

West Area Neighbourhood Panel

Monday 21 October 2013 – Witchford Village Hall – 7.06pm

PRESENT:

Cllr Owen Winters	Little Downham Parish Council (from during item no. WNP13/13)
Cllr Jean Ballantyne	Little Thetford Parish Council
Cllr Elizabeth Stazicker	Mepal Parish Council
Cllr Penny Mayo	Sutton Parish Council
Cllr Peter Warren	Wilburton Parish Council
Cllr George Jellicoe	Witchford Parish Council
Cllr Bill Hunt	East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC)
Cllr Peter Moakes	East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC)
Cllr Gareth Wilson	East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC)
Cllr Philip Read	Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)

OFFICERS

Inspector Paul Ormerod	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Liz Knox	Head of Environmental Services, ECDC
Julie Cornwell	Partnerships Officer, ECDC
Melanie Sage	Democratic Services Officer, ECDC
Joan Grant	Sanctuary Housing

IN ATTENDANCE

Alan Williams	Ely Foodbank
Karl Relton	Ely Foodbank
Beth Green	Shape Your Place Community Engagement Officer, CCC

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 4 members of the public (including 1 Mepal Parish Councillor and 1 Parish Clerk).

WNP13/09 Introductions and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Goddard of Haddenham Parish Council and Terry Jordon, Neighbourhood Panel Liaison Officer of Cambridgeshire County Council.

Cllr Border of Coveney Parish Council submitted apologies for absence prior to the meeting. However, this was not announced at the meeting as Lewis Bage, Project Officer (Leisure and Community Services), ECDC was absent from meeting and therefore the message was not received until after the meeting.

WNP13/10 Chairman's Announcements and Consultation Items

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Requested that everyone ensured that they completed the attendance list.
- Requested that everyone ensured that at the end of the meeting they completed the 'Have Your Say' evaluation form.

- Highlighted the following consultation items as detailed on the reverse of the agenda sheet (available to view via the attached link):

http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/wnp211013ag_0.pdf

- Individual Electoral Registration (IER) canvass;
- ‘You Choose’ budget consultation (Cambridgeshire County Council);
- Draft North Ely Supplementary Planning Document – Public Consultation;
- Consultation on proposed major modification to the submitted East Cambridgeshire Local Plan;
- Consultation on draft Supplementary Planning Document on Community-Led Development.

WNP13/11 Neighbourhood Update

The Neighbourhood Panel Update document containing responses to non-policing priorities and other issues raised at the previous Panel meeting was available to view via the following link:

http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/wnp211013_update.pdf

The Panel received an update on the non-policing priority set for the District Council and other issues raised at the previous Panel meeting:

East Cambridgeshire District Council Update	
Non-Policing Priority:	
<p>Straw lorries – routing agreement with straw burning plant. Straw everywhere – no need to come through Haddenham. CCC had a responsibility to ensure roads were clear. However, straw clogging drains. ECDC had responsibility to ensure roads were litter free. Trees needed cutting as branches sweeping straw from tops of lorries. Haddenham (Station Road), Wilburton and A142.</p>	<p>A response was provided within the update report by CCC as follows:</p> <p>CCC circulated letters to property owners regarding the need for them to undertake pruning and cutting back of trees.</p> <p>With regard to trees sweeping straw off tops of lorries, the Local Highway Authority had no power to deal with any branches which were more than 15 feet above ground level.</p> <p>Once straw transportation process had finished for the year, gullies and drains would be cleaned.</p> <p>ECDC was responsible for clearing any loose straw debris on the road, as part of its street cleaning regime.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Panel might wish to send a letter to the Elean Power Station in relation to the community’s concerns about the impact of straw falling from lorries.</p> <p>Signage for lorries was adequate. There was little else that the Local Highway Authority could do to prevent lorries travelling through Haddenham.</p>
<p>A letter was tabled at the meeting from a member of public in attendance at the meeting, Mr Prescott, and attached to the letter was a copy of the ‘Notice of Decision’ regarding an additional planning condition relating to the delivery route to Elean Power Station.</p> <p>Mr Prescott stated that the following points should be considered by the Neighbourhood</p>	

Panel. The Condition stated:

- That all current hauliers and suppliers of straw to the site would be notified of the preferred routes to the power station avoiding the villages of Haddenham, Wilburton and Sutton. Any new suppliers would be advised of the same requirements in advance of deliveries to the site.
- A log would be maintained by the site operator providing confirmation that the preferred route details had been communicated to the suppliers of straw to the site. The log would be subject to a monthly management inspection to ensure its completion and be made available to the Local Planning Authority within 7 days of the request.

