

Soham & East Area Neighbourhood Panel

Chippenham • Fordham • Isleham • Kennett • Snailwell • Soham • Wicken



Welcome to the Soham and East Area Neighbourhood Panel newsletter! It summarises the main topics and points raised at the recent Neighbourhood Panel meeting held on **Wednesday 9th October 2013 at Soham Village College**

Neighbourhood Panels are your opportunity to tell agencies working in your area what you would like to see improved and will ultimately make your locality a better place to live. Please come along to the next Panel meeting and help shape the discussions about your community!

NEW VENUE! The next meeting is being held on Wednesday 29th January 2014, 7 – 9pm The Beeches (Isleham new Community Centre), Mill Street, Isleham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5RY

Please use the link to access the Neighbourhood Panel webpage, which provides background information and all up-to-date documents
www.eastcamb.gov.uk/neighbourhood-panels/

Hot Topics

Chairman and Vice-chairman

The Soham and East Neighbourhood Panel Area Chairman is Cllr Derrick Beckett and Vice-Chairman is Cllr Tony Cornell.



Cllr Derrick Beckett



Cllr Tony Cornell

'ShapeYourPlace' – our community website

Matthew Hall, Cambridgeshire County Council, gave an update on the community website 'ShapeYourPlace' (SYP) which has now been operating for over 18 months in East Cambridgeshire.

Matthew reminded the Panel that there are 5 sites for East Cambs: Ely, Littleport, Soham, South villages and West villages, with 18 sites across the whole of Cambridgeshire. The figures for the first 18 months are very encouraging and demonstrate the effectiveness of SYP as a community engagement tool:

- Visitors to the sites: 18,000+
- Individual Visits to the sites: 42,000+
- Page views: 100,000+
- Issues: 100+
- Comments: 1,300+

SYP (East Cambs) has been accessed by

approximately 20% of the East Cambs population and continues to attract repeat visitors and new visitors. This reflects how responsive it is to community needs (for example the site operates 365 days of the year, issues are responded to within 10 days and SYP is mobile responsive).

The site has three main parts:

- Issues: raised by residents, referred to the lead partner who responds within 10 working days. The relevant County Councillor, District Councillor, City/Parish Council clerks are alerted so they can join in the conversation if they want.
- Comments: can be made on issues and blogposts
- Blogposting: community groups and organisations can post news stories, events and consultations

Feedback from SYP users across the County is positive with 75%+ of visitors finding the

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- Parking around schools

sites easy to use; 90%+ finding the sites helpful and 55%+ feeling the sites helped them to influence local decision-making.

Matthew urged everyone (both individually and as part of a community/local council group) to use the site to improve the quality of life for residents within the District.

Visit www.shapeyourplace.org and have your say!

Review of Neighbourhood Panels

Giles Huges (Head of Planning), East Cambridgeshire District Council gave a presentation on the Service Review of Neighbourhood Panels being undertaken by the District and County Councils, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Sanctuary Housing. The review of Neighbourhood Panels was instigated by the District Council's Community and Environment Committee earlier this year following concerns expressed by parish councils, council officers and Panel partners about their effectiveness and value for money as a method of community engagement.

The Review has:

- Assessed whether Neighbourhood Panels provide an effective means for agencies to engage face to face with residents and communities.
- Looked at other engagement tools that could replace or add value to the panels.

Upon considering the available evidence including Panel Member and public attendance and the types of issues raised, all organisations involved in the Service Review have concluded that the East Cambs Neighbourhood Panels are not an effective method of community engagement. Therefore the District Council will be making a recommendation to its Community and Environment Committee that they cease. If this recommendation is approved, the final Neighbourhood Panels in East Cambridgeshire will be held in January 2014.

Giles stressed that all organisations remain committed to tackling community issues and engaging with residents through mechanisms such as 'ShapeYourPlace', on-line fault reporting, our customer services facilities where people can phone or visit in person, and individual consultation exercises when services are going to be changed.

The Review Group have also identified that there may be benefits in holding a regular event that enables parish council representatives to meet with public sector organisations to share information. The Service Review Group is therefore keen to explore with Parish and Town Councils whether a 'Parish Conference' could be a suitable

tool for this. To that end every Council has been sent a questionnaire to complete to ascertain whether this approach would be valued and if so, what format it should take. The deadline for responses to the questionnaire is 5th December and should be returned to Julie Cornwell, Partnerships Officer, East Cambs District Council.

Foodbank Developments

Ely Foodbank opened last November having been called to serve an area of a 15 mile radius of Ely. Initially, as you may expect, the focus has been the Ely area but the Foodbank has already served more than 250 people from the 2 wards in Soham and several from the villages in the area, including the South Panel area. To date, more than 1,000 people have been served by Ely Foodbank (with the equivalent of 10,000 meals)

Local people have been astonishingly generous by buying additional items of food, with more than 12 tonnes having been given in the first seven months! This generosity, the teamwork of the Foodbank's volunteers and considerable development work behind the scenes has led Ely Foodbank to make further significant steps in seeking to fulfil its remit.

