

West Area Neighbourhood Panel

Thursday 14 March 2013 – The Glebe, Sutton – 7.08pm

PRESENT:

Cllr Peter Goddard	Haddenham Parish Council
Cllr Penny Mayo	Sutton Parish Council
Cllr Peter Warren	Wilburton Parish Council
Cllr George Jellicoe	Witchford Parish Council
Cllr Gareth Wilson	East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC)

OFFICERS

Sergeant Will Davis	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Liz Knox	Head of Environmental Services, ECDC
Julie Cornwell	Partnerships Officer, ECDC
Melanie Sage	Democratic Services Officer, ECDC
Terry Jordan	Neighbourhood Panel Liaison Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)

IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Davey	Project Sponsor, CCC
Anne Marie Taylor	Care Network

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 4 members of the public (including 2 Sutton Parish Councillors).

WNP12/19 Welcome

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

WNP12/20 Introductions and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from District Cllrs Goodge, Moakes, Hunt, County Cllr Read and Coveney Parish Cllr Border.

WNP12/21 Chairman's Announcements and Consultation Items

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Referred to the fire evacuation procedures.
- Requested that everyone ensures they complete the attendance list and at the end of the meeting complete the 'Have Your Say' evaluation form.
- Change of room layout. Another new seating layout was being trialled for the meeting following a suggestion at the previous Panel meeting. It aimed to enhance communication amongst everyone in attendance. The Chairman requested feedback regarding this layout at the end of the meeting via the 'Have Your Say' evaluation form.
- Highlighted the following item currently out for consultation, as detailed on the reverse of the agenda sheet:
 - 'East Cambridgeshire Local Plan' - the new Local Plan will set out a blueprint for the future growth of the district over the next 20 years setting out how much and where development should take place, as well as identify

the need for new infrastructure. It will also allocate specific sites for housing, employment and other land uses.

- Cancellation of previous meeting. The previous meeting was cancelled for safety reasons caused by heavy snowfall prior to the meeting. All agencies agreed that the meeting should be cancelled due to the slippery roads. Every effort was made to notify attendees of the decision prior to the meeting, this included individual phone calls, a notice on the website and the display of signs at the venue.

WNP12/22 Neighbourhood Update

The Panel did not set any non-policing priorities at its last meeting. However, the Panel received an update on the issues raised at the previous Panel meeting.

East Cambridgeshire District Council Update	
Sunken boat in river at Little Thetford	The Environment Agency (EA) is aware of the sunken boat and has advised that it has been there for around 12 months. The EA have obtained quotes for its removal and the boat will be removed before the start of the 2013 boating season. Please contact the EA direct if this has not been completed by then.
Hosepipe ban concerns – more houses being built. What are plans to cope with it? Water shortages, lack of pressure (district-wide) Cllr Wilson to mention to Anglia Water. Include on forward agenda	<p>Cllr Gareth Wilson visited Anglia Water’s Sewage works with local resident Brian Allen and ECDC officer Rick Warren to look into the problems of flooding and sewage flowing from the manhole covers whenever there is a storm.</p> <p>Such incidents should be reported immediately to Anglian Water by phoning the emergency telephone number - 08547 145 145. These problems are not always immediately reported as people assume that someone else has contacted Anglian Water.</p> <p>Anglian Water does assess water resilience and it is also part of the planning process.</p> <p>Cllr Wilson explained that a main reason for this problem is that when new homes are built sometimes the drainage of surface water has been incorrectly connected to the sewer system.</p>
Parking – yellow lines on one side of the road in Mepal (where school is located). Cars coming out of school have to turn the wrong way	Mepal Parish Council to request additional yellow lines; request would best be made to the local highways office at Witchford
Dog bins overflowing all of the time - Doghouse Grove, Wilburton Dog bin near pound Rubbish around seat not cleared away on High St (at the pound) near Station Road - Wilburton	Issues regarding the emptying of dog bins and clearance of rubbish around the seat were passed to Veolia for attention. It was noted that the emptying of dog bins was still an issue as ECDC had recently received an increase in calls about this from residents in Sutton and Witchford. It was further reported that this was also an issue in Haddenham. These matters would again be reported to Veolia.

