

South Area Neighbourhood Panel

Ashley • Bottisham • Brinkley • Burrough Green • Burwell • Cheveley
Dullingham • Kirtling • Lode • Reach • Stetchworth • Swaffham Bulbeck,
Swaffham Prior • Woodditton • Westley Waterless.



Welcome to the South Area Neighbourhood Panel newsletter! It summarises the main topics and points raised at the recent Neighbourhood Panel meeting held on **Tuesday 8th October 2013 at The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth.**

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!

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/neighbourhood-panels

Hot Topics



'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 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!

The Future of Neighbourhood Panels

Julie Cornwell, Partnerships Officer, East Cambs District Council gave a presentation on the Service Review of Neighbourhood Panels being undertaken by the District

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2013

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Priorities for Action

- **Serious Acquisitive Crime across the Panel area**
- **Inconsiderate and illegal parking in Woodditton**
- **Waste Contract issues**

**The next Panel meeting is on:
Tuesday 28th
January 2014 at
the Manderville
Hall, Tan House
Lane, Reach Road,
Burwell, Cambs.**

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 Panel's 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.

Julie 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.

What we've been doing since the last meeting?

Priority: To reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Burwell

Action taken: During July - September ASB reduced by 3 incidents (8.3%).

Much of the ASB reported is not what would ordinarily be classed as ASB, and relates to parking complaints, noise complaints, neighbour disputes and complaints about nuisance texts or Facebook disputes.

Anti-Social Behaviour	Mar - May 2013	Jun - Aug 2013	
Burwell	36	33	- 8.3%

Alcohol related incidents have also reduced considerably during this period – from 14 to 5 incidents (64.3% reduction).

Alcohol Related Incidents	Mar - May 2013	Jun - Aug 2013	
Burwell	14	5	- 64.3%

It was agreed that this be discharged as a priority.

Priority: To reduce shed/garage burglary across the Panel area

Action taken: Regular patrols have been conducted overnight in the area – concentrating on major routes

that would appear to be being used by offenders.

During July - October offences of non dwelling burglary have continued, though the area has seen the number of burglaries fall from 19 to 17 offences (-11.5%).

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 area remain an ongoing priority, and regular meeting are taking place with police colleagues in Suffolk and Norfolk to share intelligence in relation to cross-border criminality.

Of late shed/garage burglaries have been occurring less frequently, and vehicle crime appears to be more of an issue – with a particular focus around the Burwell area.

Burglary non dwelling	Mar - May 2013	Jun - Aug 2013	
Bottisham	4	4	=
Burwell	3	5	+ 66.7%
Cheveley	4	4	=
Dullingham Villages	5	2	- 60.0%
The Swaffhams	3	2	- 33.3%
Total	19	17	- 11.5%

It was agreed that this priority be discharged – but that a wider 'Serious Acquisitive Crime' priority be adopted.

Priority: To provide information on the outcome of the County Council's review of the Quy traffic calming scheme.

Action taken: The report on the review of the traffic calming scheme was completed on 17 June 2013 and a copy was sent to the Parish Council on 2 July 2013.

The review included an assessment of speed monitoring data, consultation with residents and an examination of accident statistics.

Although the scheme seems to be unpopular with residents, there is no justification for the County Council to spend its limited financial resources for road safety activities on removal of this scheme. There would, however, be no significant problems if the Parish Council wished to consider providing funding for the removal of this scheme.

Issues that were addressed since the last meeting

Issue: Query from Bottisham Parish Council rep. on how the Constabulary decide which Parish Council AGM to attend.

Action: Insp Ormerod has previously written to all parish councils advising on levels of police engagement, and advised that he (or another police representative) will try and attend parish council AGMs where this is requested.

Insp Ormerod was not invited to attend the Bottisham PC AGM, which is why he did not attend their AGM.

Issue: Speeding on North Street and Newmarket Road, Burwell.

Action: Numerous speed checks carried out at these locations.

Drivers reported for speeding – 2

Drivers given words of advice – 18

Issue: Would like to know what the rules are around selling gold effectively for scrap but not coming under the same rules as scrap metal dealers. Is there anything that can be done?

Action: Jewellers dealing in scrap gold are not covered by the same legislation as scrap metal dealers owning scrapyards. It would require a change in legislation to amend this, and this is best achieved by lobbying your local M.P.

Issue: Litter Bin fires on Burwell Parish Council properties.

Action: These incidents have been investigated by Watch Commander Jon Wade from Ely Fire Station. Along with the additional information from Mrs Reader of Burwell Parish Council there have been no recorded incidents which the Fire service has attended in the Mandeville Hall, Parsonage Lane or the recreation ground at Weirs Road. Recommendation that the public report any fires to the Fire Service. Also the Watch Commander at Burwell Station will be updated with these local issues to increase their vigilance.

What you have asked us to address next

- Speeding through Ashley during rush hour and school drop off/collect times
- Can the third entrance at Bottisham Village College have ziz-zag lines added, like the other two entrances?
- Please can the litter bins in Dullingham and Woodditton be emptied more frequently?

Priorities for Action

The Panel agreed that the priorities up until to the end of December should be:

- **Serious Acquisitive Crime across the Panel area**
- **Inconsiderate and illegal parking in Woodditton**
- **Waste Contract issues**

Did You Know.....

...that **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.

For more information about Ely Foodbank, go to:

<http://ely.foodbank.org.uk/>
info@elyfoodbank.org.uk

t: **01353 662396** (to speak to Karl Relton, Chairman of Ely Foodbank)

If you would like to raise an issue of concern, but are unable to come to the next Panel meeting, contact your local Councillor or the South Area Neighbourhood Panel Support Officer: Julie Cornwell, Partnerships officer at East Cambs District Council, on Julie.cornwell@eastcambs.gov.uk or 01353 665555.

Alternatively visit www.shapeyourplace.org and have your say!

The next Panel meeting is on:

Tuesday 28th January 2014 at the Manderville Hall, Tan House Lane, Reach Road, Burwell, Cambs.