

## West Area Neighbourhood Panel

Monday 25 July 2011 Witchford Village Hall, Witchford

### PRESENT:

Cllr Pauline Wilson	Haddenham Parish Council
Cllr Jean Ballantyne	Little Thetford Parish Council
Cllr Tony Pleasance	Mepal Parish Council
Cllr Maurice James	Sutton Parish Council
Cllr Jenny Snell	Stretham Parish Council
Mrs Jenny Warren	Wilburton Parish Council
Cllr Alan Shields	Witchford Parish Council
Cllr Anna Bailey	East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC)
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

Darren Dixon	Head of Community Services, ECDC
Linda Mynott	Adult Services, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)
Debbie Bailey	Sanctuary Hereward Housing
Alan Savill	Sanctuary Hereward Housing
Inspector Robin Sissons	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Brian Tully	Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator, East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership
John Fuller	Community Engagement Manager, CCC
Katie Child	Principal Forward Planning Officer, ECDC
Julie Cornwell	Partnerships Officer, ECDC
Melanie Sage	Democratic Services Officer, ECDC

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Approximately 8 members of the public

### APOLOGIES

Cllr Nick Border	Coveney Parish Council
Cllr Elizabeth Stazicker	Mepal Parish Council

### **WNP11/01 Welcome and Introductions**

The Vice-Chairman, Mrs Warren, welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the significant time that had passed since the last meeting. The Vice-Chairman assured the Panel that this would not occur again without prior consultation.

### **WNP11/02 Election of Chairman**

Cllr Elizabeth Stazicker was proposed and seconded as Chairman of the West Area Neighbourhood Panel. There being no other nominations, Cllr Elizabeth Stazicker was duly appointed as Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing municipal year.

### **WNP11/03 Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Anna Bailey was proposed and seconded as Vice-Chairman of the West Area Neighbourhood Panel. There being no other nominations, Cllr Anna Bailey was duly appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Panel for the ensuing municipal year.

*Since the Chairman had offered apologies for the meeting, the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.*

### **WNP11/04 Chairman's Announcements and Consultation Items**

The Chairman thanked the outgoing Vice-Chairman, Mrs Warren. At the request of the Chairman, the Head of Community Services, made the following announcements:

- Requested that everyone complete the attendance list (and include their E-mail address/postcode).
- At the end of the meeting complete an evaluation form, even if a form had been completed at a previous meeting.
- The 'Update on Actions' from the previous Panel meeting had been circulated via email or post to all Panel Members and attendees. Therefore it was not intended that the update would be discussed. Members were encouraged to raise any outstanding issues, if necessary, under agenda item no. 9 – Discussion of Neighbourhood Issues Raised by Audience and Panel Members. Spare copies of the 'Update on Actions' were available from the Partnerships Officer.
- The following consultation items were highlighted, as detailed on the reverse of the agenda:
  - Delegated Service Protocol
  - Polling places, polling district and polling stations review
  - Village Vision consultation (27 June to 18 July 2011)
  - The 2011-2014 East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Strategy and 2011-2014 Action Plan
  - Olympics Events Diary

The Head of Community Services explained that the East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership's 'Culture and Communities Advisory Group' will be co-ordinating the district's Olympic events diary for 2012. The Group has already led on the co-ordination of the National Cultural Olympiad Weekends across East Cambridgeshire and they are now in the process of contacting all Parish Councils in order to gain their involvement in the planned East Cambs Village Olympics celebrations for 2012. The Head of Community Services encouraged anyone involved in planning any events for next year or would like to know more of the Groups' plans, to contact Tracey Harding, Team Leader - Tourism and Town Centres, ECDC, Tel: 01353 665555 or e-mail [tracey.harding@eastcamb.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.harding@eastcamb.gov.uk)

- Prevention of Ill Health Amongst Adults 16 – 65

Cambridgeshire County Council and the NHS Primary Care Trust (PCTs) are currently developing a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) looking at the prevention of ill health in adults of working age.

The JSNA will include the following information:

- Provide analysis of data to show the health and wellbeing status of local communities;
- Define where inequalities exist;
- Provide information on local community views;
- Provide evidence of effectiveness of existing interventions which will help to shape future plans for services;
- Make specific recommendations based on the information and evidence collected.

