

**LITTLEPORT NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL**

**Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**Millfield Primary School, Littleport**

<b>PRESENT</b>	
Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Andy Wright	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr David Ambrose Smith (Chairman)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Francis Brown	Littleport Parish Council
Cllr Brian Hayes	Littleport Parish Council
Cllr James Lee	Littleport Parish Council
<b>OFFICERS</b>	
Annette Wade	Head of ICT & Customer Services East Cambridgeshire District Council
Inspector Paul Ormerod	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Terry Jordan	Cambridgeshire County Council
Nick Ball	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Janis Murfet	East Cambridgeshire District Council

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Members of the public: 19

**LNHP 12/30 Welcome**

Cllr David Ambrose Smith took the Chair in the absence of Cllr Fred Brown and welcomed everyone to the Panel meeting. The Head of ICT & Customer Services reminded the members of the public attending to sign the attendance sheet and complete the feedback questionnaire.

**LNHP 12/31 Introductions and Apologies**

The Chairman read out the attendance list, highlighting the officers present from agencies.

The following apologies for absence were received:

Cllr Neil Morrison	ECDC
Cllr Fred Brown	Cambs County Council
Cllr Darrell Gardiner	Littleport Parish Council
Cllr Geoff Norman	Littleport Parish Council
Andrew Killington	ECDC

## **LNHP 12/32 Chairman's Announcements and Consultation Items**

The Head of ICT & Customer Services highlighted the following consultation items:

- Draft East Cambridgeshire Local Plan – comments to be made by 5pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013.
- Recycling Service Changes – recycling and organics (food and garden waste) services will change to wheeled bin services. There will be no changes to the frequency of collections, although under the new system, recycling and organic bins will be collected on opposite weeks. New services will be introduced across the District between early September to early November 2013. More information will be made available in advance of the change.

## **LNHP 12/33 Neighbourhood Update (Action since the last Panel Meeting**

Annette Wade, East Cambridgeshire District Council, summarised the issues relating to the District Council.

- Health Care – Gary Shepherd, Practice Manager at St George's Medical Centre to address the Panel (Agenda Item No 5 refers).
- Friars Place – The land was cleared by local residents. It was examined on the Action Day and found to be clear. Additional areas around Upton Place were also cleared on the Action Day.
- Parsons Lane – large vans and other vehicles from new developments down the road are parking outside 98 Parsons Lane and blocking the resident's exit. The resident has requested a dropped verb onto the road, but this is not possible for planning and legal reasons; a letter will be sent from ECDC to confirm this.
- Woodfen Road/Gilbert Road – All of the affected residents have now been sent a letter asking whether they wish to join the parking scheme through a licence agreement. They have until 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013 to respond after which work will start.
- Cambridgeshire County Council had issued an enforcement notice against Saxon Storage, off Woodfen Road, for breaches of development regulations regarding container storage. The enforcement notice letter outlined a

requirement for the offending containers to be removed by May 2013, or they would be removed by the County Council or its contractors.

- Wisbech Road – Officers of the Local Highways Team had produced a package of traffic management improvements for Littleport. The consultation process resulted in the receipt of objections, and these would need to be considered before determining a way forward.
- Lynn Road – as above.

The Chairman informed the Panel that a meeting had been arranged for 21<sup>st</sup> March to discuss these matters.

There were no action updates in respect of Sanctuary Housing and no representative was present.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Inspector Paul Ormerod provided an update on the actions taken by the Neighbourhood Policing Team to address the priorities set by the Panel at its last meeting in January 2013.

Speaking first of obstructive parking, Inspector Ormerod said that patrols had taken place in areas identified as having parking issues, and enforcement action taken where appropriate.

A multi-agency “Day of Action” was held in Littleport on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013, and this included specific parking enforcement patrols by the PCSOs.

The Panel was informed that 16 Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued and 2 vehicles were reported for having no Road Tax.

Parking remained an issue, and Inspector Ormerod asking that problem areas be highlighted for the Police so that action could be taken.

