

Ely Neighbourhood Panel

Thursday 18th July 2013 Council Chamber
East Cambridgeshire District Council, Ely

PRESENT

Cllr Elisabeth Every	City of Ely Council
Cllr Elaine Griffin-Singh	City of Ely Council
Cllr Christine Jones	City of Ely Council
Cllr Sue Austen	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Lindsey Harris	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Mike Rouse	East Cambridgeshire District Council

OFFICERS

John Hill	Chief Executive	East Cambs. District Council
Inspector Paul Ormerod		Cambridgeshire Constabulary
John Wade	Ely Fire Station	Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service
Terry Jordan	Neighbourhood Panel Liaison Officer	Cambs County Council
Simon Rudkin		Sanctuary Hereward
Allison Conder	Principal Community and Leisure Services Officer	East Cambs. District Council
Dave White	Waste Strategy Team Leader	East Cambs. District Council
James Nairn	Community Development & Engagement Officer	East Cambs. District Council
Tracy Couper	Principal Democratic Services Officer	East Cambs. District Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

11 members of the public

ENP13/1 Welcome

Cllr Elisabeth Every, the Panel Vice Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ENP13/2 Introductions and Apologies

The Panel Members and supporting officers introduced themselves to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Richard Hobbs.

ENP13/3 Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Councillor Elisabeth Every was proposed and seconded as the Panel Chairman for the forthcoming year. There being no other nominations, Councillor Every was duly elected Panel Chairman for the forthcoming year.

Councillor Christine Jones was proposed and seconded as the Panel Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year. There being no other nominations, Councillor Jones was duly elected Panel Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year.

ENP13/4 Chairman's Announcements and Consultation Items

Councillor Every highlighted an item asking for volunteers to join the District Council's Consultee Register.

ENP13/5 Update on East Cambs District Council Actions Since Last Meeting

The Panel received a table giving an update on the actions undertaken by East Cambs District Council. Additional information was provided as follows by the Chief Executive, ECDC:

Issue and Description	Further Comments
The Maltings Restaurant Facility	The existing operator of The Maltings, Compass Ltd, had agreed to allow the Council to let the restaurant facility. The Council was close to signing a contract with Ta Bouche/La Razza who wished to open as soon as practicably possible, subject to the required alteration works and resolution of utilities issues associated with the separation of the two operations. A further report would be submitted to the next Neighbourhood Panel meeting.

ENP13/6 Update on Sanctuary Housing Actions Since Last Meeting

There were no actions for Sanctuary raised at the last Panel. Sanctuary reported that a Possession Order for removal now had been granted for a small abandoned caravan in Abbots Way parking area. Sanctuary also agreed to take back the issue of the repairs required to the fencing at New Barns Allotments to prevent golf balls coming onto the allotments.

ENP13/7 Update on County Council Actions Since Last Meeting

The Panel received a table giving an update on the actions undertaken by the County Council. Comments were received from the public present as follows:

Issue and Description	Further Comments
Market Place Lighting Columns	Replacement of heritage columns had been 'on hold' for a long period of time and that the issue needed to be resolved.
Fore Hill – Parking by Blue Badge Holders	Double yellow lines do not stop obstructive parking by Blue Badge holders on Fore Hill – need some other form of parking restrictions. Inspector Ormerod reported that kerb markings could be introduced as well as double yellow lines to prevent any parking, but this would prevent loading/unloading as well. This matter was also being looked at by the City of Ely Working Group.
Lynn Road – dangerous road surfaces for cyclists	Although large holes in centre of road repaired, still issues of grooves in road and raise metal work which are dangerous to cyclists.
The Gallery/Silver Street – traffic calming mounds should be altered to assist cyclists	This matter is being reviewed by the County Council and Ely Cycling Campaign.

ENP13/8 Update on City of Ely Council Actions Since Last Meeting

The Panel received a table giving an update on the actions undertaken by the City of Ely Council.

Issue and Description	Further Comments
Maltings Cottage	Renovation work on the Maltings Cottage had been held in abeyance pending signing of lease on Courthouse building. This now had been completed and anticipate having keys to Courthouse by end of week. Garden at Maltings Cottage was in process of being cleared and drafting specification to let the tender for refurbishment works. First phase of works likely to be to exterior and be completed during summer months. City of Ely intending community use/tourist attraction for Cottage and would welcome ideas. Two structural surveys completed – 1 by District Council and 1 by City of Ely Council.
CCTV	CCTV stall had resulted in good response for volunteers.