An essential part of developing the JSNA was to engage the community in thinking about prevention and what it means to their lives. Therefore a short survey had been devised, that was tabled at the meeting, that the Panel was invited to complete and submit by 19 August 2011. Any queries could be directed to [val.thomas@cambridgeshire.nhs.uk](mailto:val.thomas@cambridgeshire.nhs.uk) or [wendy.quarry@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.quarry@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

### **WNP11/05 Revised Terms of Reference**

The Partnerships Officer presented the revised Terms of Reference, which were being submitted to all of the Neighbourhood Panels and relevant partner bodies for approval. The Partnerships Officer explained that the following amendments had been made to the Terms of Reference:

- Appendix A detailing the Panel Members and Officer details had been updated.
- A template agenda had been included as Appendix C.
- Paragraphs 13.0 - 13.2 were new additions and referred to 'Amendments to the Terms of Reference'.
- Paragraphs 5.0 - 5.5 had been amended to reflect the changes to the officer support arrangements at the Neighbourhood Panels.
- Section 2.0 – Key Tasks now included reference to 'identify opportunities to support the delivery of actions in Parish Plans when considering issues and deciding priorities'. This element would hopefully assist Parishes that were experiencing difficulties in progressing their Parish Plans.

The Partnerships Officer explained that if the Panel could not approve the Terms of Reference at tonight's meeting, that comments should be submitted by 8 August 2011 and that a final draft would be prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Panel.

Cllr Hunt stated that the Neighbourhood Panel literature seemed to limit access to only those that were able to use a computer and therefore requested that all future literature include postal contact details. The Partnerships Officer agreed and acknowledged that all future literature would also include contact details for individual Panel Members. Cllr Hunt stated that most importantly East Cambridgeshire District Council Officer contact details should be incorporated.

Cllr G Wilson noted that if a Parish Council Member is unable to attend the Panel meeting that a substitute representative could attend. The Partnerships Officer explained that although it was preferable for the same Member to attend the Panel meetings, a substitute Member could attend if advanced notification was received prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Cllr Read stated that it was apparent from the lack of attendees that the cancellation of the last Neighbourhood Panel Meeting had negatively affected the attendance at this meeting and suggested that it was preferable that the Panel should meet at the same venue each time.

Mrs Warren stated that the Neighbourhood Panel Meetings should be more widely advertised. The Partnerships Officer explained that newsletters and posters advertising the Neighbourhood Panels were circulated to all key agencies. However, the Partnerships Officer stated that she would circulate the distribution list to all Panel Members and would welcome any suggested additions.

In response to a question, the Partnerships Officer confirmed that a report detailing the business that each Neighbourhood Panel considered is submitted for publication to each individual Parish Magazine.

Upon being put to the vote, it was AGREED:

That the Terms of Reference be approved.

**Action by: Partnerships Officer ECDC**

*The Chairman announced that the order of the agenda was to be amended and that Agenda Item 7 – Managing Growth Visions LDF was the next item of business that the Panel would consider. The remaining business was considered as per the published agenda.*

#### **WNP11/06 Managing Growth Visions Local Development Framework**

The Principal Forward Planning Officer delivered a presentation to publicise the Core Strategy Review document. A summary of the presentation is as follows:

- The Core Strategy is the Statutory Development Plan for East Cambridgeshire and had a key role in managing growth. The Core Strategy document established where, when and how much development should take place up to 2025 and would ensure that development occurred in the best place. The Core Strategy enabled the Council to plan for infrastructure and community facilities in line with new growth.
- The Core Strategy Review will incorporate the new coalition Government agenda, which removed top down targets and involved greater local input in whether particular areas of the district should experience growth.
- The Core Strategy Review provides an opportunity for the District Council and Parish Councils to work together as well as to incorporate the various Masterplans into the Statutory Plan.
- The Council was advanced in its production of the Core Strategy and an overview of the timetable for the Core Strategy Review was provided. Adoption of the Core Strategy Review was expected in late 2012.
- The Forward Planning Team was currently consulting with various Parish Councils and asking Parishes to consider key questions via a questionnaire regarding local needs and priorities.
- Information and questionnaires are available on the Council's website - [www.eastcamb.gov.uk/local-development-framework/core-strategy-review](http://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/local-development-framework/core-strategy-review)
- Alternatively the Forward Planning Team may be contacted on 01353 665555 or email [ldf@eastcamb.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@eastcamb.gov.uk)

The Chairman asked the Principal Forward Planning Officer to explain the practicalities of how the Core Strategy Review would incorporate Parishes. The Principal Forward Planning Officer explained that some Parishes had Parish Plans, which could feed into the Core Strategy document, and hopefully these documents would compliment each other.