With regard to speeding throughout the Panel area, it was noted that there had been a limited capacity to conduct routine speed enforcement, as an operation had had to be given priority over this. However, Speedwatch activity in Ely Road, Lynn Road and Wisbech Road had resulted in 1439 vehicles being monitored in Littleport and 126 letters being sent out to the drivers of speeding vehicles.

Inspector Ormerod said that speeding remained an issue, and he wished to keep this as a Police priority. He was very keen to get speed enforcement out in the next quarter and would be reviewing how officers responded across the District. He also

reiterated that Speedwatch wished to increase the number of its volunteers and he intended setting up a meeting to give them assurances and support.

In terms of statistical information, it was noted that January 2013 was the lowest recorded month for crime in East Cambridgeshire since the introduction of current recording systems in April 2007. For the period April 2012 to February 2013, there were 404 fewer incidents of Anti Social Behaviour than the same period last year, and a 33.7% crime detection rate between April 2012 to February 2013.

Inspector Ormerod then responded to comments and questions.

A member of the public said that a car had crashed into the front of her house, the accident having been caused by mud on the road. She wished to know what was being done because this had also happened to other houses in her road. Inspector Ormerod said there was an obligation to clear mud off the road; he would speak to the Environment Agency and then give her an update.

Another member of the public asked whether it was really necessary to have parking restrictions on the side streets in Littleport. Inspector Ormerod reminded the Panel that, while the Police enforced parking restrictions, it was for the Parish Council to decide this. The Chairman said he would ask the Parish Council to take this on board.

A gentleman raised the problem of young people riding about on small motorbikes and making a nuisance of themselves. They had been riding up and down, without crash helmets, near the Sports Centre, and had now started to go out on to the open roads. Something needed to be done before there was a really bad accident.

A lady raised concerns regarding the traffic along Woodfen Road saying that there was a regular problem with speeding and obstructive parking near the school. In some cases, vehicles were having to mount the pavements in order to allow traffic to pass.

Mrs Driver informed the Panel that she had been cycling down Crown Lane and a tractor had come on to the roundabout so fast that it would not have been able to stop had anything else been coming. Councillor Lee informed her that tractors could not exceed 30mph, but could go at a speed that was dangerous for this type of vehicle. Inspector Ormerod suggested that Speedwatch could be very useful to determine whether this was an issue or possibly a problem of perception.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Inspector Ormerod for a very successful presentation.

## **LNHP 12/34 Littleport Medical Centre Update**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Gary Shepherd, Practice Manager at the Littleport Medical Centre, addressed the Panel.

He explained his background saying that he had worked in the Cambridgeshire health system for 35 years, mainly in big organisations, and in recent years for the East Cambridgeshire & Fenland Primary Care Trust. He had originally been a Commissioning Manager, but subsequent to his move to St George's Medical Centre, he had become the Practice Manager.

The Centre was relatively new and working in partnership with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn to provide a range of services including urology, ophthalmology, fertility, gynaecology and midwifery. The Centre also offered general surgery (local anaesthetic day case procedures) in one of two purpose built state of the art operating theatres. This was fairly unique and had been very successful with 12,000 outpatients and 4,000 procedures having been carried out. Looking to the future, it was hoped to put in a new oncology service for people with long term problems, and the centre was in the process of commencing warfarin and podiatry services.

Mr Shepherd acknowledged that there had been some problems with GP cover, but this was now improving and it was intended to address the issues with nurse appointments.

In response to a question from Cllr Hayes, Mr Shepherd said that the pharmacy did not come under the Centre's jurisdiction and the dispensary could only provide a service for patients who lived more than a mile away. Cllr Hayes responded by saying that there was no provision to request where to pick up one's medication; this had already been decided. He felt there should be somewhere on the form to stipulate choice.

Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith said she was delighted with the Health Centre and was very proud of what was being done, but she wondered whether there were enough GPs in the practice. Mr Shepherd replied he was aware that GP appointments were very tight, and this was a matter of concern. He was working on introducing a triage system and envisaged that things would improve in late summer. There would also be appointments available with a nurse practitioner.

The Chairman asked how many patients had completed a questionnaire and Mr Shepherd said that of the 500 sent out, he had had 200 responses. The Chairman then thanked him for coming to the meeting and asked if he would be happy to come

back at a later date and give an update. Mr Shepherd said he would be happy to do so, as there were still things on his action plan to be done.

