

## West Area Neighbourhood Panel

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 – Witchford Village Hall – 7.07pm

### PRESENT:

Cllr Owen Winters	Little Downham Parish Council
Cllr Jean Ballantyne	Little Thetford Parish Council
Cllr David Ellis	Witchford Parish Council
Cllr Elizabeth Stazicker	Mepal Parish Council
Cllr Peter Warren	Wilburton Parish Council
Cllr Peter Goddard	Haddenham Parish Council
Cllr Peter Moakes	East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC)
Cllr Gareth Wilson	East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC)
Cllr Philip Read	Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC)

### OFFICERS

Inspector Paul Ormerod	Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Liz Knox	Head of Environmental Services, ECDC
Terry Jordan	Neighbourhood Panel Liaison Officer, CCC
Janis Murfet	Democratic Services Officer, ECDC
Jo Grant	Sanctuary Housing
Lewis Bage	Project Officer, ECDC

### IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Jane Smith	Sanctuary Housing
Andy Shaw	Ely Cycling Campaign
Claire Gillett	Parish Nurse

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 2 members of the public (including 1 Parish Clerk).**

### **WNP13/16 Introductions and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Border of Coveney Parish Council.

### **WNP13/17 Chairman's Announcements and Consultation Items**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Requested that everyone ensured that they completed the attendance list.
- Requested that everyone ensured that at the end of the meeting they completed the 'Have Your Say' evaluation form.
- Reminded everyone that the fire exit was at the back of the hall.
- Highlighted the following consultation items as detailed on the reverse of the agenda sheet (available to view via the attached link):

<http://www.eastcamb.s.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/ag200114wanp.pdf>

- Draft Ely Station Gateway Supplementary Planning Document – Public Consultation;

- Novel Psychoactive Substances & Club Drugs Strategy;
- Better Care Fund.

The Chairman said that as this was the last meeting of the West Panel, she wished to take the opportunity to thank the Panel members and Officers for being such good colleagues. She paid particular thanks to Liz Knox and Lewis Bage for all their help and support and said that while she was sorry to see the end of the Panels, she understood why they were ending.

It had been good to be able to put faces to names and she expressed the hope that a way forward would be found to continue the interaction.

### **WNP13/18    Neighbourhood Update**

The Neighbourhood Panel Update document containing responses to non-policing priorities and other issues raised at the previous Panel meeting was available to view via the following link:

<http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/updatewanpjan2014.pdf>

The Panel received an update on the non-policing priority set for the District Council and other issues raised at the previous Panel meeting:

<b>East Cambridgeshire District Council Update</b>	
<b>Other Issues Raised at the Previous Panel Meeting where subsequently discussed:</b>	
Letter to Straw Burning Plant from the West Panel Chairman asking for the hauliers to use the preferred route option, regardless of what is said in the County Council Waste Plan.	<p>The Chairman said she had been a little late in writing the letter, and was therefore still awaiting a response. Once received, it would be included in the newsletter.</p> <p>Cllr Read said that with regard to the issue of straw, there was legislation enacted that would allow councils to charge for it to be cleared up; he suggested that it should be used to get the Plant to pay.</p>
Supply of water – previous response not adequate.	<p>The Panel's attention was drawn to the comprehensive written reply, included with the papers for this meeting.</p> <p>The Water Resource Management Plan and the Drought Plan are available to view on the Anglian Water website via the following links:</p> <p><a href="http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/water-resources/resource-management/">http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/water-resources/resource-management/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/water-resources/drought-plan/">http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/water-resources/drought-plan/</a></p>
Feedback on top 5 issues on SYP to the next Panel meeting.	<p>The County Council gave a rather vague response.</p> <p>With regard to ECDC, the top issues are dog fouling, street cleansing, and the introduction of the new waste service; the main issue is street cleansing.</p> <p>For the County Council, the main issue is probably roads and</p>