Mrs Wardle explained that the Parish already had a Parish Plan and were considering whether to devise a new Plan. On the basis that the Core Strategy was being reviewed Mrs Wardle enquired whether the Parish should suspend reviewing the Parish Plan. The Principal Forward Planning Officer explained that Core Strategy was a strategic document and there may be other issues that a Parish would want to include in their Parish Plan that would not be included in the Core Strategy document.

### **WNP11/07 Neighbourhood Policing Update**

Inspector Robin Sissons delivered a presentation on the Neighbourhood Policing Update for the Panel area. At the last Neighbourhood Panel meeting the police priority set by the Panel was to address drugs issues. A summary of the presentation on how this issue had been addressed is as follows:

- 3 simultaneous Drugs Warrants were executed at Earith Bridge Travellers Site on 29 June 2011. 4 persons were arrested for cultivation and abstracting electricity; 2 persons were arrested for cultivation, abstracting electricity, possession of controlled substances and items were also seized from burglaries; 2 persons were issued with £80 Penalty Notices for cannabis possession and 1 male wanted on recall to prison was taken into custody.
- A Drugs Warrant was executed in Top Street, Stretham where a significant quantity of Cannabis was seized. 1 person received a Caution and 1 person was charged with Possession/Supply.
- A male was stop-searched in a street in Stretham. Cannabis was found so a house searched was conducted where further cannabis was found. Enquiries were ongoing and would shortly be featured in the press.
- The police have the power to seize both drugs as well as any money associated with the proceeds from the criminal activity, which is very effective as criminals cannot instantly buy further drugs.
- If the police can prove that a premises was being used for drug activity and that anti social behaviour was also involved, the police can issue a closure order on a premises, as had recently occurred regarding a property in Ely.
- On 4 July 2011 at Cheffins Farm Machinery Sales in Sutton a joint operation targeting fuel offences was executed between the Police RCAT (Rural Crime Action Team), Ely Neighbourhood Policing Team and Special Constables, ECDC and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Road Fuel Testing Unit. The tanks of 317 vehicles were dipped and 5 were found to be running on 'red' diesel. 2 offenders were given words of advice; 3 vehicles were seized and later released following a fine of £500 each. 4 cars were found to have no insurance (3 were recovered and 1 was crushed). 1 Penalty Notice of £200 for no insurance was issued; 4 Penalty Notices of £60 for not wearing seatbelts were issued; 1 Penalty Notice of £200 for no Tax was issued; 7 Penalty Notices of £30 for trailer number plate offences were issued and 1 Production Notice for no MOT was issued.
- The new Chief Constable was keen to promote a different type of policing called 'Restorative Justice'. This would result in less people being taken into

custody, produce a financial saving and could be effective if used in appropriate types of crimes. 'Restorative justice' was victim focused, could only be issued once and had meaningful conditions. A recent example of restorative justice was where two minors had damaged a number of trees and windows in a school. In response those minors had to write letters of apology to those affected by their actions, particularly the school caretaker, and also had to undertake a litter picking exercise. If the minors had been taken into custody they would probably only have received a caution.

- Inspector Sissons did not have any urgent policing priorities to recommend to the Panel. The police would continue to tackle any drugs issues within the Panel Area irrespective of whether the police were set this as a priority.
- In comparison to April – Jun 2010, the reported crime figures for the same period in 2011 had increased. However, the incidents of anti-social behaviour for the same period in 2011 had decreased.
- The Panel were provided with details of the convictions and punishments relating to two Stretham residents, Trevor Loveridge and Bobby Loveridge.
- The Panel were also provided with details of the convictions relating to John Smith, David Loveridge and George Loveridge in connection with the illegal scrap yard at Cophall Farm, Little Downham. Sentencing had been adjourned until 23 August 2011 by which time the offenders have to provide proposals to bring the land back to a residential standard.

Cllr P Wilson stated that the cost of vehicle insurance for some people was significant, particularly for young people, and the fine received if found to be driving without insurance was not a deterrent. Inspector Sissons agreed, however, fines were a government responsibility and although the police did not have any jurisdiction regarding fines, concerns were escalated to government.

Cllr Hunt requested that at the next Neighbourhood Panel meeting that the crime figures are presented along with the number of arrests and convictions that relate to those crimes. Inspector Sissons informed the Panel that there was a high detection rate at the moment with approximately a third of reported crimes being detected. Cllr Hunt accepted this, but wanted more specific information.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Sissons and welcomed 'restorative justice' policing.

**Action by: Inspector Sissons, Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

### **WNP11/08 Queen Elizabeth Fields Challenge**

A presentation was delivered by Mark Healy from 'Fields in Trust' promoting The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge. It was explained that 2012 was an exciting year in the UK as there were two events scheduled: Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics.

The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge is headed by its Patron The Duke of Cambridge and operated by Fields in Trust, and was a programme to protect 2012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities all across the country as a permanent living legacy of these landmark occasions.

Outdoor recreational spaces promote better health, improve community cohesion and offer everyone a space to have fun and relax. However, they continue to be threatened by development. More than 6,000 playing fields have been lost since

1996. The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge (QE2 Challenge) will ensure that this land will be available for future generations.

Parish Councils and Communities are being encouraged to consider and to propose potential areas to be protected as part of the QE2 Challenge using the QE2 Nomination Forms. Should a nomination be successful, the Fields in Trust will fund all costs associated with the application, apart from the land registry fee to change the name on the deed and the cost to assemble a QE2 plaque. There are currently 3 sites within Cambridgeshire that are protected as part of the QE2 Challenge.

Proposals must be submitted by land owners and if the land is owned by the District Council, Lewis Bage at ECDC must be notified on 01353 665555 or email [lewis.bage@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:lewis.bage@eastcambs.gov.uk) and will complete nomination forms on behalf of ECDC. The deadline for nominations is 1 September 2011.

Cllr G Wilson enquired of the capital funds available and the purposes that the funding could be used for. It was explained that via the SITA Trust up to £25,000 was available to fund capital work projects, such as, additional play equipment, a storage unit or a youth shelter. £5,000 was available for voluntary projects, for instance a voluntary group wanting to improve a particular area and £50,000 could be available towards grass-based pitches, with the exception of hockey pitches.

Cllr Hunt enquired whether the District Council was involved in promoting the Challenge and suggested that a letter of endorsement from the Neighbourhood Panel be circulated to Parish Councils. The Panel were informed that ECDC were keen to be involved and that the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk had 12 sites nominated and Milton Keynes Council had 9 sites nominated.

In response to a number of questions it was explained that a site must be proposed by the site owner and that if a site was currently registered with the Fields in Trust and a QE2 Challenge application was submitted for that site, the application would be fast tracked.

The Chairman enquired whether the Parish Councils are receiving information on The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge from the District Council. The Head of Community Services explained that each Neighbourhood Panel meeting was receiving a presentation on the matter and that contact details were available on the paperwork that had been circulated at the meeting, which were also available online. The Head of Community Services was very keen for the district to submit as many applications as possible and emphasised the submission deadline of 1 September 2011.

Cllr G Wilson noted that there were also other presentations and workshops taking place throughout the county to assist with the completion of application forms. This was confirmed and it was emphasised the application form was brief to complete, essentially identifying the site/open space, the owner and its usage.

#### **WNP11/09 Neighbourhood Issues**

The following issues were raised by Parish representatives/public:

<b>Coveney</b>	Not present. However, Mrs Wardle reported that flytipping in Coveney was becoming an issue.
<b>Haddenham</b>	Issues of parking on double yellow lines, particularly on Top Corner (the crossroads), which is exacerbated after 4pm. Speedwatch – Haddenham has a number of willing volunteers wanting to become involved in the scheme. Hanson gravel HGVs are travelling on the A1123 from St Ives through Haddenham, which Cllr P Wilson understood there to be an agreement that this route should not be used.
<b>Little Downham</b>	No Issues
<b>Little Thetford</b>	On 20 June 2011 contact was made with the police following minor vandalism. An email was received from the local policing team stating that patrols would occur. However, patrols do not appear to have been conducted. Although the vandalism was only minor it was not what Little Thetford residents are accustomed to. Inspector Sissons was disappointed that the resident felt aggrieved to need to raise the matter at the Neighbourhood Panel and in order to investigate the matter would like to discuss the issue further and see any correspondence.
<b>Mepal</b>	No Issues
<b>Stretham</b>	A10 – another accident had recently occurred. The volume of traffic was very heavy and assistance was required regarding pedestrian crossing. Cycle path required on A10 as currently it was too dangerous to cycle on. Litter - particularly in the lay-bys and bus shelters.
<b>Sutton</b>	Speeding both in Sutton and generally throughout the district. No active Speedwatch scheme in operation. Inspector Sissons accepted that the Speedwatch scheme in the district had been affected due to a lack of a Speedwatch Co-ordinator. However, he envisaged that the scheme would shortly recommence. Police currently exercised speed checks 1-2 times a week, which tended to be concentrated on accident hotspots. Brian Tully informed the Panel that an ex-Traffic Policeman had become involved in the scheme and was very enthusiastic for it to recommence.
<b>Wentworth</b>	Not Present
<b>Wilburton</b>	HGVs carrying straw were travelling from A10 through the villages. A number of gravel transportation companies were not signed up to the routing agreement, avoiding transportation through villages. New bridge on Twentypence Road, near the Blue Donkey, was badly designed and was an accident waiting to happen.
<b>Witcham</b>	Not Present
<b>Witchford</b>	Litter problems. Vandalism following Witchford Village College Prom. Now that the summer term has concluded further vandalism may be experienced. Parking on pavements.
<b>ECDC Members</b>	Cllr Hunt had been informed that a quad bike was being used on the green in New Close Road, Little Thetford and that he would be providing details to the police after the meeting. Cllr G Wilson reported that Haddenham Parish Council had purchased 3 further nitrogen dioxide testers in order to monitor the

	<p>pollution levels from vehicular movement throughout the village. One tester was currently sited by The Arkenstall Centre. Cllr G Wilson encouraged other Parishes that experienced similar issues to purchase these testers as they were very inexpensive. Further information could be obtained from Marcus Bell in Environmental Services at the District Council.</p>
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## **WNP11/10 Panel Prioritisation**

The Panel's discussion on the policing priorities for the next 3 months included:

- to continue to address drugs issues within the Neighbourhood Panel Area as this would have a positive impact on addressing other criminal activity.
- to report back on the Speedwatch scheme.
- to address burglary and theft of vehicles.
- to tackle parking on double yellow lines.
- to address theft of red diesel
- parking on pavements

Inspector Sissons explained that the police would continue to tackle any drug related issues within the Panel Area irrespective of whether the police were set this as a priority. Regarding burglary and theft, the occurrence of these criminal activities was often influenced by the release of offenders from prison. The theft of red diesel was a hard issue to address and would need joint working with the farming fraternity.

Following a discussion the Panel agreed that the policing priorities for the next 3 months should be addressing:

- Speeding, including Speedwatch
- Illegal parking offences across the Panel area

Mr Jellicoe enquired how the police intended to recruit volunteers to Speedwatch. Inspector Sissons explained that a variety of methods would be used, as the new Speedwatch Co-ordinator will have contacts, as will the Police Community Support Officers, the media will also play a part as well as advertising via the website and word of mouth.

The Partnerships Officer suggested that the Panel might like to add 'Speedwatch' as an item on the next agenda, which the Panel agreed.

Mr Tully noted that although 'Speedwatch' was a police initiative it was a scheme that belonged to the community and to the Neighbourhood Panels.

The Panel's discussion on the non-policing priorities for the next 3 months included:

- Flytipping
- Reduction of HGV traffic through villages
- The provision of a cycle path along the A142 between Witcham Toll and Wentworth

The Panel agreed that the non-policing priorities for the next 3 months should be:

- Reduction of HGV traffic through villages

- The provision of a cycle path along the A142 between Witcham Toll and Wentworth.

It was felt that Cambridgeshire County Council should provide an update as to when a cycle path would be constructed along the A142 between Witcham Toll and Wentworth.

Mr Jellicoe reported that by changing the method of construction Cambridgeshire County Council had now reduced the estimated cost of constructing this path to £60,000. However, the County had noted that this would not be constructed to their standard, but other paths had been constructed in the county using similar methods. A meeting had been arranged with the County next month, which Sutton Parish Council had requested to attend.

**WNP11/11 Forward Agenda Plans**

Forward agenda Plans for 2011 and 2012 were received. As previously agreed 'Speedwatch' was added to the October agenda.

**WNP11/12 Date of Next Meeting**

**Monday 24 October 2011 - 19:00-21:00 – Witchford Village Hall, Bedwell Hey Lane, Witchford.**

The Meeting closed at 8.34pm.