ENP13/9 Update on Police Actions Since Last Meeting

The Panel received a table giving an update on the actions undertaken by the Police. Priorities from the last Panel meeting were: 1) obstructive and inappropriate parking and 2) speeding.

Issue and Description	Further Comments
Obstructive and Inappropriate Parking	Inspector Ormerod reported on the parking enforcement action undertaken at locations in Ely since the last meeting. A total of 75 fixed penalty notices had been issued, which was high compared to previous Panel meetings. Although a joint initiative had take place with the Fire Service to leaflet cars about potential obstruction of emergency services in Potters Lane and Dovehouse Close, enforcement action could not be taken unless traffic restrictions were introduced in these roads.
Speeding	Inspector Ormerod reported on speeding enforcement activity undertaken at Cam Drive, Lisle Lane, Lynn Road, and Witchford Road. A new policy on speeding had been introduced whereby if drivers were over the threshold for prosecution, every case was reported and a decision made on how they would be dealt with.

Inspector Ormerod highlighted the key issues in the Police update for the Panel area. Crime figures showed a decrease from last year for the majority of categories with the exception of anti-social behaviour, thefts from vehicles and burglary dwellings. Although anti-social behaviour incidents had increased and street drinking around the Cathedral had been highlighted by the Panel previously as an area of concern, no particular issues or areas had been identified as ‘hotspots’. Regular patrols had been undertaken of the Cathedral area, Paradise Green, Columbine Road, and the Riverside/Jubilee Gardens areas. . It was considered that the current good weather had resulted in more people being outside in the evenings and had contributed to the increase in reported incidents of anti-social behaviour. Whilst the Police wished to maintain public order and safety, they also did not want to be regarded as ‘killjoys’. The increase in the statistics for thefts from vehicles related predominantly to overnight thefts of tools from vans and articles such as Sat Navs and mobile phones being stolen from cars. The West and North of the City had been particularly targeted. A member of the public suggested that the public needed to be educated not to leave items in vehicles and how easy it was to break into an ‘up and over’ garage. Therefore, it was recommended that such garage doors be fixed to the ground by a padlock.

A member of the public commended the overall positive trend and queried if this was a genuine improvement in the crime statistics, or if crimes were just not being recorded. Inspector Ormerod stated that there were national crime reporting standards on how crimes were recorded and levels of public satisfaction with the Police were also high, indicating that the low statistics were an accurate reflection of the level of local crime. A member of the public concurred with the view that Ely was a safe place to live.

Councillor Griffin-Singh stated that she had entered into a dialogue with city centre residents on the issue of noise in the Market Place area on a Friday and Saturday night and asked that this be included as a priority action. Councillor Griffin-Singh asked if a factor in this was the reduction in the number of PCSOs. Inspector Ormerod stated that there had been a reduction in the number of PCSOs but that this was not a factor in this case, as they had never worked after midnight. However, any incidents should be reported in order that the nightshift could be requested to patrol the areas concerned. City centre incidents were also likely to be picked-up on the CCTV cameras and reported to the Police.

Councillor Jones requested that speeding remain as a Police priority. With regard to parking issues, a member of the public commented that illegible and incorrect signage in the City needed to be dealt with, e.g. Broad Street Car Park. Inspector Ormerod stated that these were reported by the Police when located, otherwise enforcement action could not be taken. The Chairman stated that this was another area being addressed by the City of Ely Working Group.

ENP13/10 Issues raised by Audience and Panel Members

<u>LOCATION/SUBJECT</u>	ISSUE OF CONCERN
Victoria Street	Speeding in mornings, evenings, weekends – check with safety camera van? Inspector Ormerod stated that road too narrow for positioning of safety camera van, but could send officer with a speed gun to check speeds and that people driving appropriate to road conditions.
St Mary's School	Parking at junction.
New Barns/High Barns, particularly 145-154 High Barns and alleyway New Barns Road	Overhanging branches from hedges of private properties.
New Barns Road	Fly-tipping at bottle bank.
New Barns	Empty private properties and overgrown gardens.
City Centre Streets	Dirty streets and edges near shops. Cigarette butts at edge of pavement not picked up by street sweeping machine.
Three Cups Walk	Fence broken – needs letter to Cathedral?
Dovehouse Close; Potters Lane; Fore Hill; Junction New Barns & Deacons Lane; Lisle Lane	Need multi-agency effort on parking enforcement.
Prickwillow	Lack of public transport. Number of HCVs through village.
Cycling	Potholes to cyclists are different to those for motorists. Hazards nearer to kerb for cyclists than motorists.
City Centre	Dogs left in Cars during hot weather. Inspector Ormerod stated that PCSOs do check for this when patrolling City Centre. Suggested could download posters from RSPCA website.
Ely Southern Bypass	Have update at next Neighbourhood Panel meeting.
Refreshing of Road Markings	Have update at next Neighbourhood Panel meeting.
A10/West Fen Road	County Council representative should come and attempt to cross the road.
20mph Limits	Consider the introduction of these in certain areas.
Kings Avenue	New road surface very poor.
Riverside around Cutter Inn	Clear around benches – particularly glasses and cigarette butts.