Straw lorries still coming through Wilburton.	Residents are advised to telephone the straw burning plant direct to report vehicles, with the registration numbers of these vehicles.
Witcham Toll to Wentworth cycleway to be added to forward agenda.	<p>The County Council currently has no funding available to progress the Witcham Toll cycle link. The County Council is aware of this community desire and will continue to keep this potential scheme in mind when seeking funding opportunities.</p> <p>Highways representative was unavailable to attend the cancelled panel meeting in January. However, this matter has been added to the forward agenda.</p>

Other Issues and Information

ECDC Sports Club Directory - ECDC has recently launched a new online sport club directory. Sports Clubs are encouraged to register online to help raise the profile of their sport clubs, promote new sessions and increase memberships. The sport club directory will be published on the Council's website and be a focal point for residents to find out more information about sport clubs and services. If you would like to register a sport club please visit www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sports/sports-club-directory

Or for more information e-mail sportandhealth@eastcambs.gov.uk or call 01353 665555.

Waste and recycling bid - ECDC has successfully won a £5 million bid from Central Government to fund a new recycling service and retain weekly waste collections. It is intended that the new service will start to be implemented in September 2013 and be completed by November 2013. An officer from the ECDC waste team would attend the next Panel meeting to provide further information. In the meantime information would be published on the Council's website and circulated to District Cllrs and Parish Councils. Alternatively people could contact the Waste and Recycling team by telephoning 01353 665555.

Budget – The Council agreed its 2013/14 budget on 21 February 2013. The ECDC share of the Council Tax will increase by 2%, which equates to a Band D equivalent of £2.79 or 5.4 pence per week.

The Council has adequate general reserves to respond to unforeseen events of £1.8m in 2013/14 and there are no plans to increase this level of reserves in the foreseeable future.

The Council can also predict a balanced budget for 2012/13 despite the significant increase in homelessness and the Council is committed to achieving a balanced budget to at least 2015/16.

This has enabled the Council to invest in supporting apprenticeships for young people in East Cambridgeshire companies and grant and loan finance to set up Community Land Trusts to provide affordable homes for local communities.

Cllr Wilson noted that since the budget was approved there was a £155,000 deficit as it had just been announced that the Council would not be imposing car parking charges. However, Cllr Wilson noted that there were adequate reserves to meet the budget deficit for the 2013/2014 financial year.

Cambridgeshire County Council Update

Panel would like details of the formal diversion routes around Coveney and	<p>The exact diversion route would depend upon the location of the incident. The diversion routes were as follows:</p> <p>If the incident was between the Elean Business Park and</p>
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<p>Wardy Hill, in the event of an accident on the A142.</p> <p>State of the verges (require maintenance).</p>	<p>Witcham Toll the diversion route is - B1381 through Sutton to Earith Bridge - A1123 to Haddenham crossroads - A1421 to Witcham Toll and vice versa.</p> <p>If the incident was between Witchford village and Witcham Toll the diversion route is - 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.</p> <p>If the incident is at the Witcham Toll junction, diversion would be to continue along A1123 rather than A1421.</p> <p>Some local residents choose to use the back roads around the villages and the Police may divert other ways. The Local Highway Authority is not always called to assist at incidents.</p> <p>The County Council no longer cut grips annually, especially in rural areas as often as soon as they are cut; the next vehicle past closes the grip again.</p> <p>In areas where the Council does cut grips, the works are done on 'an as and when' required basis. The County Council has recently cut some grips between Coveney and the A142.</p>
<p>What are Highways criteria to determine the need for repair of roads and verges (out of Haddenham towards Earith road) – condition of road near children's camp (A1123) is very poor.</p> <p>Road between Haddenham and Wilburton – wavy road, possibly due to weight of the lorries.</p> <p>Haddenham to Wilburton road has been resurfaced, however, part not complete</p>	<p>This road is on the drought bid proposal list and has been scored in association with other drought affected roads in Cambridgeshire to obtain funds to carry out significant repairs. Some areas have been inspected and orders raised to carry out small patching works but additional funds are required for further works.</p> <p>This road obtained funds through the drought list bids. Some works done but only place to place, as far as funds would allow. Further bids have been made for future funds.</p> <p>This road obtained funds through the drought list bids. Some works done but only place to place, as far as funds would allow. Further bids have been made for future funds.</p>
<p>No verges on sides of roads in and around Little Downham and Pymoor.</p>	<p>Most of the roads in this agricultural area are single width and are subject to vehicle over run. Much of this is caused by tractors and lorries going about their business. We have had an unusually sustained period of wet weather and this has made the condition of the verge edges much worse than normal. Any attempt to repair or maintain the verges in these conditions would be counterproductive, as the inevitable vehicle over run would quickly obscure any work done. The verges do have a habit of recovering well in the spring months but the County Council will continue to monitor conditions and take any remedial action deemed necessary.</p> <p>All verges in the county are budgeted to 3 cuts annually. One in</p>

<p>No maintenance on verges around Little Downham and Pymoor – emergency maintenance needed along Black Bank</p> <p>Black Bank and Pymoor Common (Little Downham to Littleport) is considered to be dangerous.</p> <p>Pymoor / Welney – dips in road. Needs attention (toward bank river – where 20 mph sign is located)</p>	<p>spring, one in summer and the final cut in autumn. This involves the cutting of a 1 metre swarth everywhere, and a deeper cut in visibility locations such as junctions and bends. The last cut took place in October 2012.</p> <p>There is no allocated budget for the cutting of grips to release water from the road. However, the County Council has just completed an independently ordered grip cutting programme in November. This can only remain effective if vehicles do not over run the verges where grips are cut.</p> <p>Black Bank Road and Pymoor Common have been identified by the County Council as drought damaged roads and have been scored and included on a special list for capitally funded repair. Subject to funds remaining available, it is hoped that these roads will receive attention. In the meantime, the County Council has carried out minor essential work at both locations. Where it had been deemed necessary signs have been erected to warn drivers of any adverse conditions. The County Council will continue to monitor the roads and carry out any essential maintenance in the meantime.</p> <p>As with the two roads above, this section of Hundred Foot Bank is on the County Council's drought damaged list and is subject to the same monitoring and conditions.</p>
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Other Issues and Information

Cambridgeshire County Council has upgraded its highway fault reporting system. The online Highways Fault Reporting System has been upgraded to enable people to report potholes and other highways problems on-line and progress of the repair can be followed.

To report a highways fault, go to:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/reportingafault.htm or telephone the Contract Centre on 0345 045 5212.

Cllr Goddard noted that the Twentypence Road was still in a poor condition and only patch work repairs had been undertaken. He had been of the opinion that the repairs were to be more significant.

Cllr Mayo noted the increase in the number of accidents that had recently occurred on the Sutton to Earith road.

It was requested that the District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council should work together to co-ordinate the grass-cutting and litter picking timetables particularly of the grass verges leading into and out of villages. The District Council had requested from the grass cutting time table from Cambridgeshire County Council on numerous occasions, and would request this again.

Policing Priorities

Subsequently the Panel received an update from Sergeant Davis on the policing priority raised at the previous Panel meeting.

<p>To reduce the number of speeding vehicles along this section of road - The Americas in Sutton</p>	<p>The local Policing team had taken enforcement action in the area and as a result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for speeding; 11 drivers given words of advice; 11 drivers were offered the Speed Awareness Course; 1 Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notice was issued for the use of a mobile telephone. <p>624 vehicles had been monitored by Speedwatch.</p> <p>The local Policing team had taken enforcement action to address speeding in other vicinities within the West Panel area, these locations were provided at the meeting.</p>
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Total crime in the West Neighbourhood Panel area had decreased during April 2012 – February 2013 in comparison to the previous year.

Under 200 crimes had been reported in the last 3 months.

East Cambridgeshire was showing the biggest crime reduction rate within the Constabulary’s area since the current recording system was introduced in 2007.

Sergeant Davis noted that the crime statistics were significantly good. However, alcohol related incidents had increased by 22 incidents. Inspector Ormerod was investigating why this was occurring although a proportion of the calls could be related to two separate incidents in Haddenham and Stretham.

Sergeant Davis noted that the crime statistics would not be as good when reported to the next Panel meeting as a number of dwelling burglaries had occurred within the last week in Sutton, Mepal and Little Downham. Entry had been gained via the rear of the premises, jewellery had been taken and the offences had occurred both during the daytime and the evening.

It was enquired whether these burglaries could be related to the 3 vehicle thefts that had occurred that morning. Sergeant Davis explained that various avenues of investigation would be considered and that it may be that the incidents were linked.

It was enquired why there had been a decrease in crime rates. Sergeant Davis explained that currently there were no active criminal groups in the East Cambridgeshire area, although there were active criminals that were getting Police attention in Ely at the moment. Having attended other Neighbourhood Panel meetings, Anne Marie Taylor of Care Network further added that Inspector Ormerod had also stated that the Police were working closely with offenders when released from prison and getting them the help that they required, such as from their GP, in order to assist in the prevention of re-offending.

Cllr Jellicoe noted that at the previous Neighbourhood Panel meeting the Police had informed the Panel of a number of burglaries and he enquired whether there had been any progress on this. Sergeant Davis explained that the individual who the Police suspected to be responsible for these burglaries was now in prison for unrelated offences and since his imprisonment the Police had seen a decrease in this crime.

Sergeant Davis further noted that since the end of February there had also been a number of non-dwelling and commercial burglaries. Out-buildings, containers and commercial premises had been broken into in Pymoor, Witchford, Wilburton and Mepal where large items were stolen such as sports equipment, motorcycles, quad bikes, horse tack etc. The Police were targeting a core group of individuals and an update would be provided at the next Panel meeting.

Cllr Jellicoe noted that the Speedwatch scheme would be more successful if the amount of information that the volunteers had to record could be relaxed as currently a partially completed form was rejected. Sergeant Davis explained that warning letters were only sent to drivers if the information provided by Speedwatch could be validated. He would however feed Cllr Jellicoe's comment back.

Cllr Jellicoe explained that in France the Police used the last half hour of their shift to be visible by sitting on the side of the road and suggested that this should be considered by Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Sergeant Davis liked the concept, but in practical terms stated that this would not be viable at Ely station due to the amount of paperwork that officers had to complete before an end of a shift, and it was also not unusual for officers to finish their shift late. However, Sergeant Davis noted that the Chief Constable was intending for officers to be paper-free within 3 years and therefore would be able to complete forms etc out of the office.

WNP12/23 Community Hubs, Libraries and Access Points Presentation

The Panel received a presentation on Community Hubs from the Project Sponsor, Mike Davey of Cambridgeshire County Council.

The presentation can be viewed via the following link:

http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/wnp140313ag_CommHubsPresentation.pdf

The Community Hub Project had been derived as a result of the public outcry following the announcement of the closure of a number of libraries.

One of the visions of the Project was 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.

Another vision was that the core of the hub would usually be the Library Service and the Hub will often be located in library buildings.

Examples of four community hub models were provided:

- 'The Cluster' - Cambourne – A Children's Centre, Library and GP Surgery were all located within one building.
- 'Cambridgeshire County Council hosts the hub' - Chatteris – a fully fledged community hub would soon be in operation where the District Councils 'One Stop Shop' and the Police would all be located within the Library.
- 'Parish Council hosts the hub' – Buckden – Parish Council owns the building that encompasses the library and other community activities.
- 'Independent Trust/Charity hosts the hub' – example of this in Sawston.

Currently the best example of a community hub was in Gamlingay where an old building had been renovated into a community hub. However, to do so required drive and determination. A similar facility had also been renovated in Melbourn. However, funding for this community hub had been generated from an increase in the precept.

In Ely the library was on the first floor, therefore access to the library was not ideal.

Little Downham had a Library Access Point.

Cambridgeshire County Council was currently in discussions with the Clerk at Witcham as the Parish Council was currently renovating the Village Hall.

It was noted that Haddenham also had a Library Access Point which had been operated by volunteers since 2003 when Haddenham had experienced the loss of its library in the second round of library closures. Although it was difficult to recruit volunteers it was operating successfully, housed the community archives and was a venue for meetings.

Cllr Wilson accepted that community hubs were a very good idea, but were costly. For instance the community hub in Gamlingay cost approximately £1.5million.

Mike Davey of Cambridgeshire County Council encouraged Parishes to speak to him should they wish to develop a community hub as the County Council could provide suggested solutions on each individual case as one model would not suit all venues.

WNP12/24 Community Navigator Presentation

The Panel received a presentation from Anne-Marie Taylor from Care Network Cambridgeshire.

The presentation can be viewed via the following link:

http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/wnp140313ag_CareNetwkPresentation.pdf

Anne-Marie Taylor explained that the Community Navigators project was funded for 3 years by Cambridgeshire County Council.

The mission of the Project was to help older, isolated and vulnerable people living in Cambridgeshire to stay independent and maintain social contact with friends and the community.

The Care Network Community Navigator Project directed people to local community activities and statutory and voluntary organisations, eg,

- 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

Care Network welcomed suggestions from local people so that if their community needed something extra, it will endeavour to work with the community to try to ensure that it happened.

The main head office was in Hardwick but there was a branch in each district throughout the county.

Community Navigator volunteers received training and expenses. Recently all Police Community Support Officers based in Ely had received Community Navigator training.

Following the presentation a discussion ensued about how to identify vulnerable people within the community and that Community Navigators should work with Emergency Co-ordinators within each community who already have a list of vulnerable people. Anne-Marie Taylor explained that there were partner agencies that Care Network already worked with, such as the Police and Libraries, although using other people's data to identify vulnerable people did have data protection implications. Anne-Marie Taylor further explained that Community Navigators were difficult to recruit and it was hoped that the official launch scheduled mid-May would promote the Project.

The Head of Environmental Services noted that it was not only vulnerable people that needed the assistance of Community Navigators as some people just needed to be directed to a service. Anne-Marie Taylor agreed that irrespective of a person's age, if someone required assistance they would not be refused help. For the older or more vulnerable person it was intended that the Project would prevent the feeling of isolation.

It was enquired whether Care Network had contacted Scheme Managers of Sheltered Housing. Anne-Marie Taylor confirmed that the Project was in discussions with local housing associations, was working with the Police and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

It was suggested that the Community Navigators Project should be promoted via the parish magazines.

Anne-Marie Taylor encouraged people to contact her with any suggestions as to how to promote the Project, or for further information, or if anyone would like to invite her to speak at any community event/meeting.

WNP12/25 Discussion of Neighbourhood Issues Raised by Audience and Panel Members

The following issues were raised by Parish representatives/public:

LOCATION	ISSUE OF CONCERN
Coveney and Wardy Hill	None
Haddenham	Pot holes and general poor state of roads continues to be a problem.

Little Downham and Pymoor	None
Little Thetford	None
Mepal	<p>Issues about planning consent of hazardous materials to be stored at Block Fen</p> <p>Concerns around the communication between ECDC and Fenland DC regarding planning applications</p> <p>Concern some people worse off and what that might mean to Mepal and other parishes in the west. An understanding of the percentage and demographics of people worse off.</p>
Stretham	None
Sutton	<p>Dog Fouling. Particularly bad in the High Street.</p> <p>Large number of accidents between Sutton and Earith recently. What is being done to reduce the number of incidents?</p> <p>Sutton – traffic backing up at chicane – particularly when the traffic is being re-routed and at peak times. Is there no alternative to this traffic calming measure? Potential for serious accidents. Could a mini- roundabout at Church Lane be an option?</p> <p>Storage containers of rubbish at Jardins Packaging. Very unsightly. Can they keep maintained lower than the bank?</p>
Wentworth	None
Wilburton	<p>Concerns about the amount of traffic (particularly aggregate lorries) coming through Wilburton. People can taste of the fumes of lorries after a walk. Areas: High Street, Wilburton (used as a shortcut from A14 to Newmarket) – almost every day.</p> <p>Speeding, large tractors along the High Street.</p> <p>The amount of rubbish in the countryside is everywhere. Particularly Station Road, but generally everywhere.</p>
Witcham (& Wardy Hill)	None
Witchford	<p>Frustration at continuing lack of co-ordination between grass cutting and litter picking. ECDC would like a grass cutting timetable to enable litter picking to be carried out first. This is an issue across the Panel area.</p> <p>Dog Waste Bin – always full. Photos have been sent of specific locations. Broadway and Elm Close are key areas. Weekly collections are not happening. Also happening in Haddenham and Wilburton.</p> <p>Verge-side litter is not being picked up – e.g. Grunty Fen from Witchford. Entering Witchford from Ely also very poor. Not being done every six weeks.</p> <p>Lots of cars with defective headlights have been noticed</p>

	(issue raised as a personal concern). Police do routinely stop cars with defective headlights whilst on patrol, if not responding to a call.
General or crossing cutting issues	None
POLICING PRIORITIES	Speeding – from Stretham into Wilburton. Feedback on the acquisitive crime
OTHER PRIORITIES	Dog Fouling and over flowing dog bins. Litter on the verges

Parish Councils should contact companies direct where aggregate vehicles are travelling through villages with specific details of vehicles and also write to the District Council for its consideration when licenses were renewed.

WNP12/17 Forward Agenda Plans

The Forward Agenda Plan was received. The following items were added to the forward agenda plan:

Cambridgeshire County Council Highway representative to attend next Panel meeting to discuss highways issues.

Sanctuary Housing to attend a future Neighbourhood Panel meeting to speak about the impacts of the Welfare Reform.

The Meeting closed at 9.02pm.