A Foodbank, backed by Churches Together in Soham, the Town Council, the Children's Centre and local traders working in partnership with Ely Foodbank (a Trussell Trust Foodbank) will open in Soham on Thursday, 11th July at the Salvation Army centre in Bushel Lane, Soham. People who are in food crisis will be able to collect their food in Soham on production of a Foodbank Voucher on Thursdays 1000 - 1100, or in Ely from The Lighthouse Centre on Tuesday afternoons or from The Forum, in Barton Road on Friday afternoons., so clients can make their choice.

The Foodbanks aim to serve people in food crisis in our local towns and villages, and more Foodbanks (in partnership with Ely Foodbank) are planned in the near future. In this way agencies, organisations and all of us as individuals can play our part in working together to ensure that we can look after local people who are going through difficult times, and enable them to get the help they need to get through their crisis with revived hope and dignity restored.

<http://www.elyfoodbank.org.uk/>

info@elyfoodbank.org.uk

What we've been doing since the last meeting

Cambridgeshire Constabulary were tasked with tackling two priorities at the last Soham and East Area Neighbourhood Panel meeting:

Shed/ Garage burglaries across the panel area

Targeted patrols have taken place overnight during this period, with a particular focus on Fordham, Isleham and Soham.

Shed burglary packs have also been distributed in Fordham and Isleham.

Overall Burglary Non Dwelling has decreased in the area by 13 offences (-43.5%) over the last 3 months.

Burglary non dwelling	Mar - May 2013	Jun - Aug 2013	
Fordham Villages	10	3	- 70.0%
Isleham	1	3	+ 200.0%
Soham North	3	2	- 33.3%
Soham South	9	5	- 44.4%
Total	23	13	- 43.5%

Offenders believed to have been active in this area have been arrested and are currently on bail in relation to East Cambs and Suffolk offences.

Proactive night-time patrols in the Soham, Fordham and Isleham areas remain an ongoing priority, and regular meetings are taking place with police colleagues in Suffolk and Norfolk to share intelligence in relation to cross-border criminality.

Anti social behaviour (Soham)

Regular patrols of Soham have been taking place to deal with ASB. These have focussed on two distinct patterns of ASB:

- Youth-related ASB (including anti-social use of scooters and rowdy/nuisance) – especially in the area of the Recreation Ground, High Street and Brook Dam Lane, and the Kingfisher Estate and nearby streets
- Alcohol-related ASB linked to the night-time economy – particularly on Friday and Saturday nights around licensed premises in the town centre

During this period we've seen a decrease in reported ASB of 18 incidents (16.4%).

Many of these reports also do not relate to the types of ASB referred to above, and instead relate to nuisance messages on social media, noise complaints, neighbour disputes and parking complaints:

There has been an increase in alcohol-related incidents, which largely related to night-time economy issues outside licensed premises in the Town Centre, though some reports of street drinking during the day were also received.

Numerous Guardian Awareness Program letters have been sent out to parents following incidents in Soham during this period, including 19 sent out after an incident on 23/08/2013 (following a party to celebrate GCSE results) where damage was caused to vehicles and a For Sale sign in the Clay Street area.

Anti-Social Behaviour	Mar – May 2013	Jun - Aug 2013	
Soham North	55	49	- 10.9%
Soham South	55	43	- 21.8%
Total	110	92	- 16.4%

Alcohol Related Incidents	Mar – May 2013	Jun - Aug 2013	
Soham North	10	11	+ 10.0%
Soham South	12	18	+ 50.0%
Total	22	29	+ 31.8%

Youth projects, funded by East Cambs CSP, took place over the Summer Holidays, and initial reports suggest that these were successful in engaging with individuals believed to have been involved in ASB and disorderly behaviour.

ASB in Soham continues to be a priority for the East Cambs Policing Team, as well as East Cambs CSP.

Parking around the school areas

Regular patrols have taken place in the areas around schools, but officers report that they have not come across offences or had to issue tickets as a result of these.

What you have asked us to address next

- Dog fouling (Fordham)
- Motorbikes on the high street and on the recreation ground (Soham)
- Addizone damage to the floor – advise needed from the police about preventing damage in future / more patrols (Soham)
- Potholes in the village - East Fen Road and Haughton Lane (Isleham)

Priorities for Action

The Panel agreed that the priorities for the 3 months to the end of December 2013 should be:

- Serious acquisitive crime
- Anti social behaviour in Soham (Halloween)
- Parking around schools

Did You Know.....

That you can raise issues of concern in your neighbourhood on a new community website called 'ShapeYourPlace'?



Soham and East has it's own page and since the launch of the website in on 4th April 2012. You can expect a response from the agency that is responsible for sorting out your concerns within 10 working days of posting

your issue, and you can also add your thoughts about issues already raised by others on the site.

So visit and join in the conversation!

If you would like to raise an issue of concern, but are unable to come to the next Panel meeting, please contact your local Neighbourhood Panel representative or call 01353 665555. Alternatively visit www.Shapeyourplace.org and have your say!

Dates for your diary:

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7 – 9pm. The Beeches (Isleham new Community Centre), Mill Street, Isleham
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