	traffic.
What is taken to Parish Collection sites is limited – will it be widened to be the same as the waste service ?	The banks at the bring sites will remain, as the contract has another 2 years to run. Amey Cespa is asking to speak to ECDC because there is reduced usage due to the new waste contract, but any removals will be at no cost to the Council.
EU Directive to have recyclables collected separately. Will this mean that everyone will have to have separate bins ?	ECDC has already produced a statement justifying why it is having co-mingled collections. It has been announced this week that the Government guidance on TEEP will not now be produced – it will be up to each local authority to decide what they do.
The litter was not collected before the verges were cut, despite the County Council supplying the information as to when the cutting was happening to the District Council. Can ECDC investigate and resolve and explain what the policy is on this ?	Information from the County Council has not been very specific with locations and dates, and whilst ECDC attempts to arrange litter picking before the verges are cut, this is not always possible. ECDC is working with the County to try to manage the issue more effectively.
Having an effective policy: revisiting the two colour bag issue for dog waste bins and investigate the bins not being emptied.	The alternative bag system appears to be working well and an update is awaited from Veolia regarding their views. ECDC is aware of the issues that have been reported, but the alternative coloured bags will allow people to see where and when bags have been changed.
Takeaway litter in Berristead Close – thought to be staff from the Harbour School.	Wilburton Parish Council will contact the school and install a litter bin.
Query as to what will happen to the village collection points now that the recycling scheme has been introduced and whether the waste collected there counts towards the total recycling percentage.	The current contracts with the recycling bank suppliers run for approximately another 2 years. The Council would be charged for removal ahead of this, so the banks will remain where they are until the contracts end. Tonnes collected through these banks <i>do</i> count towards the overall recycling figure.
Request for a Police Officer to attend the Wilburton Parish Council	Inspector Ormerod did not receive the letter making the request, and has asked that the Parish Council emails him

AGM.	instead.
Bags at Jardines are still visible and unsightly. Can they be asked to put a hedge on the top?	Sutton Parish Council were to write to Jardines suggesting this, and it is believed that some of the bags have been removed.
Litter bins and dog bins are not getting emptied.	ECDC will deal with this – the matter has been raised with Veolia.
Waste recycling area in The Brook – can a sign go up directing people to the Recycling Centre if their unwanted items can't be left at The Brook?	A request was made for a large sign, but there is not a budget to pay for it; we will continue with smaller signs.
Problem of straw on the pavements needs to be addressed.	Cllr Read has already raised this issue and the matter will be investigated.
Straw lorries – can ECDC enforce the requirement to avoid the villages of Haddenham, Wilburton and Sutton as per the planning condition detailed in 09/00027/VAR, using the preferred route.	The response from the Planning Enforcement Officer is that this is an ongoing issue; if the hauliers are entitled to use the roads, ECDC cannot stop them from doing so. Trying to enforce the planning condition would be very difficult.

- Cllr Wilson did not think that the issue of the straw on the pavements had been properly answered because the sweepers only cleaned the streets, not the pavements. Liz Knox said that ECDC dealt with street cleansing; she needed to go back and see if there was any specific legislation she could use. Cllr Read suggested that the people running the Plant should investigate and find a way, such as covering loose loads, to resolve the problem.
- Cllr Moakes asked how the changes to the waste collection system had impacted on recycling rates. Liz Knox replied that data indicated a massive increase from 36% to 54% and although this might tail off, it was possible that rates would rise in the Spring due to garden waste. A paper setting out the information would go to the next meeting of the Waste & Environment Sub-Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

### **Cambridgeshire County Council Update**

Terry Jordan was in attendance to present the update on the CCC related issues raised at the previous Panel meeting.

