

Ely Neighbourhood Panel

Wednesday 27th July 2011 Council Chamber
East Cambridgeshire District Council, Ely

PRESENT

Cllr Will Burton	City of Ely Council
Cllr Elaine Griffin-Singh	City of Ely Council
Cllr Philip Eden	City of Ely Council
Cllr Tony Winchester	City of Ely Council
Cllr John Yates	City of Ely Council
Cllr Richard Hobbs	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Mike Rouse	East Cambridgeshire District Council

OFFICERS

Allison Conder	Panel Support Officer	East Cambs. District Council
Julie Cornwell	Partnerships Officer	East Cambs. District Council
John Fuller	Community Engagement Manager	Cambs. Constabulary
Ellen Nicholson		Cambs. County Council
Inspector Robin Sissons		Cambs. Constabulary
Alan Savill		Sanctuary Hereward
Adrian Scaites-Stokes	Democratic Services Officer	East Cambs. District Council
Jeanette Thompson	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	East Cambs. District Council
Brian Tully	Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator	East Cambs Community Safety Partnership

IN ATTENDANCE:

30 members of the public

Cllr Brian Ashton	City of Ely Council
Cllr Tom Hunt	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Tony Parramint	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Lord Lieutenant	

APOLOGIES

Cllr Shirley Overall	City of Ely Council
Cllr Jeremy Friend-Smith	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Sheila Friend-Smith	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Paul Nelson	Cambridgeshire County Council

ENP11/01 Welcome

Cllr John Yates, the Panel Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly new members of the Panel and the Lord Lieutenant.

ENP11/02 Introductions and Apologies

Panel Members and Officers from the partner agencies introduced themselves to the audience.

Apologies were received from District Councillors Jeremy and Sheila Friend-Smith, City Councillor Shirley Overall and Paul Nelson.

ENP11/03 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

City Councillor John Yates was proposed and seconded and duly appointed as Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing municipal year.

City Councillor Philip Eden was proposed and seconded and duly appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing municipal year.

ENP11/04 Revised Terms of Reference

Julie Cornwell advised the Panel that its Terms of Reference were reviewed annually and it was timely to review them at this stage, due to the number of recent changes. Appendix A had been updated, and would be updated regularly to reflect changes to officer support, and Appendix C showed a draft template agenda for Panel meetings.

The actual Terms had been amended to encourage the formulation of parish plans, so this had been added as a key issue. Paragraph 5.0 onwards reflected the changes in officer support and lead officers would be seated at the top table to encourage the Panels in their decision-making.

The Panel agreed to the new Terms of Reference.

ENP11/05 Chairman's Announcements and Consultation Items

The Chairman asked that the Attendance Sheet and the Questionnaire, both being circulated, be filled in. He highlighted the items currently out for consultation, as detailed on the back of the agenda sheet.

The Queen Elizabeth II Field Challenge had been generated through Cambridgeshire Action with Communities in Rural England and asked parishes to help mark the Queen's Jubilee. This would entail consideration of legally protecting open spaces, something Ely would be looking at shortly.

ENP11/06 Update on (non-police) Actions since Last Meeting

The Chairman reminded the Panel that the March/April Panel meeting had been cancelled because of the local elections so the list of issues and actions taken were following the January Panel meeting. A paper had been tabled at the meeting.

A member of the public stated that because of water works being carried out in Lisle Lane a number of cars had been displaced and were being parked in Lisle Close. To prevent this, it was suggested that yellow lines were used.

Another member of the public thought that, as part of the Sainsbury planning application, a condition had been agreed to consider traffic calming measures at the end of Lisle Lane. The Chairman stated that a study would be undertaken over the whole city and would include that area.

A further member of the public noted that Thistle Corner had still not opened. It was understood that originally a condition had been agreed that the developers would not have been able to develop the land until this had been done, but since then this requirement had been dropped. The Chairman understood that the County Council had difficulty in 'signing off' the development but he would come back on that issue.

ENP11/07 Neighbourhood Policing Update

Inspector Robin Sissons reminded the Panel that it had set neighbourhood policing priorities in January relating to drug activity and alcohol-related anti-social behaviour. Relating to drug activity, a series of operations to stop and search suspects had resulted in a number of crimes being detected. This had led to some home searches resulting in further crimes being discovered, including the closure of one premises. Although this had led to a slowing down of drug activity, it still remained an important issue and the Police would act on any intelligence received. Although the number of drug offences remained steady, this was due to more offences being detected.

