



West Neighbourhood Panel Update

March 2013

**East Cambridgeshire District Council
Action Updates**

Priorities

None set

Other Issues Raised at the Panel meeting

No.	Issue	Action Taken
1	Sunken boat at river – bottom of Little Thetford, past bridge (maintained area) –	The Environment Agency is aware of the sunken boat and have advised that it has been there for around 12 months. EA Headquarters have received quotes to carry out the removal of the boat and will do this before the start of the 2013 boating season.
2	Hosepipe ban concerns – more houses being built. What are plans to cope with it? Water shortages, lack of pressure (district-wide) Cllr Wilson to mention to Anglia Water. Include on forward agenda	Cllr Gareth Wilson visited Anglia Water's Sewage works with local resident Brian Allen and East Cambs officer Rick Warren to look into the problems of flooding and sewage flowing from the manhole covers whenever there is a storm. The main reason for this problem is that surface water drainage has been incorrectly connected to the sewer system. However, the system should be able to cope with this. The water engineers need to locate the exact problem when it occurs. If you see a flooding problem then please immediately phone the emergency telephone Number 08547 145 145 In the past people have either assumed that someone else has contacted Anglian Water, phoned the wrong number or believed that nothing would be done. If the engineer gets to the spot quickly, he can find out whether there is a blockage, a pump failure or some other problem and get it sorted.
3	Parking – yellow lines on one side of the road in Mepal (where school is	Mepal Parish Council to request additional yellow lines; request would best be made to the local highways office at Witchford

	located). Cars coming out of school have to turn the wrong way	
4	Dog bins overflowing all of the time - Doghouse Grove, Wilburton Dog bin near pound Rubbish around seat not cleared away on High St (at the pound) near Station Road - Wilburton	Issues re dog bin emptying and rubbish clearance around seat passed to Veolia for attention, supervisory checks requested to monitor ongoing situation.
5	Straw lorries still coming through Wilburton. Need to report to manager of straw burning plant if from there Some coming from Cambridge – get registration numbers and exact times and report	Residents are advised to ring direct to report
6	Witcham Toll to Wentworth cycleway to be added to forward agenda Ely Bypass – CCC figures show 10% increase in traffic. Cycleway becomes more important as road becomes increasingly dangerous Impacts of bypass (especially how it affects cycleway) Cycling Campaign – lack of funding available to deliver project Request for Highways rep to attend next meeting	The County Council currently has no funding available to progress the Witcham Toll cycle link. The County Council is aware of this community desire and will continue to keep this potential scheme in mind when seeking funding opportunities. Highways representative unavailable to attend panel meeting in January however this has been added to the forward agenda.

Other Issues and Information

1. ECDC sports club directory

East Cambridgeshire District Council has recently launched a new online sport club directory. We would like to encourage sport clubs to register online to help raise the profile of sport clubs, promote new sessions and increase memberships. The sport club directory will be published on the council website and be a focal point for residents to find out more information about sport clubs and services. If you would like to register a sport club please visit www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sports/sports-club-directory Or for more information e-mail sportandhealth@eastcambs.gov.uk or call 01353 665555.

2. Waste and recycling bid is a winner

East Cambridgeshire District Council has successfully won a £5 million bid from Central Government to fund a new recycling service and retain weekly waste collections.

The funding, from the Department for Communities and Local Government's 'Weekly Collection Reward Scheme', means residents will find it easier to recycle more of their waste with the new service being introduced in late 2013 or early 2014.

The current brown sack and black box collection system will be replaced with:

- * A new wheeled bin recycling collection, including paper, glass, metal cans, plastics, cartons and cardboard. This will be collected fortnightly.
- * A new wheeled bin collection for organics to include food and garden waste. This will also be collected fortnightly.
- * A fleet of new vehicles for the new services as well as a rescheduling of rounds to reduce carbon emissions.

The weekly waste collections would be retained and collected via black sacks.

The work to put in place the new system will include a survey of all households in the district to identify anyone whose property would not be suitable for the new service. These homes would retain the current black box and brown sack collection service while other households would convert to the wheeled bin service.