Riverside/Jubilee Gardens	Oil along Riverside and paths in Jubilee Gardens from Council vehicles.
Muscovy Ducks	Decline in numbers.
Springhead Lane	New road surface already has potholes.

ENP13/11 Presentation – Waste Collection Service Changes

Mr Dave White, Waste Strategy Team Leader ECDC, gave a presentation on the changes to the Waste Collection Service within the District. The presentation (a copy of which is available on the Council’s website) covered the following areas:

- Background
- DCLG ‘Supporting Weekly Collections Fund’ Bid
- The New Collection Service
- Aims of Service Changes
- Use of Funds
- Consultation
- Satisfaction with Doorstep Recycling Services
- Spreading the Word
- Progress to Date
- Service Introduction
- Recycling League Table

Mr White highlighted that the current black sacks weekly refuse collection service would continue, but that the current brown sack service for garden and food waste and black box service for recyclables would be replaced with green and blue wheeled bins respectively, which would be collected on alternate weeks. There would be no changes to collection days, but 52 black sacks would be delivered to households for the year, rather than one sack being left each week. The main aim was to increase the Council’s recycling rates which were the lowest in the County. The Council was organising an extensive promotional campaign for the Service changes and an events calendar was available at the meeting. In addition, people could contact the Waste Promotions Team to suggest other appropriate events for the Team to attend. The Promotions Officers would be at the Tesco store in Ely from Wednesday to Friday next week.

A member of the public stated that from the consultation results it appeared that a large proportion of people did not agree with the system and 1,500 residents would not be able to use it due to property/personal constraints. Mr White reported that the existing brown sacks and clear plastic sacks would be available to those who could not accommodate wheeled bins at their properties, and an assisted service could be provided for those unable to move the bins to the edge of premise. A member of the public was concerned about the aesthetics of wheeled bins and stated that a large number of properties in Ely were terraces without a side entrance or front garden. Mr White explained that wheeled bins would not be issued if properties had no front garden or side access, as the Council did not want bins left on the street. However, some wheeled bins may be stored in front gardens.

Mr White stated that 80% of Councils nationally used wheeled bins and the Council needed to improve its recycling rates to avoid draconian penalties in the future. However, the Council would deal with properties leaving bins on the street.

A member of the public was concerned that people may not be encouraged to recycle since the black sack collection was weekly but recycling collection was fortnightly. Another member of the public queried the potential health and hygiene issues. Mr White stated that the wheeled bins presented minimal health risks provided the lids remained closed and were an improvement on sacks as they prevented the issues of animals attacking sacks when left out at night.

ENP13/12 Presentation – Shape Your Place 1st Year Update

James Nairn, Community Development and Engagement Officer ECDC, gave a presentation on the first year results of the Shape Your Place (SYP) website. The presentation (a copy of which is available on the Council's website) covered the following areas:

- Key Messages
- What we have done Year 1
- Year 1 Statistics
- What SYP does
- Case Studies
- Year 2 Plans

Mr Nairn highlighted the fact that SYP had received 9,675 unique visitors, which represented 11.54% of the population within the District. ECDC was considered a model of best practice.

ENP13/13 Panel Prioritisation

The Chief Executive ECDC summarised the various issues brought up from the audience discussion as follows:

- Ely Southern Bypass Update
- Empty Properties Update
- Oil along Riverside and paths in Jubilee Gardens from Council vehicles
- Parking St Mary's School
- Litter in City Centre and seating areas Cutter Inn
- Speeding Victoria Road
- Highways Issues - City of Ely Working Group

Police Priorities:

- Late night anti-social behaviour Market Street, Fore Hill, City Centre
- Speeding
- Parking

The Meeting closed at 9:15pm.