Haddenham Parish Council had made enquiries and it had been confirmed by ECDC that the log had been inspected and was being maintained.

Mr Prescott stated that requirements were not options and the wording of the condition made it a requirement that hauliers used the preferred route. Mr Prescott requested that ECDC enforced the condition.

Cllr Wilson confirmed that Haddenham Parish Council had made enquires and that the ECDC Planning Enforcement Officer had confirmed that the log was in order. Cllr Wilson noted that the Site Manager at Elean Power Station had initially wanted to be a good neighbour to its surrounding villages, but his enthusiasm seemed to now be less proactive.

Cllr Hunt proposed that the Chairman write a strongly worded letter to the Elean Power Station on behalf of the Neighbourhood Panel.

Cllr Jellicoe noted that CCC had endorsed a Waste Management Plan which stated that lorries were not precluded from using other roads. Unless this was amended there was nothing that could be done to prevent lorries travelling through the villages, rather than using the A10/A142 route.

Cllr Wilson noted that Elean Power Station was supposed to inform the affected Parish Councils when straw was being transported to the Power Station from stock piles via the villages. However, this was not happening.

Mr Prescott stated that in his opinion a planning condition overruled the Waste Management Plan.

It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Planning Department at ECDC for clarification regarding the planning condition and dependent on the outcome would write an appropriate letter to the Elean Power Station on behalf of the Neighbourhood Panel.

Other Issues Raised at the Previous Panel Meeting where subsequently discussed:

Hosepipe ban – 14 March 2013 update document refers, available via the link below:

http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/wnp140313ag_Update.pdf

Hosepipe ban concerns – more houses being built. What are plans to cope with it? Extreme weather

A response was provided within the update report from Anglian Water - .
http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/wnp211013_update.pdf

The Neighbourhood Panel acknowledged the lengthy response provided by Anglian Water, but stated that the response did not deal with the adequacy of supply issue.

It was requested that ECDC ask a further question of Anglian Water on how they proposed to deal with the issue.

conditions. Water shortages, lack of pressure (district-wide)	
Opposition to wheelie bins	Was noted. Wheelie bins had been rolled out throughout the district.
Bury Lane, Sutton footpath – clearing	Passed to Veolia to cleanse.
Beresford Close – lots of litter from cars visiting takeaways	Passed to Veolia to cleanse
Large timber frame building (bungalow) Witchford – Stretham road. ECDC to provide planning update. Illegal building. Parish Council to send letter to Cllr Hunt to investigate.	Unable to deal with individual planning issues at Panels (as per the Neighbourhood Panel Terms of Reference) report to Planning Enforcement Team: 01353 665555
ECDC to confirm whether alternate colour dog waste bags were in use throughout the panel area as approach was currently working well in Witchford.	Veolia were currently using red and black bags on alternate weeks as they had an outstanding supply of red bags from another contract. However, once the supply had been exhausted it was unlikely this practice would continue. ECDC would investigate further as alternating the bags appeared to be effective and the cost of red bags was unlikely to be any different to black bags.
Verge side litter still not being picked up. Nick Ball to ensure that this was being done by the Community Payback team and provide confirmation	Community Payback standard team would only conduct litter picks on road side verges where the speed limit was 30-40mph. There was a dedicated Probation Service Community Payback team that conducted roadside litter picks on national speed limit highways that was fully briefed in road safety and had suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to conduct the work. More details were required of the exact stretches of road in Witchford where littering was an issue and the speed limit in those areas. The right team from Community Payback could then be asked to do the work. ECDC had now been provided with the grass cutting schedules by CCC.
How often were the roads swept?	Roads should be swept approximately every 6-8 weeks although this was affected by the weather, vehicle breakdowns and staff sickness.