Councillor Richard Hobbs, Chairman of the Community and Environment Committee at East Cambridgeshire District Council, said: "Winning the funding to improve our recycling service is fantastic news. In a recent public consultation we had overwhelming support for our plans so it is great to know we can now deliver a recycling service which people want.

"The task ahead of us now is to bring the service in as soon as we can. This will mean a lot of hard work from buying the vehicles and wheeled bins to deliver the service to identifying the homes which will not be suitable for the service. We hope to complete this by next summer and have the service up and running from late 2013 or early 2014. During this process we will ensure residents are kept fully up to date with the progress of our work. Finally I would like to thank the Environmental Team at the District Council who has made our bid successful. It is very exciting to know our recycling rates are set to rise and we can continue to collect black bag rubbish every week in the years to come."

For more information on the waste and recycling service in East Cambridgeshire please visit www.eastcambs.gov.uk or call 01353 665555.



Fly Tipping Reports and Enforcement Actions 2012/13

West Neighbourhood Panel

Parish/Village	Reported Fly Tips												Total
	Apr	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	
Aldreth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0			
Coveney	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1			2
Earith	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			1
Haddenham	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1			4
Little Downham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Little Thetford	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			2
Mepal	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1			6
Pymoor	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0			1
Stretham	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0			4
Sutton	3	1	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	0			10
Wardy Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			1
Wentworth	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0			2
Wilburton	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			1
Witcham	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0			4
Witchford	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	2			7
Month total	8	3	5	7	6	0	5	3	2	7	0	0	46

Total Fly Tipping Reports in East Cambridgeshire

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Monthly Ave.
2012/13	26	24	27	25	25	13	22	19	8	20				
2011/12	27	23	23	25	28	38	43	30	32	54	0	0	0	27.33
2010/11	47	15	35	31	33	16	28	20	19	18	30	28	320	32.20
2009/10	41	20	24	39	17	40	24	35	32	27	32	57	388	32.33

2008/09	42	19	30	37	32	30	50	28	18	47	29	37	399	33.25
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Fly Tipping Enforcement Actions 2012/13 (District)

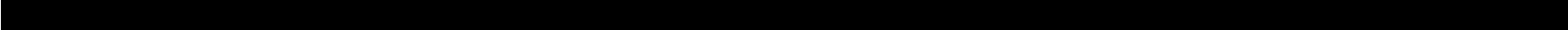
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Investigation	27	16	33	32	42	31	31	28	20	37			297
Warning letter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			1
Statutory Notice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			1
Duty of Care Inspection	3	0	1	1	1	0	14	9	0	0			29
Stop & Search	7	1	1	0	0	9	0	0	0	0			18
Formal Caution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Formal Caution With Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0

Fly Tipping Enforcement Actions 2011/12 (District)

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Investigation	32	17	21	27	42	37	61	53	38	74	33	57	492
Warning letter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Notice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fixed Penalty Notice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Duty of Care Inspection	2	3	2	0	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	1	17
Stop & Search	0	0	1	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	10	23
Formal Caution	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Formal Caution With Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Fly Tipping Enforcement Options

Investigation	Inspection of fly tip for evidence that could lead to enforcement action being taken, together with related enquiries.
Warning letter	Used where formal enforcement action is not considered appropriate as a warning of the potential consequences of further infringements.
Statutory Notice	A legal requirement to provide information that will assist with investigation of an offence.
Fixed Penalty Notice	Agreement to accept a standard penalty fee as an alternative to formal legal action.
Duty of Care Inspection	Check that a business has correct arrangements in place for the storage, transport and disposal of its waste.
Stop & Search	Check on vehicle carrying waste for waste carriers licence and waste disposal documentation.
Formal Caution	An offender having admitted an offence is formerly cautioned by the Head of Service. A record is kept of the Caution for 5 years.
Formal Caution With Costs	As Formal Caution, but investigation and clear up costs are charged to the offender.
Prosecution	Formal prosecution through the Court System.



