

## **SOUTH AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013, Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth, 7:00pm**

### **Panel Members Present**

Cllr Tom Kerby (Chair)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Allen Alderson	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Lavinia Edwards	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Chris Morris	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Robert Stevens	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr David Brown	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Marina Almond	Ashley Parish Council
Cllr Mathew Shuter	Brinkley Parish Council
Cllr Pat Kilbey	Burwell Parish Council
Cllr Maggie Carvalho	Dullingham Parish Council
Cllr Peter Taylor	Kirtling and Upend Parish Council
Cllr Lily Whymer	Stetchworth Parish Council
Cllr Margaret Chadwick	Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council
Cllr Peter Powney-Jones	Woodditton Parish Council

### **Others Present**

Julie Cornwell	Partnerships Officer East Cambridgeshire District Council
Darren Dixon	Head of Community Services East Cambridgeshire District Council
Matthew Hall	Cambridgeshire County Council
Inspector Paul Ormerod	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Natalie Osborne	Sanctuary Housing
Adrian Scaites-Stokes	Democratic Services Officer East Cambridgeshire District Council

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Cllr Hazel Williams MBE	Burwell Parish Council
Cllr Stephen White	Dullingham Parish Council
Cllr Pat Gay	Kirtling and Upend Parish Council
Cllr Jean Gilmour	Kirtling and Upend Parish Council
Cllr Diana Taylor	Stetchworth Parish Council
Cllr Robin Sharp	Woodditton Parish Council
2 members of the public	

### **SNP13/15 Welcome**

The Chairman, Councillor Tom Kerby, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **SNP13/16 Introductions and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Christine Bryant, Michel Scarff and Ken Simpson, and from Terry Jordan of the County Council.

### **SNP13/17 Chairman's Announcements and Consultation Items**

The Chairman asked Members and Officers to sign the attendance sheet. He also asked that everyone complete the questionnaire, as the feedback was very helpful.

The Chairman read out the fire instructions.

5 items of consultation had been circulated. An additional one, concerning Bell Road Bottisham, was available via the District Council offices.

### **SNP13/18 Update on County Council Actions Since Last Meeting**

The Panel received a table giving an update on the actions undertaken by the County Council.

<b>Issue No and Description</b>	<b>Further Comments</b>
1. Quy traffic scheme	Information on the traffic calming measures taken was in the agenda papers. Additional third party funding was being sought.

### **SNP13/19 Update on Sanctuary Housing Actions Since Last Meeting**

There were no actions required since the last meeting, but Natalie Osborne informed the Panel that Sanctuary had re-structured its housing team. This meant there were now more officers available to deal with issues in the Panel area. The General Housing Team were also taking on the management of the retirement living properties in the area.

### **SNP13/20 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) anti-social behaviour in Burwell, 2) shed and garage burglaries.

<b>Issue No and Description</b>	<b>Further Comments</b>
1. Anti-Social Behaviour in Burwell	Since the last Panel meeting regular patrols had been undertaken. No anti-social issues had come up since June. The number of reported incidents had gone down considerably. Examining the reports of anti-social behaviour a lot were not as expected, for example, they related to traffic issues or Facebook abuse.
2. Shed and Garage Burglaries	Overnight patrols had taken place, concentrating on the major routes around the area, and these would continue. Across the neighbourhood the numbers of relevant incidents had decreased overall, although Burwell had seen an increase. Incidents had taken place at various locations, so it was difficult to target any particular area.

	A number of offenders had been arrested and sentenced.
3. Crime figures	There had been a jump in the figures for June but overall the figures were still below those of last year and had reduced from the preceding three months.
4. Anti-Social Behaviour	This was a mixed picture, not helped by the recording of a lot of issues not usually related to anti-social behaviour, such as parking issues.
5. Emerging issues	There had been a number of incidents of vans being broken into and tools being stolen and vehicle thefts. Burwell appeared to be a focus for this.

Responses to Panel and public questions:

A successful operation in Burwell had resulted in the seizure of a stash of cannabis. A Police Community Support Officer would be asked to check on vehicles parking on, and blocking, footpaths in Woodditton.

Data on the effectiveness of restorative justice would be looked at.

**SNP13/21 Discussion of Neighbourhood Issues raised by Audience and Panel Members**

PARISH	ISSUE OF CONCERN	
Ashley	• Why the rubbish bin in Icknield Way Ashley isn't emptied?	ECDC, Waste Team
	• Dog bin needs moving in the recreation ground – Clerk has written three times but has had no answer from ECDC.	ECDC, Waste Team
	• Query as to how often Sanctuary Housing inspects the properties that they own. If the Parish Council requests that a property is inspected they would like some feedback on this.	Sanctuary Housing
	• Dog Fouling on the field is still a problem despite the Parish Council purchasing signs etc.	ECDC, Waste Team
	• Speeding through the village – Police requested to come early in the morning and when parents are doing the school run in the afternoon.	Police
	• What is the legal position of parking on the footpath?	Police

<b>Bottisham</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside the village college in Bottisham there are zig-zag lines warning people not to park there. Now a third entrance is frequently used that doesn't have the lines there. Can the County Council look at this and add additional lines?</li> <li>• Traffic calming in Quy – can they look into reducing the speed limit as well? Would be of benefit to cyclists. 40mph seems too fast.</li> </ul>	<p>County Council</p> <p>County Council</p>
<b>Brinkley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Burwell</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wheelie Bins – Old School Close – been exempt from receiving the bins– why? Several areas not had black bags, some areas had too many bins delivered.</li> </ul>	ECDC, Waste Team
<b>Burrough Green</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Cheveley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Dullingham</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is responsible for emptying the litter bins as they are always full/overflowing? Please can they be emptied more frequently?</li> </ul>	ECDC, Waste Team
<b>Kirtling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wheelie Bins – some properties still without them. Can this be resolved ASAP? Village Hall is one such property.</li> </ul>	ECDC, Waste Team
<b>Lode</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport Strategy for Cambridgeshire. Apparent lack of interest in infrastructure in the South of Cambridgeshire (appears to stop at Marshalls airport). Can they please take this area into account?</li> </ul>	County Council
<b>Reach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Stetchworth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charging in the Community Room of the sheltered housing scheme appears to have changed – difficult to establish who are residents of the sheltered housing and who isn't (the trigger for the charge). Please can the hire policy be reviewed and clearly explained to users?</li> </ul>	Sanctuary Housing
<b>Swaffham Prior</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	
<b>Swaffham Bulbeck</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

<b>Westley Waterless</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Woodditton</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vicarage Lane – cars totally on the path so you can't walk past. Ditton Green also a problem when a ramble was taking place. Very dangerous for pedestrians especially if pushing a wheel chair or buggy as you have to go into the road.</li> <li>• Litter bins in New Cheveley Road not been emptied for over 4 weeks. It has been phoned in but it has been ignored by the contractor.</li> <li>• Why does ECDC/Veolia refuse to take white goods?</li> </ul>	<p>Police</p> <p>ECDC, Waste Team</p> <p>ECDC, Waste Team</p>
<b>General issues</b>	<p>Any evidence on the effectiveness of restorative justice?</p> <p>Disappointment in the way that the Cambridge Community Archive Network is being dealt with. Apparent lack of consultation with the stakeholders that originally did lots of work. Frustration and disappointment.</p>	<p>Cambs Constabulary to provide a corporate response.</p> <p>Cambs County Council (Steve Capes).</p>
<b>POLICING PRIORITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serious Acquisitive Crime</li> <li>• Parking in Woodditton</li> </ul>	<p>Police</p>
<b>OTHER PRIORITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Contract issues</li> </ul>	<p>ECDC, Waste Team</p>

### **SNP13/22 Panel Prioritisation**

#### Police Priorities

- Vehicle crime
- Inquisitive crime
- Parking in Woodditton.

### **SNP13/23 ShapeYourPlace Year One Update**

Matthew Hall explained that the ShapeYourPlace website was a community project that intended to give local people a say in local issues. The County Council, District Council, Police and Fire Services were involved as well as community groups. It was a 'blogging' site so it allowed people to communicate and ask questions. All comments 'posted' to the site were moderated.

Lots of issues and comments were coming up and it was very successful in engaging with local services. The issues brought up led to discussions on relevant topics. Local groups and organisations could also use it to publicise events. ShapeYourPlace was here to stay, as it was well used and helped keep people up-to-date with police issues, roadworks and other matters.

Concerns were expressed that ShapeYourPlace should not be 'sold on', as this had happened with the Archive Group to the detriment of that facility.

### **SNP13/24    Service Review of Neighbourhood Panels**

The Partnerships Officer reminded the Panel about how the Panels had been formed and rolled out across the district.

In April 2005 the Home Office launched a national policy to introduce neighbourhood policing into the constabulary by 2008. Southern Division of Cambridgeshire Constabulary was chosen to be a "pathfinder" force and introduced neighbourhood management of the police in the district that year. The District Council led on a piece of work to establish partnership meetings to build on the Police requirement.

The Panel Partners have now looked at the effectiveness of the Panels and their cost effectiveness following the decision of ECDC's Community and Environment Committee to instigate a Service Review of Neighbourhood Panels.

Strengths – Panels gave opportunities to raise issues and meet public service providers, agencies got a positive attitude to working together, there was greater awareness of community issues and it was cost effective for the Police.

Weaknesses – Since 2011 the attendance of the public had decreased, a few new members of the public had attended, only a partial demographic was covered meaning it was not effective in public engagement, the numbers of Panel Members attending had also declined as lots of parish councils were not sending representatives, only 1 task out of 6 from the Panels' Terms of Reference was being met, the issues raised at the Panels could be dealt with more effectively elsewhere, of the issues raised 44 out of 76 related to faults, other issues related to specific individual properties, some issues were recurring as it appeared they could not be solved, there was a general disinterest in the Panels, they were not cost effective when considering the costs to the Council and the other partner agencies.

Conclusion – the Panels were not effective nor cost effective. More efficient mechanisms were already available to deal with community issues. Therefore, it would be recommended by the Service Review Group to Community and Environment Committee that the Panels cease. This would result in savings for the Council and other partners but could potentially leave a gap in how public sector organisations communicate with Parish Councils.

A letter and questionnaire would be sent to all parish councils to ask their opinions on whether a different model of engaging with parish councils could be used instead.

Responses were requested back by 5<sup>th</sup> December. If considered appropriate, a new model could be in place by next April.

Councillor Hazel Williams stated that this had not been an easy decision to make, as the Panels were good to start with. To continue with community engagement, parish councils had to get involved with other agencies to do the best they could for their patch. This would require their commitment to become involved and get things done.

Councillor Allen Alderson thought that something would be needed to replace the Panels, which had allowed parishes to take the lead. The Panels had let the communities determine its priorities.

Councillor Mathew Shuter viewed the Panels as being useful as a forum for parishes to talk about issues. Engaging with the public was hard, as they only turned up if something controversial was being discussed.

Councillor Robert Stevens agreed that getting the public to attend was an uphill struggle and quite often none attended. However, a meeting of some form would be very valuable for the parishes and so they could hear from the Police.

The general consensus was that some form of meeting involving the parishes was the way forward, but all parishes should attend. .

The Partnerships Officer stated that all agencies wanted to continue to meet with parish councils but wanted something of better quality. All sorts of other different models had been looked at, to see if anything could be used instead. The District Council could continue to facilitate these meetings.

### **SNP13/25 Forward Agenda**

At Councillor David Brown's suggestion the Ely Cycling Strategy was removed from the forward agenda plan for the South Panel, as it was not considered relevant.

Two additional items were added: (i) Results of the Community & Environment Committee decision about the Neighbourhood Panels and the questionnaire results; (ii) Local Energy Strategy.

The meeting closed at 8:52pm.