- Alternating the colour of dog bin bags had been effective. However, this had become less effective as black bags were not being used. Alternating the colour of the bags assisted the Parish Council in monitoring when the bins were emptied.
- There were still instances when litter picking was not coinciding with the grass cutting e.g. Lancaster Way. Although it was noted that Grunty Fen Road had been litter picked as full bags of rubbish were piled in one area on the road side.
- It was enquired when roads were swept whether pavements were included, and if Ely could have pavements cleansed then could all villages also have their pavements cleansed.

It was explained that road sweeping only incorporated the road and that the City was included within the street cleansing contract. To incorporate other towns/villages would have additional resource and financial implications.

<h3>Cambridgeshire County Council Update</h3>

No one from CCC was in attendance to present the update on non-policing priorities set by the Panel and other CCC related issues raised at the previous Panel meeting.

The Chairman provided Members with an opportunity to consider the CCC responses to the non-policing priorities and the other issues raised at the previous Panel meeting, as per the West Neighbourhood Panel Update document circulated with the agenda.

One of the non-policing priorities - Straw Lorries routing agreement - had previously been considered during the ECDC update.

<p>Carpond Lane, no-through road, serves village primary school. Car parking problems obstructing peoples driveways. Dust cart couldn't get down to collect rubbish. People having to drive on footpath. Could yellow lines be considered?</p>	<p>Incorrectly listed in West Neighbourhood Panel Update document as Sutton – should be Wilburton.</p> <p>Double yellow lines could be considered but would require third-party funding. This type of scheme could be the subject of a future Local Highways Improvements scheme bid by the Parish Council, if it was felt to be a priority for the local community.</p> <p>The Police would be supportive of Wilburton Parish Council if they submitted a bid for double yellow lines as the Police could then issue Fixed Penalty Notices.</p>
---	--

Cllr Hunt noted that Parish Council's raised various issues at Panel meetings. Cllr Hunt stated that he would be able to better address these at CCC if the Parish Council submitted this in writing to himself or if the Parish Council copied him in on any correspondence.

Cllr Hunt noted that new signage for HGV traffic had been placed throughout the district, specifically at Sutton, Stretham and Soham in an attempt to prevent lorries diverting through Haddenham and Wilburton. Cllr Hunt accepted that this would help to address the problem, but not resolve the issue.

Sanctuary Housing

Sanctuary Housing's attendance at the Panel meeting was acknowledged.

The Panel had not set any non-policing priorities or raised any other issues at the previous Panel meeting for Sanctuary Housing.

Policing Priorities

The Panel received an update from Inspector Ormerod on the policing priority set and other police issues raised at the previous Panel meeting:

<p>Speeding in Wilburton</p>	<p>Speed checks had been conducted on a number of occasions. Very positive feedback had been received from local residents. However, no speeding drivers had been observed.</p> <p>A number of Speedwatch checks had been conducted on Haddenham Road, Wilburton, which resulted in 84 letters being sent to speeding motorists (at least 50% of these drivers were from Wilburton or the neighbouring villages). 981 vehicles were monitored during these checks.</p> <p>Police enforcement had not resulted in any prosecutions, but might have been a deterrent for speeding motorists.</p> <p>Speedwatch activity suggested that motorists were still speeding on the A1123, although a lower proportion was occurring through Haddenham than many other locations.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Panel consider other locations for speed enforcement, particularly those areas where speeding was in excess of 10% over the speed limit.</p>												
<p>Other Issues Raised at the Previous Panel Meeting:</p>													
<p>Police patrols to discourage anti social behaviour in Little Downham</p>	<p>Anti Social Behaviour for the Downham Villages had reduced compared to the same period in 2012, as has Criminal Damage.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="491 1384 1465 1621"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="491 1384 799 1451">Downham Villages</th> <th data-bbox="807 1384 1066 1451">Jul 12 – Sep 12</th> <th data-bbox="1074 1384 1332 1451">Jul 13 – Sep 13</th> <th data-bbox="1340 1384 1465 1451"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="491 1462 799 1552">Anti Social Behaviour</td> <td data-bbox="807 1462 1066 1552">19</td> <td data-bbox="1074 1462 1332 1552">16</td> <td data-bbox="1340 1462 1465 1552">-15.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="491 1563 799 1621">Criminal Damage</td> <td data-bbox="807 1563 1066 1621">6</td> <td data-bbox="1074 1563 1332 1621">3</td> <td data-bbox="1340 1563 1465 1621">-50.0 %</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>No current or emerging issues of anti social behaviour had been reported.</p>	Downham Villages	Jul 12 – Sep 12	Jul 13 – Sep 13		Anti Social Behaviour	19	16	-15.8%	Criminal Damage	6	3	-50.0 %
Downham Villages	Jul 12 – Sep 12	Jul 13 – Sep 13											
Anti Social Behaviour	19	16	-15.8%										
Criminal Damage	6	3	-50.0 %										
<p>Theft of diesel – police deterrent</p>	<p>Police were trying to target the handlers. One male had been stopped with siphoning equipment in his car during this period and had been interviewed. The case was pending a decision by the Crown Prosecution Service on whether to prosecute.</p>												