Dog Fouling Reports 2012/13

West Neighbourhood Panel

Parish/Village	Fouling Reports												Total
	Apr	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	
Aldreth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coveney	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Earith	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haddenham	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Little Downham	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	6
Little Thetford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mepal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pymoor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stretham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	6	0	0	13
Wardy Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wentworth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilburton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Witcham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Witchford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Month total	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	10	8	0	0	24

Total Dog Fouling Reports in East Cambridgeshire

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Monthly Ave.
2012/13	7	6	7	4	8	12	9	8	18	16				
2011/12	5	4	0	1	1	6	4	12	10	24	0	0	67	2.20
2010/11	4	7	7	8	4	5	9	8	13	19	21	12	117	6.00
2009/10	2	4	1	4	1	0	7	3	8	11	14	9	64	5.33

**Cambridgeshire County Council
Action Updates**

Priorities

None set

Other Issues Raised at the Panel meeting

No.	Issue	Action Taken
1	<p>Panel would like details of the formal diversion routes around Coveney and Wardy Hill, in the event of an accident on the A142.</p> <p>State of the verges (require maintenance).</p>	<p>The exact diversion route would depend upon the location of the incident.</p> <p>If the incident happens between Elean Business Park and Witcham Toll. The diversion route is: B1381 through Sutton to Earith Bridge; A1123 to Haddenham crossroads; A1421 to Witcham Toll and vice versa.</p> <p>If between Witchford village and Witcham Toll, the official diversion would be: A142 Witchford bypass to A10 Downham Road, Ely; A10 Cambridge Road, Ely to Stretham; A1123 Stretham to Haddenham cross roads; A1421 to Witcham Toll and vice versa.</p> <p>If incident is at Witcham Toll junction, diversion would be to continue along A1123 rather than A1421.</p> <p>Some local residents may, however, choose to use the back roads around the villages. The Police, however, may divert other ways; the Local Highway Authority is not always called to incidents to assist.</p> <p>The County Council no longer cut grips annually, especially in rural areas as it can be a case of as soon as they are cut, the next vehicle past closes the grip again.</p>

		In areas where the council does cut grips, the works are done on an as and when required basis. The County Council has recently cut some grips between Coveney and the A142.
2	<p>What are Highways' criteria to determine the need for repair for roads and verges (out of Haddenham towards Earith road) – condition of road near children's camp (A1123) is very poor.</p> <p>Road between Haddenham and Wilburton – wavy road, possibly due to weight of the lorries.</p> <p>Haddenham to Wilburton road has been resurfaced, however, part not complete</p>	<p>This road is on the drought bid proposal list and has been scored in association with other drought affected roads in Cambridgeshire to obtain funds to carry out significant repairs. Some areas have been inspected and orders raised to carry out small patching works but additional funds are required for further works.</p> <p>This road obtained funds through the drought list bids. Some works done but only place to place, as far as funds would allow. Further bids have been made for future funds.</p> <p>This road obtained funds through the drought list bids. Some works done but only place to place, as far as funds would allow. Further bids have been made for future funds.</p>
3	<p>No verges on sides of roads in and around Little Downham and Pymoor.</p> <p>No maintenance on verges</p>	<p>Most of the roads in this agricultural area are single width and are subject to vehicle over run. Much of this is caused by tractors and lorries going about their business. We have had an unusually sustained period of wet weather and this has made the condition of the verge edges much worse than normal. Any attempt to repair or maintain the verges in these conditions would be counterproductive, as the inevitable vehicle over run would quickly obscure any work done. The verges do have a habit of recovering well in the spring months but the County Council will continue to monitor conditions and take any remedial action deemed necessary.</p> <p>All verges in the county are budgeted to 3 cuts annually. One in spring, one in summer</p>