Alcohol-related anti-social behaviour had been tackled by uniformed officers patrolling Ely High Street at certain times and this had led to less offences being committed. The guardians of any child caught had proved very effective in stopping this problem, with only one child re-offending. To aid this issue, the Shopwatch scheme had been re-started and the issuing of Designated Public Places Orders (DPPO). DPPOs were not drinking bans if drinking was responsible but would be used if people refused to stop drinking when requested by officers. Trading Standards were pushing to go out on patrol with Police officers and Outreach Workers to tackle underage drinking.

The closed circuit television scheme had been moved to Ely Police Station, so officers no longer had to drive to Cambridge to check footage. The scheme was being run by volunteers but more volunteers were needed. The scheme was growing in expertise and was making a contribution to the effective use of Police resources.

A number of reports had been received from ladies who had felt intimidated by groups drinking at the back of the Cathedral. The Police had received a couple of reports about this and there would be more patrols and possibly more seizures of alcohol. The drinking culture would not be changed overnight so people should keep reporting problems so the Police could respond. Sacrist Gate was also highlighted as a problem area, particularly in bad weather.

It was recommended that alcohol-related anti-social behaviour become the Panel's priority. This was agreed.

ENP11/08 Discussion of Neighbourhood Issues raised by Audience and Panel Members

John Fuller noted that people were encouraged to use bikes but the roads around the city were dangerous. The roads needed to be made safer. The Chairman thought part of the solution would be to educate cyclists on where they could cycle safely. District Councillor Mike Rouse contended that some cyclists were a problem, not just youths but adults too caused problems.

A member of the public was concerned about the lack of markings on a traffic hump in Downham Road, as there had almost been an accident there recently. Brian Tully stated that pedestrians used the traffic hump as a crossing but drivers did not recognise it as such. There would be opportunities for local councils to take responsibility for these humps and doing something about them. There were various other places in Ely that had the same problem, causing confusion for pedestrians and drivers, so all needed looking at by the County Council. City Councillor Elaine Griffin-Singh informed the Panel that funding had been found to provide a lollipop person for use in High Barns but there was a problem recruiting people to do that job.

A number of other issues were raised: The Police had been made aware of distraction burglaries by rogue traders and the Chairman agreed to forward information on; City Councillor Elaine Griffin-Singh highlighted the unsafe parking at the Deacons Lane junction; a member of the public had noted boys coming out of ladies toilets in the city; bicycles being

used in public areas; could Lynn Road from the traffic lights accommodate car parking on both sides, as this narrowed the road.

The problems at Sacrist Gate and safe crossings near schools should be given priority.

ENP11/09 Services Currently Delivered by the City of Ely Council and Future Plans and Aspirations

Councillor Brian Ashton, City of Ely Council, gave a presentation explaining the background to the City of Ely Council, its composition and its committee structure. The Council worked within a balanced budget and had reserves earmarked for specific purposes.

The Council made recommendations on all planning applications, were more active with developers through holding informal meetings and were working on plans to resolve the A142 rail crossing issues. It also operated a local needs housing scheme, one of the biggest of similar schemes in the country, and maintained play areas, the skate park and cemetery. Bus shelters and some street lights were also the responsibility of the City Council, and it had recently audited various bins throughout the city. There were a number of committees that included volunteer representatives which provided additional services, such as the Christmas lights or 'Ely in Bloom'. The Council also sponsored few organisations.

In looking to the future, the City Council had aspirations to take responsibility for more services, for example play areas in new developments, Ely's riverside including the Maltings, completing the Western Access Way, extending the local needs housing scheme, public open spaces within the city, markets, car parks and public toilets. The Council was also looking for better premises than its current offices.

ENP11/10 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Prevention of Ill-Health in Adults of a Working Age

The NHS representative Val Thomas was due to be present, however did not attend the meeting, so a paper had been tabled at the meeting. Julie Cornwell explained that the National Health Service was working with other agencies to develop a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on this issue. People were asked to take away the questionnaire provided and return to Julie.

ENP11/11 Panel Prioritisation

This had been covered previously in the meeting.

ENP11/12 Forward Agenda

Forward agenda Plans for 2011 and 2012 received.

John Fuller suggested that the January 2012 meeting could consider the re-organisation of Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

The Meeting closed at 8:30pm.