Victim based crime had decreased in comparison to the same period the previous year – July – September (109 incidents in 2012 and 99 incidents in 2013).

Dwelling burglary had decreased in comparison to the same period the previous year – July – September (24 incidents in 2012 and 5 incidents in 2013).

Non-Dwelling burglary had increased in comparison to the same period the previous year – July – September (9 incidents in 2012 and 18 incidents in 2013).

Violent crime had decreased in comparison to the same period the previous year – July – September (27 incidents in 2012 and 22 incidents in 2013).

Total Anti Social Behaviour incidents had decreased in comparison to the same period the previous year – July – September (87 incidents in 2012 and 64 incidents in 2013).

Total Alcohol Related Incidents had also decreased in comparison to the same period the previous year – July – September (25 incidents in 2012 and 15 incidents in 2013). It was noted that seasonality played a part in the number of alcohol related issues reported.

Sporadic incidents of serious acquisitive crime had occurred in Sutton, Witchford, Haddenham and Stretham – those villages being on the main route through the district. There were often 2-3 incidents in one night and then none would occur for a while afterwards. The type of articles being stolen were tools and garden equipment from sheds, garages and vans. The Police would continue with night time patrols as a deterrent.

Vehicle crime had also become an issue within the Panel area. Stolen vehicles using stolen number plates were subsequently involved in other overnight crime in the area. The Police urged the public to report any suspicious activity as this was often linked to criminality in other areas.

In response to questions, Inspector Ormerod explained that in comparison to other areas in Cambridgeshire, the Panel area was performing well in reducing crime. Detection rates were not as good. However, it was preferable to reduce crime rather than have criminal activity to detect.

It was further explained that the Police often knew the small number of persons responsible for crime in the area. To prevent re-offending the Police were often a nuisance to these people, which had resulted in some moving out of the area as they were annoyed with the continued police presence. The Police knew those that were currently in prison and those that were part in the Integrated Offender Management Scheme.

Cllr Wilson stated that the 'Neighbourhood Alert' system was not as helpful as the 'E-Cops' system as it was not localised enough. Inspector Ormerod stated that he would submit this feedback.

Wilburton Parish Council invited Inspector Ormerod to attend a Parish Council meeting. Inspector Ormerod stated that he had previously written to all Parish Clerks to inform them that he or another member of the team would attend Parish Meetings. Inspector Ormerod requested that the Parish Clerk send him an invitation to the meeting.

WNP13/12 Shape Your Place Presentation

The Panel received a presentation on progress with Shape Your Place from Beth Green, Shape Your Place Community Engagement Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council, which was available to view via the link below:

A summary of the presentation is as follows:

