

West Area Neighbourhood Panel



Coveney • Downham villages • Haddenham • Little Thetford • Mepal • Stretham
Sutton • Wentworth • Wilburton • Witcham and Witchford

Welcome to the West Area Neighbourhood Panel newsletter. It summarises the main topics and points raised at the recent Neighbourhood Panel meeting held on **Thursday 14th March at The Glebe, Sutton.**

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



Well done

East Cambs Policing Team!!

January 2013 was the lowest recorded month for crime in East Cambridgeshire since the introduction of current recording systems in April 2007. Under 200 crimes were recorded in East Cambs in Dec 12, Jan 13 and Feb 13 – which has never happened before!

East Cambridgeshire is showing the highest crime reduction rates of any area in the Constabulary for 2012-13.

Keep up the good work!

Hot Topics

Community Hubs

Cambridgeshire County Council would like to see 'Community Hubs' established across Cambridgeshire. The vision is that a Community Hub will be a place in a local area where residents can go to access information, advice and guidance about a wide range of topics and services. Staff will also be available to teach customers how to submit online forms and make electronic payments, thus improving access to council services locally.

- The core of the hub offer will usually be the Library Service and the Hub will often be located in library buildings to maximise the use of existing local assets. However, there can be more than one hub in an area and

other buildings may be more suitable.

- Community Hubs will actively promote co-location and shared premises amongst public sector partners or with voluntary or private sector organisations.
- Local people and businesses are seen as partners in this approach, and would be key in shaping the hub and having a say in its management and governance.

Benefits to service providers:

- More customers through the door
- Less lone working for staff
- Can join up marketing and promotional activities
- Can share resources (people, equipment, events)

**April - June
2013**

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- **Dog Fouling.**
- **Litter on the verges.**

Benefits to customers:

- More things on offer and easy access to other services
- Better experience of visit
- Save a journey
- Single point of access to CCC and other public sector services

Community hub models:

- The cluster – a network of organisations who join up promotional activities and signpost to each other

- County Council hosts the hub
- Parish Council hosts the hub
- Independent Trust / Charity hosts the hub

If you have any suggestions for other models that may work and would like to know more about Community Hubs and how it would work in your area, please contact the County Council on 0345 045 5200.

Did you know?.....

..... that you can report pot holes and other highway faults via www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/reportingafault.htm or by telephoning the Contract Centre on 0345 045 5212. If you make the report on-line you can also track the progress of the repair.

Between the beginning of December 2012 and the end of January 2013, more than 600 potholes across Cambridgeshire were reported and repair work to fix them ordered by the County Council highway teams. Together we can improve the state of our roads!



Community Navigators

Community Navigators is a programme ran by Care Network Cambridgeshire.



Mission:

To help older, isolated and vulnerable people living in Cambridgeshire to stay independent and maintain social contact with friends and the community

Vision:

For a Cambridgeshire where all older and vulnerable people at risk of isolation, loneliness or ill health.

The programme aims to help older people:

- feel supported in their local community
- achieve greater independence, and a healthier, happier life
- are enabled to support each other for mutual benefit

Direct Services

The programme aims to maintain and improve health and independence by providing the a range of services, such as Help at Home (with over 120 volunteers) and Warm Homes Healthy People (winter project).

Help at Home (incorporating Welcome Home from Hospital)

Care Network's Help at Home service has been set up to offer practical and emotional help for people being discharged from hospital or who have an illness at home.

The police trained and checked volunteers can offer help with practical tasks for example: shopping, collecting prescriptions, arranging services such as meal delivery or to help you regain confidence after an illness.

Social isolation can bring

It has been suggested that social isolation and loneliness have a significant impact on the health and well-being of older people. These physical and mental health implications are significant, both for the individual and for the resources within the community.

Community Navigator Aims

To maintain and improve the health and well being of older people in Cambridgeshire by:

- Informing people about and referring them to relevant activities and services
- Helping people overcome barriers to make use of relevant activities and services
- Identifying where more activities and services are needed and working with local people to provide these
- Targeting people at risk of poor health and well being

The Community Navigators could be local individuals or staff or volunteers used by a range of voluntary organisations that are already active in communities. Through the Community Navigator approach these people would be offered some focused training in aspects of statutory, voluntary and community services and activities; enabling them to find and support people with unmet needs within their community.

The Structure

Five District Coordinators - Support a network of Community Navigators to cover their district

Community Navigators - Friendly and approachable first points of contact who are out and about in Cambridgeshire's communities

- Provide advice and/or support to help older people live active, independent lives
- Know what is available to support older people in their communities

The Community Navigators could be local individuals or staff or volunteers used by a range of voluntary organisations that are already active in communities. Through the Community Navigator approach these people would be offered some focused training in aspects of statutory, voluntary and community services and activities; enabling them to find and support people with unmet needs within their community.