<p>around Little Downham and Pymoor – emergency maintenance needed along Black Bank</p> <p>Black Bank and Pymoor Common (Little Downham to Littleport) is considered to be dangerous.</p> <p>Pymoor / Welney – dips in road. Needs attention (toward bank river – where 20 mph sign is located)</p>	<p>and the final cut in autumn. This involves the cutting of a 1 metre swarth everywhere, and a deeper cut in visibility locations such as junctions and bends. The last cut took place in October 2012.</p> <p>There is no allocated budget for the cutting of grips to release water from the road, however, the County Council has just completed an independently ordered grip cutting programme in November. This can only remain effective if vehicles do not over run the verges where grips are cut.</p> <p>Black Bank Road and Pymoor Common have been identified by the County Council as drought damaged roads and have been scored and included on a special list for capitally funded repair. Subject to funds remaining available, it is hoped that these roads will receive attention. In the meantime, the County Council has carried out minor essential work at both locations. Where deemed necessary, erected signs have been erected to warn drivers of any adverse conditions. The County Council will continue to monitor the roads and carry out any essential maintenance in the meantime.</p> <p>As with the two roads above, this section of Hundred Foot Bank is on the County Council's drought damaged list and is subject to the same monitoring and conditions.</p>
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Current Issues & Information

County Council upgrades highway fault reporting system. People wanting to report a problem with the roads across Cambridgeshire will now find it easier thanks to improvements put in place by the County Council.

The changes have been made following consultation with the public on the way they prefer to report potholes and other highway problems.

The online Highways Fault Reporting System has been upgraded to provide:

- * Easier data entry for the public
- * Improved tracking so people reporting on-line can follow progress of a repair
- * The ability to enter a second fault without the need to re-enter personal/contact details
- * Better system capacity to ensure fault reports do not fail
- * Better on-line access to advice and information from the County Council's Contact Centre.

The County Council is committed to keeping the roads across Cambridgeshire in as good a condition as possible and has committed £90m of extra funding to highways maintenance.

The improvements to the Highway Fault Reporting System are designed to make it easier for the public to report a concern or a fault, which will then be dealt with as quickly as possible by the County Council's repair teams throughout Cambridgeshire.

To report a highways fault, go to: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/reportingafault.htm or telephone the Contract Centre on 0345 045 5212.

Between the beginning of December 2012 and the end of January 2013, more than 600 potholes across Cambridgeshire have been reported and repair work to fix them ordered by the County Council highway teams.

Sanctuary Housing Action Updates

Priorities

None set

Other Issues Raised at the Panel meeting

None raised

Current Issues & Information

The Government is reducing the amount of housing benefit some people can claim.

If you claim housing benefit to help pay your rent you may be affected by changes from April 2013. The changes mean that some people will get less housing benefit than they did before.

From April 2013, if you live in a council or housing association home and you have one or more 'spare' bedrooms your housing benefit may be reduced.

This could affect you:

- if you are 16 to 61 years old
- even if you only get a small amount of housing benefit – for example, if you are working
- even if you are sick or disabled

You won't be affected if:

- you live in a one bedroom flat or bedsit, or if
- you or your partner are old enough to receive pension credits.
- In April 2013 the pension credit age will be around 61 years and 6 months

The new benefit rules will apply from April 2013, so now is the time to get help and support.

What is a 'spare' bedroom?

Under the new rules if you have more bedrooms than the Government says you need, you will lose part of your housing benefit. The new rules mean you will be allocated one bedroom for:

- each adult couple
- any other person aged 16 or over
- two children of the same sex under the age of 16
- two children under the age of 10 regardless of their sex
- any other child
- a carer (who does not normally live with you) if you or your partner need overnight care.

It does not matter how the 'spare' bedroom is used, the new rules will apply even if:

- you and your partner need to sleep apart because of a medical condition
- the main residence of your children is another address, but you have a spare room for when they stay with you.

What happens if you have a 'spare' bedroom?

If you have one 'spare' bedroom your housing benefit will be cut by 14% of the rent you pay every week. If you have two or more spare bedrooms, you will lose 25%. If your benefit is cut you will have to pay your landlord the difference between your housing benefit and your rent.

Limit on benefits

From April 2013, the overall amount of benefit you can receive will be capped. The Government will add up how much money you get from a range of benefits, including: housing benefit, jobseeker's allowance, employment support allowance, child benefit, child tax credit and carer's allowance.