- Shape Your Place (SYP) was a community website for the community to report matters of concern and find out about information in their area.
- Partners in the East Cambridgeshire SYP were the County Council, the District Council, the City Council, the Police and the Fire and Rescue Service.
- A screenshot of Soham SYP website taken on 26 September 2013 was displayed illustrating the types of issues reported and the functions available on the site.
- There were 5 SYP websites for East Cambs: Ely, Littleport, Soham, South villages and West villages.
- There were 18 SYP websites in total across the whole of Cambridgeshire.
- The first SYP was introduced in Fenland.
- During the first 18 months, SYP websites in East Cambridgeshire had received in excess of:
 - Visitors: 18000+
 - Visits: 42000+
 - Page views: 100000+
 - Issues: 100+
 - Comments: 1300+
- SYP websites in East Cambridgeshire were a very effective and highly responsive engagement tool, which had been accessed by approximately 20% of the East Cambridgeshire population.
- On the SYP website:
 - Issues could be raised by the public which were then referred to the lead partner to respond to within 10 working days. Relevant County Councillors, District Councillors, City/Town/Parish clerks were also alerted so that they could join in the conversation if they wished.
 - Comments could be submitted on issues and blogposts.
 - Blogposts could be submitted on news stories, events, consultations.
 - All submissions were moderated before publication to ensure that posts did not breach the Terms of Use.
 - SYP provided a real conversation between residents and partners.
 - All SYP websites were mobile responsive.
 - All SYP websites operated 365 days of the year.
- A typical issue on the SYP website was illustrated.
- Polls could be conducted on SYP website and across the whole County. Using this function had resulted in:
 - 75%+ of visitors found the sites easy to use
 - 90%+ found the sites helpful
 - 55%+ felt the sites helped them to influence local decision-making
- The future of SYP:
 - To increase community engagement - Beth Green, Community Engagement Officer had been tasked with the role of informing the public of this facility.
 - Exploration of links with the new Police Neighbourhood Alert
 - Closer integration with information sites e.g. roadworks
 - Increased partnership working e.g. HealthWatch
 - Publish even more content to attract more visitors and become a 'one stop shop'.

Ms Green concluded by stating that she would attend Parish Council Meetings if requested.

Following the conclusion of the presentation, Members asked questions/made statements and a summary of the discussions and officer responses were as follows:

- What were the top issues raised on the SYP websites in East Cambridgeshire?
Wheelie bins, dog faeces, littering and anti social behaviour.
- Would be useful if the top issues raised on SYP website were also reflected at the Panel meetings and vice versa.

WNP13/13 Foodbanks Development Presentation

The Panel received a presentation from Karl Relton and Alan Williams of Ely Foodbank which was available to view via the link below:

http://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/wnp211013ag_FoodbankPresentation.pdf

A summary of the presentation is as follows:

- Tabled at the meeting was a leaflet on Ely Foodbank and a shopping list that listed the types of foods accepted by the Foodbank. It was noted that the Foodbank was currently inundated with soup and pasta so other foods from the list were welcomed.
- Within the district there were families struggling to put food on the table and some parents went hungry to enable their children to eat. Many people were just getting by and it was a sudden unexpected occurrence that resulted in them not being able to afford to eat i.e. illness, car repairs, fridge needed replacing.
- From April 2012 – April 2013 foodbanks across the UK fed 350,000 people. To date this figure had tripled.
- Foodbanks were initially established by the Trussell Trust.
- In the first 12 months Ely foodbank issued 17 tonnes of food to over 1,900 people including more than 100 people in the West Neighbourhood Panel area. When the Ely Foodbank initially opened the target amount of food to be collected was 3 tonnes.
- Foodbank parcels were not intended to be a long-term benefit top-up.
- Ely Foodbank was working in partnership with churches in each parish and other agencies, and everyone in the local area; looking after local people in food crisis; restoring dignity, reviving hope.
- Ely Foodbank had a distribution centre in Chatteris (Fridays); in March (Tuesdays from mid-November) and in Sutton (to be confirmed). This meant people would not have to travel such a distance to access a food parcel.
- People often felt ashamed at receiving a food parcel and would walk a significant distance to access a food parcel.
- A food parcel contained 3 meals per day for 3 days.
- Donated food was collected from various sources such as schools, Sainsburys and Waitrose.

- To access a food parcel the recipient must be in possession of a Foodbank voucher which was issued by frontline care professionals.
- www.elyfoodbank.org.uk or email info@elyfoodbank.org.uk or telephone 01353 – 662396 (to speak to Karl Relton, Chairman of Ely Foodbank)

Following the conclusion of the presentation, Members asked questions/made statements and a summary of the discussions and officer responses were as follows:

- Cllr Read noted that Reverend Mary Hancock of St Andrews Church, Sutton, was keen to assist with the foodbank. Cllr Read further stated that he was involved with a local charity in Sutton who were likely to donate money if approached towards the foodbank, for instance funding towards a sustainable premises or transportation of food parcels to those that were housebound.

Reverend Mary Hancock had agreed to store food parcels for collection from Sutton Church. Currently Ely Foodbank covered a 15 mile radius from Ely, therefore a collection point in Sutton would assist residents that resided closer to Sutton, than to Ely.

Any additional funding would be greatly appreciated. Currently Ely Foodbank hired a van to distribute food parcels.

- Is Ely Foodbank working closely with the Citizens Advice Bureau?

Yes - the Citizens Advice Bureau was able to issue Foodbank vouchers.

- Could Ely Foodbank circulate advertising literature to Parish Clerks for display in parish halls?

Leaflets were available at the Panel meeting which people were welcome to take.

- Please let Mepal Parish Council and fellow West Panel Members know when the Sutton Foodbank distribution centre was open for business.

It was noted that the distribution centre in Chatteris and March would open on 12 November 2013.

- Burwell residents used the Soham Foodbank distribution centre and the church in Burwell had a foodbank donation point - Cllr Williams MBE was amazed at the amount of food people were willing to donate as the donation point was always full.

It was noted that by the end of November there would be a permanent Foodbank donation point in the Tesco store as a result of customer demand.

WNP13/14 Neighbourhood Panel Service Review Presentation

In the absence of Lewis Bage, Project Officer, the Panel received a presentation on the Service Review of Neighbourhood Panels from Julie Cornwell, Partnerships Officer, ECDC. The Panel wished Lewis Bage a speedy recovery. The presentation was available to view via the link below:

http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/wnp211013ag_ServiceReviewPresentation.pdf

A summary of the presentation is as follows:

- In April 2005 the Home Office launched a national policy to introduce neighbourhood policing into the constabulary by 2008. Southern Division of Cambridgeshire Constabulary was chosen to be a 'pathfinder' force and introduced neighbourhood management of the police in the district that year.
- An important aspect of Neighbourhood Policing was citizen engagement and the constabulary launched E-cops in 2005 as well as proposing to set up neighbourhood consultation panels.
- The District Council took the lead on a piece of work to establish partnerships. The first Neighbourhood Panel commenced as a pilot in the Soham area in 2006 and Neighbourhood Panels were subsequently launched across the District in 2008. Originally there was to be 2 Panels (to be coterminous with Police Boundaries), then 4 Panels (to be coterminous with Village College boundaries). However, eventually this ended as 5 Panels. Approximately 20 members of the public attended the first meeting of the Soham Pilot.
- Neighbourhood Panels were established when there were very limited alternatives to face-to-face public meetings. However, times had moved on.
- The Service Review looked at the strengths of the Neighbourhood Panels and if these were outweighed by weaknesses.
- The strengths identified were as follows:
 - Opportunity to raise issues with key service providers in the District;
 - The meetings provided a 'face' for the public services;
 - Partner agencies had a positive attitude towards working together to problem solve;
 - Greater awareness of the needs and priorities of communities;
 - Cost effective way for the Constabulary to deliver on the requirement to hold a 'beat meeting'.
- The weaknesses identified were as follows:
 - Decreasing attendance – average public attendance for the West Panel was 8 people (0.04% of the population of the West Panel). There was a general downward trend in the number of members of public attending. Very few 'new' people were attending the Panels. Many of the people sitting in the audience were Parish Councillors/Clerks – not actual members of the public. Panel Member attendance had been declining in most areas. Attendance so low that consultations with Panels were not statistically significant - cannot use the results as part of a consultation process.
 - 44 of the 76 issues raised in 2012-13 were 'fault reporting' and all issues could have been dealt with using an existing mechanism. In the case of 'fault reporting' the alternative mechanisms were more effective at providing a quicker response. All faults could be reported via the telephone, e-mail, letter, to a local Councillor, face-to-face at ECDC reception or in many cases by using the Citizens Portal on the Council's website.
 - Complying with the Terms of Reference – 5 out of 6 key tasks were not being met.
 - Consultation with the Parish and Town Councils – least valued as a method of community engagement. Most valued as a forum for sharing information. It was noted that only 14 Parish Councils (40%) completed the survey in October 2012, which at best suggested indifference about the Neighbourhood Panels by the remaining 60%. With the notable exception of the feedback from the City of Ely Council, the results showed that the Panels were not greatly valued by the

- Parish/Town Councils and that they felt members of the community valued them even less.
- Each Panel meeting had officer representation from Cambridgeshire Constabulary, CCC, Sanctuary Housing and ECDC.
 - 4 ECDC staff were involved in every Panel meeting.
 - The estimated cost to ECDC was at least £13,000 per year (this included staff time, printing, venue costs).
 - The Service Review had concluded that Neighbourhood Panels:
 - Were not an effective form of community engagement due to very low levels of public attendance; reducing Parish Council attendance; issues being raised repeatedly that could not be resolved by the Panels.
 - Were not cost effective.
 - There were more efficient and effective mechanisms available now for issues to be raised and resolved – e.g. ShapeYourPlace website, on-line reporting mechanisms, telephone.
 - That Neighbourhood Panels should not continue in their current format beyond 2013-14.
 - The Service Review Group agreed that adapting the Panel model would not result in the Panels being a more effective method of community engagement.
 - Ceasing the Neighbourhood Panels was the preferred option of the Service Review Group.
 - Consultation needed to be undertaken to establish whether there would be any gaps in community engagement if the Panels ceased and if there were, how the gaps could be filled.
 - Consultation had begun with a meeting with the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Panels who identified two key strands moving forwards:
 - That Parish Councils look at how they could improve their own community engagement practices and how they worked with other Parish Councils to resolve cross-border issues.
 - That public sector organisations hold a collective ‘Parish Conference’ whereby information can be shared with and between Parish/Town Councils.
 - A questionnaire be sent to all Parish/Town Councils to explore whether a Parish Conference would be supported.
 - The next steps were:
 - Consultation with Parish/Town Councils on alternative options - responses due by 5 December 2013.
 - ECDC Committee decision on proposal to cease involvement in Panels November 2013.
 - Subject to decision to cease Panels, the last Panel meetings would be held in January 2014.
 - Proposed new model to be in place for 2014-15.

Inspector Ormerod stated that it was not a case that the Panels were not working, but that time had moved on and the ways of engaging with the public had changed, and were now more effective.

Following the conclusion of the presentation, Members asked questions/made statements and a summary of the discussions and officer responses were as follows:

- Panel Members engaging with fellow Councillors was as important as the public attending the meetings.

Cllr Williams MBE stated that there was no reason why Parish/Town Councillors could not continue to meet in another format. The Panels needed to be cost effective and meaningful and were not engaging the public, as per the Panel's Terms of Reference. The Service Review Group appreciated the partnership working at the Panels and did not want to lose this, but to create better partnership working.

- Panel meetings needed better advertisement.

Posters advertising the Panel meetings were circulated as widely as possible on the £2,000 budget, e.g. to shops/libraries etc and Parish Clerks were requested to advertise the meetings in their Parish publications, which some did.

- The way that the tables were set out did not give a welcoming and open impression to the public.

The Chairman noted that the Panel had previously discussed this and had tried a different lay out.

Cllr Williams MBE noted that not all Panels were set out in the same way as the West Panel and that the public did not attend the meetings as they did not feel it necessary to attend.

WNP13/15 Discussion of Neighbourhood Issues Raised by Audience and Panel Members/Panel Prioritisation

The following issues were raised by Parish representatives/public:

LOCATION	ISSUE OF CONCERN	LEAD AGENCY/OFFICER
Coveney and Wardy Hill	None raised	-
Haddenham	<p>Straw Lorries – can ECDC enforce the requirement to avoid the villages of Haddenham, Wilburton and Sutton as per the planning condition detailed in 09/00027/VAR, using the preferred route.</p> <p>Problem of straw on the pavements needs to be addressed.</p> <p>New style E-Cops – can HPC still receive information about local Policing in the village?</p> <p>2 cars parked on opposite sides of the road on double yellow lines causing an obstruction on Top Corner. A police car drove past. Please can this be addressed?</p>	<p>ECDC – Planning Dept and Enforcement Officer. NOTE: Within 2 weeks from date of Panel meeting.</p> <p>ECDC, Waste Team.</p> <p>Cambs Constabulary.</p> <p>Cambs Constabulary.</p>
Little Downham and	Dangerous parking on Ely Road.	Cambs Constabulary.

Pymoor	<p>Still massive dips on Black Bank. Can more specific details be provided on the works carried out and planned to be carried out as the details on the last update were not sufficient?</p> <p>The footpaths not having the grass cut three times a year – please can they be cut three times a year? When is the Autumn cut due to take place?</p>	<p>Cambs County Council.</p> <p>Cambs County Council.</p>
Little Thetford	None raised	-
Mepal	None raised	-
Stretham	None raised	-
Sutton	<p>Pam Joyce had worked very hard to get the footpath at Bury Lane and SPC wanted her hard work recognised at the Panel meeting.</p> <p>Speeding down the Americas, cars using horns early hours of the morning.</p> <p>Waste recycling area in The Brook – can a sign go up directing people to the Recycling Centre if their unwanted items cannot be left at The Brook.</p> <p>A petition was being formed regarding the Traffic Calming measures and the queues it caused onto A142, which was dangerous.</p> <p>Litter bins and dog litter bins were not getting emptied regularly.</p> <p>Bags at Jardin’s were still visible and unsightly. Could they be asked to put a hedge on the top?</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Cambs Constabulary.</p> <p>ECDC, Waste Team.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>ECDC, Waste Team.</p> <p>Sutton PC to write direct to Jardin suggesting this.</p>
Wentworth	None raised	-
Wilburton	<p>On-going problem of parking outside the school in Carpond Lane. Can the road be looked at with a view to adding yellow lines? Wilburton Parish Council had asked if a Highways Officer could go and inspect in school term-time and feedback to the Parish Council whether they considered it safe and accessible, as they haven’t heard anything. Would also like to know costings for yellow lines. Police very supportive of yellow lines being installed outside the school.</p> <p>Request for a Police Officer to attend</p>	<p>Wilburton Parish Council to liaise with CCC, Highways.</p> <p>CCC to respond to Parish Council and to the West Panel.</p> <p>WPC to e-mail/contact</p>

	<p>the Wilburton Parish Council AGM.</p> <p>Query as to what will happen to the village recycling collection points now that the new recycling scheme had been introduced and whether the waste collected there counted towards the total recycling percentage.</p> <p>Takeaway litter/cigarette butts in Berristed Close – thought to be staff from the Harbour School.</p>	<p>Insp. Ormerod to arrange.</p> <p>ECDC, Waste Team - Recycling banks would remain open for 2 years and an assessment of how well they performed would be conducted, to determine whether they remained after this time.</p> <p>WPC to contact the School and install a litter bin</p>
Witcham	None raised	-
Witchford	<p>Having an effective policy: re-look at two different coloured bags for dog waste bins and investigate the bins not being emptied if there were still problems. WPC would like a copy of the log that evidenced when the bins were being emptied.</p> <p>The litter was not collected before the verges were cut, despite CCC supplying the information to ECDC as to when the cutting was happening. Can ECDC investigate and resolve and explain what the policy is on this?</p> <p>Balfour Beatty – difficulty in getting resolution on issues with them.</p> <p>There was an EU directive to have recyclables collected separately. Would this mean that everyone would have to have separate bins?</p> <p>Material collected at Parish Collection recycling sites was limited – would it be widened to include the same materials collected via the wheelie bin service?</p>	<p>ECDC, Waste Team.</p> <p>ECDC, Waste Team</p> <p>Cambs County Council?</p> <p>ECDC, Waste Team.</p> <p>ECDC, Waste Team.</p>
General or crossing cutting issues	<p>Letter to Straw burning plant from the West Panel Chairman asking for the hauliers to use the preferred option regardless of what was said in the County Council Waste Plan.</p> <p>Supply of water – previous response not adequate.</p> <p>Feedback on top 5 issues on SYP to the next Panel meeting.</p>	<p>Panel Chairman</p> <p>Anglian Water</p> <p>TBC by SYP Steering Group</p>

POLICING PRIORITIES	Acquisitive Crime Speed checks in: The America, Sutton and early mornings in The Brook; Witchford Road, Witchford (towards Ely); Haddenham generally.	Cambs Constabulary. Cambs Constabulary.
OTHER PRIORITIES	None set	

WNP13/16 Forward Agenda Plans

The Forward Agenda Plan was received.

The meeting closed at 9.16pm.