

# Ely Area Neighbourhood Panel



Ely • Stuntney • Prickwillow • Queen Adelaide • Chettisham • Shippea Hill

**W**elcome to the Ely Neighbourhood Panel newsletter! It summarises the main topics and points raised at the recent Neighbourhood Panel meeting held on **Thursday 24th October 2013 at East Cambridgeshire District Council's Chamber at the Grange in Ely.**

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](http://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/neighbourhood-panels/neighbourhood-panels)

## Hot Topics

### The Future of Neighbourhood Panels

Allison Conder, Principal Community and Leisure Services Officer, East Cambs District Council gave a presentation on a 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 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.

After considering all of the available evidence (including Panel Member and public attendance figures, 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. In November, the District

Council agreed to a recommendation that Neighbourhood Panels should not continue next financial year, with the last Panels in East Cambridgeshire being held in **January 2014 (the final Ely Panel will be 23rd January).**

Allison 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 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. A consultation with Parish Council's will therefore be undertaken during December to ascertain whether this approach would be valued and if so, what format it should take.

For further information about the decision to cease Neighbourhood Panels or about the consultation regarding Parish Forums, please contact [julie.cornwell@eastcamb.gov.uk](mailto:julie.cornwell@eastcamb.gov.uk)

## October- December 2013

### Contents

- **Hot Topics - The Future of Neighbourhood Panels, ShapeYourPlace – our community website;**
- **What we've been doing since the last meeting**
- **What you have asked us to do next**

### Priorities for Action

- **Xmas shopping policing presence, extra bobbies on beat**
- **Parking in High Street (working with other relevant agencies)**

## ‘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.

Visit [www.shapeyourplace.org](http://www.shapeyourplace.org) and have your say!

For further information about using SYP contact [lewis.bage@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:lewis.bage@eastcambs.gov.uk)

## What we’ve been doing since the last meeting

### Panel Priority 1: Late Night ASB/ Night Time Economy

#### Action taken: During July - September

Foot patrols have been conducted in Ely City Centre on Friday and Saturday nights as a matter of routine over the Summer. Two shifts of officers overlap during these periods, meaning there are twice the number of officers ordinarily deployable during this period, and one shift conducts foot patrols in and around the City Centre.

Comparing the period Jul 13 – Sep 13 with the 3 months prior to the panel meeting, it can be seen that reductions have been seen in Total Crime, Criminal Damage, Alcohol Related Incidents and ASB. There has been increase in reported violent crime, but this increase would appear to be as a result of officers being on hand to deal with any violence taking place - and incidents/crimes therefore being recorded, which otherwise might not have been reported to Police.

Ely East Ward	Apr 13– Jun 13	Jul 13 – Sep 13	
Total Crime	123	111	-9.8 %
All Violent Crime	17	27	+58.8 %
Criminal Damage	11	10	-9.1 %
Alcohol Related Incidents	37	21	-43.2 %
Anti Social Behaviour	75	60	-20.0 %

**Continue or Discharge priority - Discharge**

## Panel Priority 2: Parking Issues in Forehill, Potters Lane, Dovehouse Close, St Mary's School

### Action taken: During July - September

A meeting has taken place between the City of Ely Council, ECDC, Police and County Highways, to look at this issue of parking in the City and ensure that relevant signs and notices are correct and enforceable. Necessary action will now be taking place to ensure that all Traffic Regulation Orders in the City are enforceable, and signage is clear.

#### Forehill

Numerous patrols conducted; most resulting in no offences being observed.

1 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) issued for No Waiting

#### Potters Lane/ Dovehouse Close

Numerous patrols conducted.

2 FPNs issued for Unnecessary Obstruction

#### St Marys School

Patrols conducted at school picking up time.

Words of advice given to 3 drivers, and one driver giving a warning leaflet for being parked on junction.

### Continue or Discharge priority - Continue

## Panel Priority 3: Speeding Lisle Lane, Cam Drive, Victoria Street, Lynne Road

### Action taken: During July - September

#### Lisle Lane

2 drivers reported for Excess Speed (41 & 44 MPH)

#### Cam Drive

2 drivers reported for Excess Speed (37 & 40 MPH)

#### Victoria Street

No offences observed

#### Lynne Road

2 drivers given words of advice

### Continue or Discharge priority - Discharge

## Issues addressed since the last Panel Meeting

#### Issue: New Barns Road - Fly tipping bottle bank

**Action:** The site should be routinely cleared on a weekly basis, but an additional visit has been requested.

#### Issue: Can the community payback team be asked to litter pick at cutter and Jubilee Gardens?

**Action:** Community Payback have been asked to do some litter picks in this area up to the grass bank outside the Cutter commencing weekly from 30th Sept 2013. They also regularly drop in at Pocket Park/Country Park to litter pick and monitor for graffiti.

#### Issue: Jubilee Garden – ECDC vehicles are leaving pools of oil

**Action:** All the parks and open spaces vehicle are annually serviced and have a weekly vehicle check by the driver, there is no sign of any oil leakage upon the ground were the vehicles are stored over night, I have asked our waste contractor to check their vehicle that entre the gardens and they do not believe it is their

vehicles. At weekends many other vehicles drive onto the grass to set up for events, I have asked the grounds maintenance staff to monitor the area.

#### Issue: Silver Street - Dangerous for cyclists over speed

**Action:** A County Council Highways Officer has inspected the area and has made arrangements for a number of cobbles on the speed humps to be re-bedded.

#### Issue: New road surface on Kings Avenue, Springfield Road is awful and worse than before resurfaced -a disgrace

**Action:** The County Council acknowledges that there were some issues with the pre-patching works undertaken to this section of road; these have, however, been rectified and this road has been surfaced dressed.

## What you have asked us to address next

- Taxis parking in parking bays in city centre are a problem and are there any restrictions in their licenses?
- Downham road speed bumps are ineffective at slowing down traffic from the bypass
- High street vehicles using the Loading bays are parking for more than 15 mins

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 contact Allison Conder, Principal Community and Leisure Officer, on 01353 665555.

Alternatively visit [www.Shapeyourplace.org](http://www.Shapeyourplace.org) and have your say!



**The Final Ely Panel meeting is on:**

**Thursday 23rd January 2014 in the Council Chamber at the Grange,  
Nutholt Lane in Ely**