asked to note the contents of a letter (tabled) sent by Bottisham Parish Council to the Chief Executive of East Cambs District Council. The letter raised numerous concerns regarding the new Code of Conduct and the disclosure of pecuniary interests, and sought the support of the District Council in making representation on this matter.

The consensus of opinion was that the new rules had not been put out in a logical manner for everyone, there were too many inconsistencies, and they were completely irrelevant to parish councillors. It was acknowledged that the Head of Legal & Democratic Services had attempted to mitigate the effects of the new rules, but even so, it appeared that ECDC's stance was much more stringent than anyone else. Because of this good people were being lost, and potential councillors were put off from standing for office.

It was felt that strong representation should be made to such bodies as CPALC (Communities, Parish & Local Councils), and NALC (National Association of Local Councils), and it was agreed that this would be recorded as an action note.

The following issues were raised by Parish representatives/public:

Ashley	30 mph limit not solved speeding problems. Pedestrian crossing needed to get children and older people across the main road. £15/16/20k estimated – very expensive! How can get a more definite figure? Estimates vary – need accurate and reliable quote – CCC highway engineer to quote.
Bottisham	<p>Parking issues – vehicles parking on double yellows and pavement (around 2-4 Tunbridge Lane), especially mornings and evenings.</p> <p>ASB issues in Bottisham – no provision for young people aged 12-16 in the village.</p> <p>Tea time parking problems around the village college. Cars sometimes have to drive on pavement to get around each other (seems to be worse on a Monday evening during term time, 5pm).</p> <p>Concerns about the Code of Conduct/declaration of interests (see letter) – rules different for everyone.</p>
Brinkley	Keep up random speed checks – particularly mornings and evenings.
Burwell	Request for police foot patrols, rather than just vehicle

	<p>patrols, evenings around the takeaway.</p> <p>Parking issues around takeaway, Parsons Lane outside bank and building society.</p> <p>Speeding – Ness Road, Newmarket Road.</p> <p>Double yellow lines around Burwell Post Office (already there)</p>
Burrough Green	Not present.
Cheveley	Not present.
Dullingham	Speed limit reduced from 40 to 30, only if paid for. Why does CCC charge when other councils don't?
Kirtling & Upend	Speeding concerns – occasional police presence wanted, especially when people travelling to and from work (especially as just gone from 40 to 30 mph).
Lode	Not present.
Reach	Not present.
Stetchworth	Understanding how the precept is calculated and how much should ask for – guidance not helpful. ECDC – someone to call Chair.
Swaffham Prior	
Swaffham Bulbeck	<p>Heath Road – salted right through to old A11 road. Well used.</p> <p>ASB issues. Vandalising certain areas. Residents scared of youths, scared to contact police. Pound Way and village green. The Denney (vandalism).</p>
Westley Waterless	Not present.
Woodditton	Not present.
Newmarket	Not present.

General Issues

The Chairman asked for any comments regarding the layout of the tables and those present agreed that it was satisfactory providing the problems with the sound system could be resolved.

SNP12/26 **Panel Prioritisation**

Police Priorities

Speeding and parking ongoing.

ASB Swaffham Bulbeck – intimidation.

Other Priorities

ECDC Members Code of Conduct – clearer advice.

SNP12/27 **Forward Agenda**

Forward Agenda Plan was noted. Sport & Recreation to be added to the meeting scheduled for 20th March 2013.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.