<p>Balfour Beatty –difficulty in getting resolution on issues with them.</p>	<p>Peta King-Parcell, Customer Liaison Officer at Balfour Beatty, should be contacted regarding any concerns or queries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E-mail: <a href="mailto:Peta.King-Parcell@bblivingplaces.com">Peta.King-Parcell@bblivingplaces.com</a></li> <li>• Tel: 0800 783 8247 or 01954 233323</li> </ul> <p>Correspondence should receive a response within 10 working days.</p>
<p>Ongoing problem of parking outside the school in Carpond Lane. Can the road be looked at with a view to adding yellow lines ? Wilburton Parish Council have asked if a Highways Officer can go and inspect in school term time and feedback to the Parish Council whether they feel it is safe and accessible, as they haven't heard anything. Would also like to know costings for yellow lines. Police very supportive of yellow lines being installed outside the school.</p>	<p>The Local Highways Officer has made a visit and the issue has been forwarded to the County Council's Policy &amp; Regulation Team with a view to installing double yellow lines.</p> <p>Third Party funding may be required; the cost could be approximately £2,000.</p>
<p>Still massive dips on Black Bank. Can more specific details be provided on the works carried out and planned to be carried out, as the details on the last update were not sufficient ?</p>	<p>Edge repairs, patching and shaping works have been carried out along Black Bank during the current financial year, and more works are planned for the new year in an effort to remove the large dips on the Little Downham side of the level crossing.</p>
<p>The footpaths are not having the grass cut three times a year – please can they be cut three times a year ? When is the Autumn cut due to take place ?</p>	<p>The County Council currently undertakes the cutting of highway verges three times a year. The Autumn cut should have taken place in late October or early November 2013. Cllr Winters' comments about lack of progress will be fed back to the HighwaysTeam.</p>

Cllr Read said he was sure that many of the people present at this evening's meeting would remember Brian Hicks, ECDC's Traveller Liaison Officer. Brian had died a fortnight ago after a long illness, and his passing was a very sad loss. Both Cllr Read and Liz Knox had attended the funeral.

<b>Sanctuary Housing</b>
Sanctuary Housing's attendance at the Panel meeting was acknowledged. The Panel had not set any non-policing priorities or raised any other issues at the previous Panel meeting for Sanctuary Housing.

### **Policing Priorities**

The Panel received an update from Inspector Ormerod on the policing priority set and other police issues raised at the previous Panel meeting:

<b>To reduce the number of acquisitive crimes being committed in the area (Dwelling Burglary, Non-Dwelling Burglary &amp; Vehicle Crime)</b>	Regular patrols were being conducted in the area, with concentration on the major routes that would appear to be being used by offenders. This included overnight and early morning patrols, and some road blocks; the focus was on known criminals. There was still an amount of crime happening, but it was quite random with regard to time and place. In relation to statistics, there was no particular peak, however vehicle crime was becoming more of an issue.
<b>Speed checks in The America, Sutton and early mornings in The Brook; Witchford Road, Witchford (towards Ely); Haddenham generally</b>	Community Speedwatch had conducted checks in Haddenham, Sutton, Wilburton and Witchford, with 3081 vehicles having been monitored. As a result of this, 14 drivers were given words of advice, 7 reported for speeding offences, and 1 for a criminal matter. Speeding continues to be a concern in the villages in the area.
<b>Other Issues Raised at the Previous Panel Meeting:</b>	
<b>A petition is being formed regarding the Traffic Calming measures and the queues they cause.</b>	Noted
<b>Speeding down the Americas, also noisy</b>	Update as per the Speeding Priority refers.

<b>Dangerous parking on the Ely Road</b>	No offenses observed during the course of speed enforcement activity at this location and when patrols have been passing.
<b>New style e-cops: can Haddenham Parish Council still receive information about local policing in the village ?</b>	All PCSOs are sending out eCops messaging using the new system with updates for their areas. Additional training is being rolled out to officers to ensure that messages are tailored to specific areas and interest groups.
<b>2 cars parked on opposite sides of the roads on double yellow lines, causing an obstruction on the Top Corner. A police car drove past on this occasion. Please can this be addressed.</b>	Officers have been asked to pay passing attention to the junction in question and deal with any parking offences that are observed.

Total crime was well down compared to 2011, and last year saw very low figures.

The anti social use of motorcycles was becoming more of an issue, and a number of people had been spoken to in connection with this.

As this was the last Panel meeting, the priorities and issues would be reported back to the parishes by means of a newsletter.

Cllr Stazicker asked whether the police speed checks could be conducted Monday to Friday rather than at 7.00am on a Sunday.