What does the project do?

The Care Network Community Navigator Project points the way to local community activities and statutory and voluntary organisations, so that all older people can find something which suits them. Examples could include:

- A community car scheme for a lift to activities and appointments
- A local friendship club, lunch club or activity group
- Modifications to home or mobility aids
- Financial health check to maximise income
- Help at home support when unwell or with a one off task

If local people tell us that their community needs something extra, we will work with them to try to ensure that it happens.

Community Navigators are local volunteers who help older people find their way to activities or services which they would enjoy or find useful.

Making the most of local activities and services is a good way to keep fit, active and independent, but not everyone knows what is available. People with health or other difficulties may need a bit of help but can really benefit from activities and services available to everyone.

Can I help?

Yes, that would be great. We are looking for people all over Cambridgeshire who like to chat, have fun and meet others to become Community Navigators in their local areas. Brief training and expenses will be provided and you will get satisfaction from sign-posting people to activities and services which will make a real difference to their well being.

Can my organisation or employer help?

Yes, in order to build up a true picture of all the "navigation" which is already taking place in Cambridgeshire, we need organisations that already do this sort of work to join the project. If you have volunteers or staff who already provide information and advice, please get in touch.

Contact Us

Care Network Cambridgeshire, 41e Forehill, Ely, CB7 4AA
eastcamb.navigators@care-network.org.uk
07436 809260

What we've been doing since the last meeting

The meeting scheduled for January 2013, was cancelled due to inclement weather. However, here is a summary of some of the actions taken as a result of the issues raised at the October meeting 2012:

Sunken Boat at Little Thetford

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.

Overflowing Dog Bins

Issues re dog bin emptying and rubbish clearance in Wilburton and particularly around the seat on the High Street were passed to Veolia for attention, and supervisory checks requested to monitor the situation.

Details of the formal diversion routes around Coveney and Wardy Hill, in the event of an accident on the A142.

The exact diversion route would depend upon the location of the incident. 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. 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. If incident is at Witcham Toll junction, diversion would be to continue along A1123 rather than A1421.

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.

To reduce the number of speeding vehicles along The Americas (Sutton).

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.

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.

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.

The ultimate test is if the community feel that less drivers are speeding through the village. The Police would like to hear from the community via 'ShapeYourPlace', or the Policing East Cambridgeshire Facebook page - as to whether this is the case or not.

Some of the issues you have asked us to address next

- Pot holes and general poor state of roads in the Panel area.
- Improving communication between ECDC and Fenland DC regarding planning applications.

Priorities for Action

The Panel agreed that the priority for the 3 months to the end of June should be:

- The impacts of the Welfare Reform agenda on local people.
- What is being done to reduce the number of incidents between Sutton and Earith?
- Traffic is backing up at the chicane in Sutton – particularly when the traffic is being re-routed.
- The unsightly bags of rubbish at Jardine Packaging.
- Concerns about the amount of traffic (particularly aggregate lorries) coming through Wilburton.
- Large tractors speeding along the High Street, Wilburton.
- The large amount of rubbish in the countryside/on verges - particularly Station Road Wilburton, Grunty Fen from Witchford and entering Witchford from Ely, but generally everywhere.
- Frustration at continuing lack of co-ordination between grass cutting (CCC) and litter picking (ECDC).
- Dog Waste Bins – always full in Witchford, Haddenham and Wilburton.
- Dog Fouling across the Panel area.

- **Speeding – from Stretham into Wilburton.**
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- **Litter on the verges.**

Did you know?.....

....that stickers reminding people to clean up after their dog can be purchased by the Parish Council for £1 (minimum order of 10) from East Cambs District Council? Every Parish Council in East Cambridgeshire has been offered the opportunity to purchase the stickers, so if there is an area that you feel needs to have a sticker (or perhaps you feel there is an area that needs a dog bin), contact your Parish Council.

Failing to remove dog faeces is an offence under the 'Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. In order for the District Council to take action against the dog owner any witnesses to the offence must note what has happened. Include:

- The name and address of the person in charge of the dog
- A description of the dog
- The date and time of the offence
- The place the offence occurred.

Contact East Cambs District Council as soon as possible with the information you have obtained by phoning: 01353 665555



If you would like to raise an issue of concern, but are unable to come to the next Panel meeting, please contact Lewis Bage on 01353 665555 or lewis.bage@eastcambs.gov.uk or your Parish Council representative. Alternatively visit www.Shapeyourplace.org and have your say!

The next West Panel meetings are on

Monday 15th July 2013 at 7.00 – 9.00pm at Witchford Village Hall

Monday 21st October 2013, 7-9pm at Witchford Village Hall