### **LNHP 12/35 County Council Highways Update**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Terry Jordan gave an update on behalf of the County Council Highways Service.

Officers of the Highways Service were currently concluding the delivery of this year's programme of works and preparing for next year's programme. Bids had been submitted for various schemes for 2013/14, and priorities and the allocation of funding to the highest priority schemes would take place next month.

Ten road patching and pothole repair teams were now working across Cambridgeshire to fix winter damage to the county's roads. An extra £90 million of funding had been identified for highway maintenance in the county over the next five years and the teams would concentrate on fixing the areas of minor damage patching and filling potholes. More extensive areas of repair work or road resurfacing projects would be carried out by other teams.

Mr Jordan reminded the Panel that potholes should not be ignored. Members of the public were urged to report any damage to the road surface as quickly as possible. Problems could be reported via the telephone contact centre on 0345 045 5212, or online at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/reportingafault.htm](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/reportingafault.htm), and the latter would allow them to follow the progress of repairs to the damage they had reported.

It was noted that more than 80 gritting runs had been carried out across the County, and it was clear that the gritting season had not yet finished. Each summer the County Council reviewed its gritting routes in readiness for the following winter to ensure the most effective use of resources.

The County Council also operated a scheme whereby local communities (usually Parish and Town Councils) could purchase grit bins, and the County Council would keep them filled with grit. Members of the community could then grit footpaths where it was felt a need existed.

With regard to flooding, Mr Jordan informed the Panel that Highways officers were supporting their colleagues at Norfolk County Council with some plans for vehicle activated signs to warn of closures on the A1101 when flooding occurred at Welney. They were also working with the Environment Agency to improve the process for closing and re-opening those roads which were prone to flooding.

The Panel was asked to note that the County Council made a budget available for bids from local communities who wished to take a shared approach to providing small projects to improve their local streets and highways. District, town and parish councils, community and residents' groups and charities were all eligible to apply, but only one bid per organisation would be assessed by the County Council. Applicants could seek up to £10,000, with the expectation that they would provide a minimum of 10% of the overall cost of their project.

As part of its approach to localism, the Highways Service had implemented a revised speed limit policy, which would allow local communities to seek a change of speed limit within their settlements in cases where the County Council was unable to do so because it did not meet the necessary criteria. The local communities had to be prepared to fund the changes, willing to undertake public consultation and take ownership of the outcomes.

Mr Jordan concluded by saying that the County Council had organised exhibitions to enable the public to study the plans for the Ely Southern Bypass and discuss them with Council staff. The remaining ones were:

- 14 March (5-7pm) at Witchford Village Show
- 16 March (9am-3pm) on Ely Market Place
- 21 March (4.30-7.30pm) at Soham Village College

A member of the public asked if it would be possible to have signage to warn of flooding at Earith, because there was nothing at present and this needed to be addressed; Mr Jordan said he would feed this back.

Another member of the public asked why the speeding signs did not show motorists what speed they were doing. Inspector Ormerod replied that there had been a conscious decision not to have them because some people would deliberately speed in order to see what was the highest figure they could get the sign to display.

The Chairman thanked Mr Jordan for his attendance and the update.

**LNHP 12/36 Neighbourhood Issues**

The following issues were raised by Parish representatives/members of the public:

LOCATION	ISSUE OF CONCERN
Various, throughout Littleport	Dog fouling
Gilbert Road/Longfield Road/Queens Road	Grass verges being badly damaged

Station Road	Mud on road
Dyke behind Homewood Development	Dyke needs clearing
Various, throughout Littleport	Lack of timetables at bus stops

**LNHP 12/37 Panel Prioritisation**

The Panel agreed that the policing priorities should be:

- Speeding, and parking as specified above
- Motorbikes and mini-Moto's

The Panel agreed that the new (non-policing) priorities should be:

- Dog fouling across the town

**LNHP 12/38 Forward Agenda**

Forward Agenda Plan received.

Next meeting:       Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013, 19:00 – 21:00hrs  
                                  Littleport Community Primary School

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.