Cllr Read enquired whether there were any patterns in respect of acquisitive crime. Inspector Ormerod replied that analytical work was being undertaken to determine this, but crimes were being committed all over the place in rural areas and it was difficult to second guess where the criminals would strike next.

Cllr Read suggested that Parish and District Councillors should submit issues so that they could be monitored and tabulated. Inspector Ormerod replied that the Police were looking to do this using Shape Your Place , along with other options. A parish issues form had been developed and this could be circulated for use.

Cllr Stazicker said that the Panel had appreciated the clarity of Inspector Ormerod's reports, and it would be very helpful if the parishes could be provided with six monthly reports in the future. Inspector Ormerod reminded her of the new e-cops "Alert" system, adding that it could be used to send bespoke messages. A member of the audience commented that it would be useful if the parishes could be linked to the system.

<b>Fire Service Data</b>
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The data provided by the Fire Service was included in the Update document.
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## **WNP13/19     Welfare Reform Presentation**

The Panel received a presentation on Welfare Reform from Sarah-Jayne Smith, Income Advisor at Sanctuary Housing.

A summary of the presentation is as follows:

- The Welfare Reform Act became law on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and was the most radical overhaul of the system in 60 years;
- The Government had made changes in order to reduce the size of the welfare bill;
- Working age claimants were affected in that a reduction would be applied to the eligible rent used to calculate Housing Benefit entitlement for under-occupied properties;
- The size criteria in respect of bedrooms came into effect in April 2013;
- A cap of £500 per week or £26,000 per annum would be put on benefits for non-working households, but there would be protections in place for those in receipt of Disability Benefit Allowance;
- Council Tax Benefit had been abolished from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and replaced with local authority schemes from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, each authority being responsible for implementing their own scheme. Pensioners were protected under the new system;
- The Discretionary Social Fund had been abolished, with responsibility for providing financial support being transferred to County Councils from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. This was intended to help low income families manage through personal crises. The Cambridgeshire County Council scheme was administered by Charis Grants;
- The information on Universal Credit was still fairly vague, and the scheme was only currently being run in the “pathfinder” areas. Rollout would commence in Autumn 2014, region by region, starting with the North West. It was a matter of some concern that the scheme included housing costs;
- Sanctuary was working with local authorities as well as its tenants. It gave support with benefits claims and appeals, worked with tenants to help them maximise their income and secured additional help for those experiencing financial hardship.
- The courts were now granting orders for possession and eviction, but Sanctuary did what it could to try and avoid this;
- With regard to future changes, the roll out of Universal Credit was still uncertain and the elections in 2015 were likely to bring further reforms. It was felt that much tougher sanctions were to come.

Having concluded her presentation, Ms Smith responded to questions from the Panel.

In relation to the “Bedroom Tax”, the point was made that unless we started to build more one bedroom dwellings, people would be unable to downsize. Ms Smith replied that Sanctuary was helping people to apply for extra financial assistance while they were waiting to move.



Cllr Read asked how proactive Sanctuary was in keeping a check on those tenants who were getting into difficulties. Ms Smith said that anyone with arrears of more than £10 was sent a letter and they were given the opportunity to contact Sanctuary to discuss the matter; action was taken as quickly as possible.

In response to a question from Cllr Wilson, Ms Smith informed the Panel that there were approximately 8 households in the District which were affected by the benefits cap.

Cllr Winters asked what the figures were for private households. Ms Smith responded by saying that the Department for Work & Pensions could not share the figures, but they could be found in the media.

Cllr Stazicker concluded by thanking Ms Smith for a very helpful review.

### **WNP13/20 East Cambs Cycling Strategy Presentation**

The Panel received a presentation from Mr Andy Shaw of the Ely Cycling Campaign.