If the total comes to more than the maximum amount allowed your housing benefit payments will be reduced.

The maximum amount of benefit you will be able to receive from April 2013 will be:

- £500 per week for single parents
- £500 per week for couples with or without children
- £350 per week for single people without children.

This will not apply to you if:

- you get pension credit or working tax credit
- a member of your household is claiming disability living allowance, attendance allowance or the support element of employment support allowance.

If you are worried about being able to afford to pay your rent from April 2013 you should ask for advice now. If you don't pay your rent you could lose your home, so talk to your landlord about different ways to pay. You can also:

- Talk to your landlord about transferring to a smaller home or taking in a lodger
- Contact your council to ask about extra financial help. Councils have a limited amount of money available to make discretionary payments towards housing costs. Your council may prioritise your claim if you have a disability and your house has been adapted.
- Get in touch with your local citizens advice bureau (www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or other local advice agencies
- Make sure you are claiming all the benefits you can – for example, money to help with the costs of a disability
- Try to find some paid work to increase your income
- Get more information about the cap on benefits by calling the Government's information line on 0845 605 7064.

Do you have a disability and need overnight care?

If you are of working age, have a disability and need a 'spare' bedroom so that a carer can stay overnight you should contact your local council now so that staff can help you keep more of your housing benefit.

Changes to council tax benefit

From April 2013, if you are of working age and claim council tax benefit, the amount of support

you receive may be cut. This is because the Government is reducing the amount of money available and asking local councils to run their own schemes, which may vary from area to area. Contact your local council for details.

If you have any questions about the information in this leaflet you can talk to your:

- Landlord
- local council
- citizens advice bureau
- local advice agency.

**East Cambridgeshire Local Policing Team
Action Updates**

Priorities

Speeding – in previous priority areas (The Americas in Sutton)	
Objective	To reduce the number of speeding vehicles along this section of road.
Action Taken	<p>The community Speedwatch team have deployed resources in the area to record the number of speeding vehicles and to educate speeding drivers. As a result of this activity 288 vehicles were monitored and 26 letters sent out to speeding motorists.</p> <p>The local Policing team have spent time in the area enforcing the speed limit where appropriate. As a result of this 2 Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices were issued and 11 drivers given words of advice.</p>
Current Situation	We have seen an improvement in the area with regards to the number of speeding drivers prosecuted. We are very aware that the number of speeding vehicles will vary subject to the time of day and due to drivers warning others that the Police are present.
Continue or Discharge?	The ultimate test is if the community feel that less drivers are speeding through the village. We would like to hear from the community at the forthcoming Panel meeting - or via Shape Your Place, or the Policing East Cambridgeshire Facebook page - as to whether this is the case or not.

Other Issues Raised at the Panel meeting:

Number	Issue	Action Taken
1	People not checking car lights (broken lights) - Wilburton	Local officers advised. These issues are routinely addressed when witnessed by Police officers whilst on patrol.
2	Reports of some tractors and trailers driven dangerously or carelessly – A1123 Wilburton - Wilburton	The local Policing team are aware of this issue and the fact that it has been raised in previous Panel meetings. We have had no reports of dangerous or careless driving and have not witnessed any such offences. The local officers are aware and are speaking to local farmers as a matter of course. It has been a busy period for the farmers during this period . We have had cause to speak to them regarding other matters such as mud on the road. Although we have had some reports of this we have been impressed with how the local farmers have tried to keep this to a minimum.

Fire Service data

Month	Ward	Is Primary Fire	Is Derelict	Is Chimney Fire	Property Category	Property Type	Is Property Regulated	Cause
Dec	Stretham	yes			Vehicle	Car		Accidental
Dec	Stretham	yes			Domestic	House		Accidental
Nov	Downham					Rubbish		Accidental
Dec	Stretham					Grass		Accidental
Nov	Stretham					Rubbish		Deliberate
Oct	Stretham					Grass		Accidental
Oct	Sutton					Rubbish		Accidental