A summary of the presentation is as follows:

- The Campaign, formed by local people in March 2012, covered Ely and the North of the District. The aim was to campaign for cycling as a mode of transport and bring about infrastructure changes;
- The Cycling Strategy was, in the past, rather piecemeal but the Campaign would take a more positive attitude towards its implementation;
- The Strategy proposed a mapped network of segregated cycle routes – dedicated space for cycling and not to be shared with motor vehicles and/or pedestrians. This would allow more people to cycle;
- The benefits to Ely would include reduced congestion and strain on parking, increased revenue for traders, a healthier population, and a more attractive environment for everyone.
- A completely different approach was required in order to make cycling a priority and not just an afterthought. Space should be provided so that everyone could cycle.

Following the conclusion of the presentation, Members asked questions/made statements and a summary of the discussions and officer responses were as follows:

- Cllr Read made the point that local authorities should be able to ask for S106 monies that would contribute to the wellbeing of the population, but it was very difficult to get the money unless it was for a specific area. Mr Shaw replied that cycling would be a very big issue at the next election and any funding would only be given to places where a plan was in place.
- Cllr Wilson noted that a picture in the presentation had shown a cycle lane with a 20 mph speed restriction; Mr Shaw replied that this was part of the Cycling Strategy.

Cllr Stazicker thanked Mr Shaw for his presentation.

### **WNP13/21 Parish Nurse Scheme Presentation**

The Panel received a presentation on the Parish Nurse Scheme from Claire Gillett, RGN, Parish Nurse based at St Mary's Church, Ely.

A summary of the presentation is as follows:

- Parish Nursing was defined as “*the intentional integration of the practice of faith with the practice of nursing so that people can achieve wholeness in, with, and through the community of faith in which parish nurses serve*”. It might also be known as “faith community nursing”;
- Whole person healthcare should include spiritual healing and be available to everyone, irrespective of their faith, or even if they had no faith;
- Parish Nursing began in Chicago in 1986, and there were now over 12,000 Parish Nurses in 25 countries. In the UK, there were currently 88 projects running, with over 150 nurses having been trained;
- A Parish Nurse is able to pray with patients and discuss spiritual matters;
- Has a holistic approach to health care;
- Is able to fill in the gaps that are missing in the current health service;
- Is not doing anyone else's job;
- Is able to bring a health focus to church services; and
- Is able to give people time.

Ms Gillett went on to explain the practical elements of her work and gave some examples of what she would encounter in the course of a typical Thursday. She concluded by highlighting a selection of testimonies, which were displayed on a board for anyone who wished to read them.

The Chairman thanked Ms Gillett for a very impressive presentation.

**WNP13/22 Discussion of Neighbourhood Issues Raised by Audience and Panel Members/Panel Prioritisation**

The following issues were raised by Parish representatives/public:

LOCATION	ISSUE OF CONCERN	LEAD AGENCY/OFFICER
<b>Coveney and Wardy Hill</b>	None raised	-
<b>Haddenham</b>	Problem of straw on the pavements needs to be addressed.	ECDC, Waste Team.
<b>Little Downham and Pymoor</b>	The footpaths are still not having the grass cut three times a year . The state of Black Bank Road is a matter for concern – is any money being spent on it ?	Cambs County Council.  Cambs County Council

<b>Little Thetford</b>	None raised	-
<b>Mepal</b>	None raised	-
<b>Stretham</b>	None raised	-
<b>Sutton</b>	None raised	-
<b>Wentworth</b>	None raised	-
<b>Wilburton</b>	Speed checks Theft of heating oil	Cambs Constabulary Cambs Constabulary
<b>Witcham</b>	None raised	-
<b>Witchford</b>	None raised	-
General or crossing cutting issues	Potholes on all the fen roads – how much money is being allocated for them ?	Cambs County Council
<b>POLICING PRIORITIES</b>	Continue liaison between the parishes and the Police Future information sharing	Cambs Constabulary. Cambs Constabulary.
<b>OTHER PRIORITIES</b>	Ongoing joined up communications/rapport between all the agencies, following the demise of Neighbourhood Panels.	ECDC Cambs County Council Cambs Constabulary

### **WNP13/23 Forward Agenda Plans**

No Forward Agenda Plan was submitted, as this was the final Panel meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm.