

Girton Parish Council

John Burridge
Clerk to the Parish Council
Telephone: (01223) 472181
Email: clerk@girton-cambs.org.uk

The Pavilion
Girton Recreation Ground
Cambridge Road, Girton
Cambridge CB3 0FH

Minutes of the Meeting of Girton Parish Council on Wednesday 15th June 2011 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllrs de Lacey (in the Chair), Clift, Cockley, Garner, Godby, Gordon, Hiley, Noble, Taylor, Thorrold and Ziobro.

In attendance:

County Councillor Reynolds and District Councillor Bygott (to item 11/75). Roger Taylor (NW Cambridge Development) and James Rose (URS Scott), two members of the public.

John Burridge (Clerk), Natalie Stone (PFO).

11/69

Welcome from the Chairman:

The Chairman welcomed all present.

11/70

Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Bromwich (holiday) and Johnson (illness)

11/71

Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda:

Cllrs Gordon and Hiley declared an interest in the items regarding Wellbrook Way as Trustees of the Girton Town Charity..

11/72

Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

1. Presentation on behalf of the NW Cambridge Project:

James Rose made a presentation on behalf of the university. Councillors had many questions and it was agreed that these would be forwarded to the Project manager for a written response. The presentation and response will be circulated when available.

2. Members of the public:

Mr Robert Stone told Councillors that Cambridgeshire County Council had set up a Localism Board and that under the proposed legislation parishes would have powers to put together a Community Development Plan. He had three suggestions for land use within Girton which he would forward to the clerk. Mr Stone then left the meeting.

3. County Councillor's report: (Cllr Reynolds' report attached at Appendix A)

Councillor Reynolds was thanked for his comprehensive report. In response to a question about the time frame for the road works on the Huntingdon Road and reinstatement of the crossing, he said that the works should be finished in the next five to six weeks..

4. District Councillors' reports: (Cllr de Lacey's report attached at Appendix B)

Cllr de Lacey added to his report that he had received emails from James Fisher and David Hamilton of SCDC regarding Wellbrook Way. As these would possibly affect debate of Items 11/75.1 - 7, he read these out. The emails had been sent to him in his capacity as a District Councillor and will be appended to the Minutes.

Cllr Bygott reported that his portfolio had increased to include Community Safety. He drew Councillors' attention to the Speed Stickers scheme and said that SCDC would want these to be used sparingly and at the entrances to the village to emphasise to motorists the speed limits in force. (See Item 11/75.10 below).

In response to a question, Cllr Bygott confirmed that he was unaware of any current negotiations regarding a S106 Agreement in respect of NW Cambridge. He pointed out that the money from this project would be spread over a number of beneficiaries and that it would be important to ensure that there was a fair distribution. He accepted that, as a large proportion of the development would be within the parish boundary, Girton should be a significant recipient.

5. Police Report:

Cllr Godby reported that PCSO Bujar Mani had arranged visits to the various youth organisations and some of these had already been completed.

11/73 To confirm minutes of the Parish Meeting of 18th May 2011:

Cllr Godby proposed the addition of 'March and' before 'April' at 11/61. Seconded by Cllr Taylor, this was approved.

Cllr Hiley proposed the addition of "Cllr Godby asked for clarification as to the length of the probation period agreed for the clerk on appointment." Seconded by Cllr. Taylor, this was approved.

Subject to the amendment, Cllr Godby proposed that the Minutes should be signed as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Hiley.

Approved: 13 in favour, one abstention.

11/74 Matters arising from the Minutes:

11/63.7: The Chairman reported that a legal opinion had been obtained informally from Abbeyfield's lawyer which agreed with Taylor-Wimpey's view.

11/75 Business items requiring a decision or consideration by the Council:

The Chairman proposed to postpone Item 1 until after Item 8 as the decisions in respect of these Items could affect the Council's decision in respect of Item 1..

1. That Girton Parish Council recommends the adoption of the Wellbrook Way LEAP and surrounding Bow Topped Fence.

Proposed: Cllr. Clift

Seconded: Cllr Godby

After extensive discussion Items 1, 3-8 were **WITHDRAWN** by Cllr Clift on the understanding that relevant Officers from SCDC would be invited to attend the July meeting, or report to it if unavailable, to discuss the Council's concerns. Cllrs Reynolds and Bygott left the meeting at this point

2. That Girton Parish Council agrees that the location of Statutory Undertakers Apparatus in relation to the open space and LEAP at Wellbrook Way is acceptable.

Proposed: Cllr Clift

Seconded: Cllr de Lacey

Cllr Hiley said that members should bear mind that the GTC income would allow any sensibly priced proposals to be considered. Cllr Gordon added that he agreed but that he would object if the Trustees were asked to fund legal advice

Approved: 11 in favour, 2 non-votes, 1 abstention.

9. **To approve the instruction of a Chartered Surveyor to obtain a valuation on the SCDC land at Wellbrook Way.**

Proposed: Cllr. de Lacey

Seconded: Cllr Gordon

Cllr de Lacey explained that the SCDC portfolio-holder had agreed to delay a decision, to allow GPC to put in a formal bid.

Approved: 12 in favour, 2 non-votes.

10. **To agree involvement in the SCDC Speed Sticker Initiative and to authorise the Clerk both to distribute stickers and to advertise to residents that they may purchase additional stickers as required. (See Appendix D).**

Proposed: Cllr. de Lacey

Seconded: Cllr Godby

Rejected unanimously.

11. **That the Parish Council formally votes thanks to the Girton Town Charity for the significant financial contributions that it has made to the St John's Field and Hibbert Ware Garden projects.**

Proposed: Cllr. de Lacey

Seconded: Cllr. Godby

Councillors were unanimous in wishing to record the Council's thanks and appreciation of the Town Charity's generosity to the community. A formal letter of appreciation will be sent.

Cllr Godby thanked Cllr de Lacey, Penny de Lacey and George Thorpe for the work that they had put in, in weeding the Hibbert Ware garden.

Approved: 12 in favour, two non-votes.

11/76 Finance & Resource Management:

1. **To approve payments from 18th May to 15th June 2011:**

Proposed: Cllr Godby

Seconded: Cllr Thorrold

Approved: 13 in favour 1 abstention

2. **To approve the Balance Sheet:**

Proposed: Cllr Godby

Seconded: Cllr Hiley

Approved: 13 in favour 1 abstention

3. **To receive the finance report from 1st April to 15th June 2011**

The Finance Report was duly received

4. **To approve the Annual Return (to be circulated).**

Proposed Cllr de Lacey

Seconded Garner

The Chairman read out each of the undertakings on the Return, and by a show of hands each was unanimously **Approved**.

The Chairman signed the Annual Return on behalf of the Council

5. **That the Council apply for Small Business Rate Relief or, in the alternative, appeal the assessment (to be advised) in respect of the Pavilion.**

Proposed: Cllr de Lacey

Seconded: Cllr Godby

The RFO advised that the Council should apply for Small Business Rate relief, and noted that an appeal could subsequently be lodged if necessary.

Approved unanimously.

11/77

Correspondence received:

The following correspondence has been circulated to all Councillors.

1. Minutes of Girton Bowls Green Working Party
2. Letter re installation of street lighting in Church Lane.
3. Letter from PCC re dog walking in the churchyard
4. Letter re bow top fencing at Wellbrook Way LEAP.
5. ROSPA Report 2011 Summary Recommendations. (To be referred to Sport & Rec. Committee)
6. Letter to Chairman re land adjacent to NIAB
7. Report from Mr Byam-Cook re Paths.
8. Consultation document as to proposed Academy status from IVC.
9. South Cambs Village Hero Awards Nomination Form
10. Email from South Cambs re Wellbrook Way land.
11. Email correspondence re Dodford Lane (6 items).
12. South Cambs Community Pride Awards Nomination Form
13. Email from SCDC re Awards

11/78

To receive reports:

1. Chairman's Report (Appendix C)

Received.

2. Girton Town Charity:

Cllr Hiley reported that

3. Girton Youth Club:

In the absence of Cllr Johnson, Cllr Hiley reported that the Club was doing well and continued to be supported by the Town Charity. It was now using an additional room at the Cotton Hall

4. Footpaths and Rights of Way:

There was no report as Cllr. Bromwich was away on holiday

11/79

To receive Committee Minutes:

The minutes of the Planning Applications Committee of 31st May were received.

11/80

Matters raised by Councillors:

Cllr Hiley reported that the road sign at Cockerton Road had been damaged. He was informed that this was already in hand.

Cllr Thorrold thanked Cllr Clift for all the hard work that he had undertaken in respect of the Wellbrook Way question. Cllrs Ziobro and Noble added their thanks to those of Cllr Thorrold.

Cllr Gordon suggested that if the dog walkers could not use the churchyard it might be possible to fence off a path for their use at the edge of the recreation ground. It was agreed that this should be referred to Sports & Recreation to investigate possibilities.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

APPENDIX A

BUSWAY OPENING DATE ANNOUNCED - IT'S TIME TO GET ONBOARD

The Council have announced that Cambridgeshire's Guided Busway will open on Sunday 7th August. The revolutionary new link will offer a reliable, fast and frequent service between Huntingdon, St Ives and Cambridge giving residents a high quality alternative to the long queues and uncertain journey times on the busy A14.

Stagecoach and Whippet Coaches, who will run the services on The Busway, are now in the process of registering the new Busway routes with the Traffic Commissioner. Timetables, stops and routes for the different services will be published next week. Busway services will run seven days a week, and from Monday to Saturday 7am to 7pm there will be buses running between St Ives and Cambridge at least every 10 minutes. Services to Huntingdon will be every 20 minutes with an hourly evening service running until midnight.

It is anticipated around 3.5 million trips will be taken on The Busway each year. The dedicated track for guided buses will mean passengers will be able to travel by public transport between St Ives Park & Ride and the Science Park in Cambridge in just 20 minutes. Cambridge Gateway - a project to improve bus, cycle and pedestrian access into Cambridge railway station - was completed earlier this year, and the new link to Hills Road will also open on 7 August to tie in with the start of Busway services.

The Busway will be the longest track of its kind in the world and includes two new Park & Ride sites at St Ives and Longstanton with spaces for hundreds of cars, and covered cycle parking. The shorter southern section connects Cambridge Railway Station, Addenbrooke's Hospital and Trumpington Park & Ride with a completely traffic free link.

"The Busway is going to provide people with a reliable, fast and frequent form of public transport, making it the best way to travel. This route is much needed in Cambridgeshire and will set the standard for rapid transit systems being built in the future. Since the route was handed over to us, our absolute focus has been to get buses running on the track as soon as possible, and it is great news to finally announce the date people will be able to begin taking advantage of this fantastic new service."

Andy Campbell, Managing Director for Stagecoach in Cambridge, said: "Stagecoach has been committed to this project since the very beginning and we are delighted we now have a date when the bus services will begin. The Busway is a visionary project and we believe that our luxury buses with leather seats, free WiFi internet access and air chill will encourage more people out of their cars and on to the route. I am certain our customers will be very impressed with the speed and quality of the service."

Peter Lee, Director of Whippet Coaches, said: "As a local family-owned company it is great news to be part of this world beating project. Queues on the A14 are a big problem for buses as well as people in their cars and our loyal customers are all looking forward to their journey being greatly improved by the more reliable journey times along the track. We have invested heavily in new buses for the route and we believe it will be a great success."

The route will open on a Sunday to help get the service up and running before commuters begin using the route and further information on the services for the first day will be publicised in the coming weeks. Surfacing of the cycleway next to the track between Swavesey and Cambridge will also be completed before the route opens. This means walkers, cyclists and horse riders will also be able to begin benefitting from the high quality, safe and car-free route from 7th August. Final driver training will be completed in the weeks before the route opens.

PLANS IN PLACE TO RAISE FLOODED SECTIONS OF BUSWAY CYCLEWAY

Plans have been finalised to raise the level of the path next to the Guided Busway between St Ives and Swavesey. The Council's Cabinet will consider the proposals on 14 June which will make sure rain water no longer collects, flooding the path and making it impassable for walkers, cyclists and horse riders for much of the year.

The cost of correcting the defective path will be deducted from former contractor BAM Nuttall as they built the path at too a low level despite independent and official warnings. The work is scheduled to take place in August and September and does not need to be completed before bus services can begin.

As originally planned, the path will be built above the level of the surrounding land so it will only flood for a few days, to a few weeks, a year during a typical winter. This will only occur when the River Great Ouse floods and the adjacent land is under water.

At the Public Inquiry before the Busway was built it was explained that the path cannot be raised up to the level of the track that buses will run on. This is still the case as this would mean increasing the size of the former railway embankment which would have reduced the area available for flood water to be stored.

A blacktop surface is currently being laid on the path next to the track, apart from the Swavesey to St Ives stretch where crushed limestone will be used. However, officers are looking for further funding to complete this section as well.

:"Anyone who saw the path during the winter months will have seen it was impassable due to the flooding caused by rain water collecting. I am really pleased we now have plans in place to correct the problem as we know the route will be well used by cyclists, walkers and horse riders. The entire Busway route is still officially a construction site and as work is being carried out at a number of locations I would once again urge residents to take notice of the signs advising them not to enter the site."

NEW CONTRACTORS RARING TO GO TO FIX BUSWAY DEFECTS

New contractors are ready to hit the ground running on Monday (23 May) as defects begin to be fixed on the Guided Busway. Jackson Civil Engineering has been appointed to begin correcting the problems as the final 28 days permitted for former contractors, BAM Nuttall, to address the problems has now expired.

The bridge over the River Great Ouse viaduct will be closed and fenced off from Monday as work begins to stop water leaking through the bridge on to the steel beneath. Bridge engineers have said the work is needed to stop excessive ongoing maintenance and to make sure the lifespan of the bridge is not reduced.

Busway officials have also ordered workers to move in to adjust the St Ives Park & Ride car park as there is currently not enough gradient on the car park causing rain water to form puddles. Contractors will also begin adjusting the gaps between the beams that make up the guideway to make sure the concrete beams can expand fully during periods of hot weather without damage.

The costs of correcting the defects will be charged to BAM Nuttall as they did not correct the defects they were independently notified of during the construction. Council bosses are once again reminding residents that the entire Busway route, including the cycleway next to the track, remains a construction site with no public access.

Machinery has already been in operation at numerous points along the route to add a blacktop surface to the cycleway from Milton Road in Cambridge to Swavesey and to build an additional junction to help access to the Clay Farm development - which is being funded by developers.

Signs have been placed at the entrances to The Busway to inform residents work is being carried out and machinery will be in use at numerous locations and in most sections.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "Our new contractors have been briefed and like us they are raring to get started now the 28 days permitted to fix the defects has elapsed. We have been working with Jackson Civil Engineering over recent weeks to make sure they could get going quickly and it is our job to make sure the works continue to be driven forward so the route can open as soon as possible. Everyone is keen to announce an opening date and once all the work is underway we will track progress so we can people know as soon as we can. While machinery is working up and down the route I would appeal to residents to be sensible and not to venture on to the construction site until all the works are complete."

COUNCIL AGREES IMPROVEMENTS TO POLITICAL MANAGEMENT AT AGM

Changes to Cambridgeshire County Council's constitution designed to improve political management and improve clarity and operational practice have been debated at the council at its AGM last month.

The changes include the abolition of the existing Policy Development Groups, with these being replaced by ad hoc Advisory Groups which will look at emerging issues. Scrutiny Committees which look at and comment on the work of the Council would be replaced by Overview and Scrutiny committees, and would be brought into line with the new Cabinet portfolios. The Chairmanship of these committees will be decided by the Council at its AGM, or any subsequent meeting if required, having regard to recommendations from the Leader of the Council.

Proposals agreed will streamline Full Council meetings, removing the requirement for Council to receive reports on all items discussed by Cabinet. Changes to arrangements for written and oral questions are also proposed. Under the proposals there will be a single hour long opportunity for members to ask questions of the leader, cabinet members and committee chairmen.

NEW LEADER TAKES CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S VISION TO GOVERNMENT

The new leader of Cambridgeshire County Council has told the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government that "We are open for business and ready to help the UK." Within just three days after becoming leader Cambridgeshire County Councillor Nick Clarke was invited to meet Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles to outline his vision for the county.

Councillor Clarke told the Minister that Cambridgeshire has a can do attitude and was ready to do its part in encouraging enterprise and be at the forefront of increasing the UK's economic prosperity. The secretary of state, who has been invited back to the County, welcomed the news that an application for an Enterprise Zone in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area is being made. Proposals to put money from locally generated business rates back in the area was also welcomed.

The meeting discussed how Cambridgeshire County Council was willing to take on pilot projects the Government was looking at. Councillor Clarke also said the Council wanted to be involved in schemes that could put budgets in the hands of communities or local representatives to help solve problems in the community. Topics of conversation also included looking at franchise models to improve local transport and the introduction of shared services between Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire County Councils to reduce costs and improve efficiency.

Councillor Clarke said: "I was honoured to be invited by the Secretary of State to meet him within just three days of becoming leader and we had an honest and very constructive discussion. I wanted to make sure he heard first hand our enthusiasm for improving conditions for our communities and businesses. We want to encourage enterprise in Cambridgeshire and I believe we are in the right position to drive both the local and national economy forward. Having an enterprise zone would be a real boost to the area, business and ultimately improve prosperity for our communities.

He talked about how localism projects, such as providing funds for communities or local representatives, could help put decision making straight in the hands of residents. I want to make sure that Cambridgeshire is in the forefront of the Government's mind when they are looking at pilot areas for projects which could directly benefit our communities.

"I was pleased to hear the Secretary of State's thoughts on how business rates could come back to local areas, meaning

money generated in the area would benefit that area. I have invited him back to Cambridgeshire where I hope to demonstrate our drive to find better ways to serve our communities and help put them at the heart of all we do."

FUTURE JOBS FUND

During the last 15 months Cambridgeshire County Council Adult Careers Service (Next Step) has worked with 35 local employers to support over 200 unemployed young people to find work. This six month job, funded through the Future Jobs Fund, has resulted in many young people moving into full time employment or going into further/higher education. Read about the experience of a young person.

MPs JOIN FORCES IN SCHOOLS FAIRER FUNDING BID

MPs from across Cambridgeshire have joined the campaign to secure a fairer funding deal for Cambridgeshire's schools. Cambridgeshire has received low levels of school funding for many years. In the 2010-11 financial year, Cambridgeshire received a government grant of £4,093 per pupil - ranking it 132nd out of 151 local authorities.

For the current year, Cambridgeshire will receive £4,643 per pupil - meaning the county now drops from 132nd to 143rd out of 151 local authorities. Neighbouring Essex receives £4,816 per pupil, ranking the county 108th, while Peterborough receives £5,168 - making it the 55th best-funded authority. If Cambridgeshire was funded at the national average of £5,082 per pupil, this would mean nearly £35m more for Cambridgeshire's schools - or an extra £441 per pupil.

The Cambridgeshire Schools Forum - chaired by Bottisham Village College Chair of Governors Philip Hodgson - is leading the campaign to secure a fairer funding deal for Cambridgeshire, supported by Cambridgeshire County Council and the region's MPs.

Cambridgeshire's six MPs have now written a joint letter to Education Secretary Michael Gove, calling for an end to the current funding system and a fairer method of distributing money to schools. MPs James Paice, Andrew Lansley, Jonathan Djanogly, Shailesh Vara, Stephen Barclay and Julian Huppert say they welcome the Government's moves to change the current funding system, but add: "We are asking that every pupil receives a basic funding entitlement that reflects the cost of educating a child anywhere in the country."

"This inequality in funding has gone on for too long. It needs to be addressed now. I am delighted that our MPs have joined forces in taking Cambridgeshire's campaign to the highest level, and I hope the Secretary of State will give our schools the funding they need and deserve."

"It is clearly wrong that Cambridgeshire receives so much less than neighbouring authorities. It is the pupils themselves who lose out. Headteachers have said how much more could be provided for each pupil with funding levels at the national average - more teachers, greater and earlier intervention for students in need, extra lunchtime supervision and additional provision for sport, music and drama. It is time for the Government to act."

DRINK DRIVING DOESN' T ONLY HAPPEN AT CHRISTMAS

County Road Safety Officers will be out and about across Cambridgeshire over the coming weeks handing out early 'Christmas cards' which spread the word that drink driving does not only happen during the festive season.

An exhibition trailer decorated as a 'Christmas Grotto' will be visiting Tesco stores in the county with leaflets spelling out the personal and legal consequences of drinking and driving and reminding people of the length of time alcohol takes to clear the body.

The roadshows will take place between 10.00-3.00 pm, at:

- * Bar Hill - June 14
- * Wisbech - 27 June
- * March - 29 June
- * Ely - June 30

Visitors will also have an opportunity to win an iPod nano by filling in a questionnaire people who cannot make the roadshows can also take part in the survey at:

<http://tiny.cc/y99cw>

"1,100 drivers were arrested across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2010 for drink driving. There is no excuse for drinking and driving, any amount of alcohol affects a person's ability to drive. Drivers risk a fine of up to £5,000, a minimum 12-month driving ban and a criminal record.

"It's also important to remember the morning after. People who have been out drinking the night before may still be affected by alcohol the next day. Even though they feel ok, they may still be unfit to drive or over the legal alcohol limit."

The roadshows have been organised by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership.

Tony Barrios, Casualty Reduction Officer for Cambridgeshire Constabulary, said: "it is important to reinforce the drink drive message especially at this time of year, with long summer evenings and many of us enjoying time in beer gardens and at BBQs. Many people don't realise that drink drive casualties occur all year round and not just at Christmas."

MILESTONE RETURNS TO HAUXTON ROAD

A 300 year old milestone has been returned to Hauxton Road in Cambridge after being fully restored and repainted.

The eighteenth century milestone is one of the 16 'Trinity Hall milestones' that run from Cambridge to Barkway in Hertfordshire. The stone was removed for storage and restoration by Cambridgeshire County Council whilst construction of the new Addenbrooke's Road/ Hauxton Road junction took place. Local stonemasons Ivett and Reed carried out the restoration, which was funded from the Addenbrooke's Road project.

The County Council worked closely with members of Trumpington Local History Group and Trumpington Residents' Association to relocate the milestone. The fully restored milestone were officially unveiled on Thursday 26 May in a short ceremony open to the public starting at 6.30pm.

"The Trinity Hall milestones are an important part of local history in this part of the county. Officers worked closely with the local community in deciding the specific location for the milestone and I would like to thank residents from Trumpington for their valuable input."

"We are pleased to see the milestone fully restored and on show following its restoration and relocation. These milestones are an important part of Trumpington's history. The County Council were very keen to ensure it was looked after and returned to the area. With all the new developments being built in the area it is good to see that important pieces of history continue to be maintained."

TIME TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

Residents are being asked to have their say on library opening times to make sure they meet the needs of local communities. Cambridgeshire County Council is transforming its library services to put communities at its heart while meeting tough savings targets. As part of this the service is looking to rationalise library opening hours across the county to make them more consistent and fair. The aim is for libraries serving similar populations to be open for the same number of hours and at times that meets local needs and better reflects use.

A public consultation has been launched across Cambridgeshire on the proposals and residents and library users are urged to have their say. For example the proposals suggest reducing evening sessions in smaller libraries as these are not well used, while retaining the much more popular Saturday opening hours to provide access outside of normal office hours. Specific proposals have been developed for each library, based on existing patterns of use, including times when they are particularly busy.

The Council also proposes to provide a spread of opening hours across libraries which are geographically close to each other, to provide customers with the opportunity to access library services for as many hours as possible. Library users will still be able to use the County Council's website to access library services 24 hours a day. The introduction of self service facilities in all libraries over the coming year will also provide potential for books to be borrowed outside of staffed hours in future.

The proposals include:

- * Providing a fairer and more transparent basis for determining library opening hours, giving consistency across libraries serving similar sized communities.
- * Ensuring that access to services at different times of the day/week is maintained to allow for individual users' circumstances
- * The opportunity to create more memorable patterns of opening hours, making it easier for customers to remember when libraries are open
- * Addressing some inconsistencies and inequalities which have built up historically

"We want to make sure libraries are open when communities need them, while also making hours more consistent and equitable. The Council is committed to doing its best to protecting library services while meeting the tremendous savings required of us and all councils nationally. As a result we are proposing some slight reductions in opening hours at some libraries, but these proposals will also see fairer opening times that reflect the needs of local residents. Opening times will be tailored to each of our 32 libraries and there are individual questionnaires in each of them. Your library needs you - please take part in the consultation and help us shape the future of libraries in Cambridgeshire."

Questionnaires have been produced for each library, giving details of the proposed timetable for opening hours. You can also have your say online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/libraries. The consultation ends on June 18.

The rationalisation of opening hours is based on the size of the catchment population served by each library. A fixed number of opening hours has been established for each catchment population band as follows:

- * up to 7,000 = 15 open hours per week
- * 7,000 - 9,999 = 23 open hours per week
- * 10000 - 24,999 = 27 open hours per week
- * 25,000 - 49,999 = 46 open hours per week
- * more than 100,000 = 58 open hours per week

COUNTY COUNCIL TO GIVE COMMUNITIES GREATER SAY ON SPEED LIMITS

Cambridgeshire County Councils Cabinet has today (May 24) encouraged communities to consider new guidelines which give local people a greater say on speed limits in their community. Previously changes to speed limits were only considered by the Council for identified accident black spots or where it could be shown that reducing the limit would improve road safety such schemes were funded by the County Council.

But the new policy allows local people to request changes to speed limits in places which do not meet the county council criteria if the local community will meet the cost of any changes or associated work. The new speed limit policy agreed by Cabinet is a good example of how the County Council is listening to local people and giving them a real opportunity to have an influence over what happens in their community. Localism in operation.

As in the past where changes to speed limits meet the Councils commitment to improving road safety and reducing accidents, those schemes will continue where possible to be funded by the authority from within its available resources. However, when local people can make a case for changes to the speed limit which fall outside of our funding criteria it would be wrong to deny them an opportunity to make changes which the local community has identified as a priority. This is about enabling communities to take decisions that they perceive to be of local benefit. The costs need not be prohibitive and guidance can be given. •

CONMEN CONTINUE TO BUG PC USERS

Computer users are being warned to watch out for another computer scam which has been targeting people in Cambridgeshire. County Council Trading Standards Officers recently issued a warning after a number of complaints about scammers who contact people out of the blue and offering telephone support to deal with a 'virus' on their home computers. Conmen are now trying a new technique. They call claiming to be from 'Microsoft' or 'Windows', and say their central systems have identified a problem with your computer. They offer to fix this by dialling into your home computer remotely, charge for the 'repair' and offer an ongoing maintenance contract.

None of this is true - the police shut down many such companies for scamming customers in this way, but new scams continue to emerge in their place.

"The truth is these people have no way of knowing whether there is anything wrong with your computer - in fact, they don't actually know whether you have a computer at all - they are just having a guess, and they are not in any way connected with these software companies. Not only are they ripping consumers off, but there is also the risk that they could install Spyware on customers computers and could access personal information. If you receive a call from these people, hang up the phone. If you wish to seek advice or report the matter, contact our partner organisation, Consumer Direct, on 08454 040506."

MAJOR PLAN FOR COUNTY'S FUTURE

A major plan to help deliver and manage housing and economic growth in the county has been backed by Cambridgeshire County Council's Cabinet. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan has been shaped by over 14,000 responses from residents and organisations across the county, and will guide where vital waste, recycling and mineral extraction facilities are built.

The Plan has already been given the go-ahead by an independent planning inspector after years of work by planning chiefs, several rounds of public consultation, and a series of public hearings where the detail of the Plan was scrutinised. The Plan, which has been developed by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, gives guidance on where sites for sourcing construction materials such as sand and gravel for new housing, and locations for future waste facilities should be.

Its key aim is to make sure that any new development in the county is delivered in a way that doesn't negatively affect local communities, now or in the future. The Plan also has a focus on protecting the environment. This includes increasing wildlife habitat in the county, sourcing building materials close to new developments to reduce the need to transport heavy materials over long distances, and providing the best recycling centres to make it even easier for residents to recycle.

"This Plan will make a real difference to the lives of residents in Cambridgeshire, including creating new jobs and helping the economy. It confirms our view that the right way to plan for growth in the county is to work closely with local communities. The Plan provides strong guidance on where much needed facilities should be built. During its development, we have worked with residents and businesses to address a number of issues including heavy lorries driving through local villages. Through the major Block Fen/Langwood Fen project, it also provides important sustainable flood management for the area, much needed wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities for the local community. This has been a very long process and I am delighted that, through working with local communities and a huge number of stakeholders over the years, we are now at the point of signing off the Plan."

To find out more about the Plan, go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/mwplan.

Yours **John Reynolds**

County Councillor: John Reynolds, 4 Hollytrees, Bar Hill, CB23 8SF. john.reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

MP. Andrew Lansley CBE, 153 St Neots Road, Hardwick, CB23 7QJ lansleva@parliament.uk

MEP. Robert Sturdy, 153 St Neots Road, Hardwick, CB23 7QJ rwsturdy@btconnect.com

Promoted by SCCA, on behalf of John Reynolds, and printed by SCCA, all of 153 St Neots Road, Hardwick.Cambs CB23 7O

APPENDIX B

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey
8. 6. 2011

We have seen examples this past month of just what Localism means in practice. The Secretary of State has overruled the wishes of the local council and the people in order to allow nuclear storage at King's Cliffe despite a massive local vote against it; our own County Council has overruled Barton's request for lower speed limits; the City Council has refused a 600-strong petition for a referendum on the City's growth agenda. Astoundingly, such effects are built into the very fabric of the Localism Bill: a briefing by the Local Government Association <<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/18402194>> makes grim reading.

In Girton the Joint Committee which controls transport has twice voted for a 30mph limit on Huntingdon Road, but has been stymied by an officer demand that this needs £400K of road works to be implemented. County Cllr Reynolds says he is still trying to find this money, but this indicates another route in which any real local powers can be thwarted: officers can simply argue, by adding their own conditions, that the desired steps are just too expensive. The Committee appears to be toothless against such a strategy. I have asked the University if it will lend its weight as part of its plans for NW Cambridge, and await a response.

Before the recent Council meeting we were invited to meet the new Chief Constable, who gave a very good account of himself. He has to find massive savings and there are to be significant structural changes, but he hopes to maintain the strength of PC and PCSO numbers (at least until the national review of PCSO funding in March 2012). I was pleased that he acknowledged the shortcomings of the current Neighbourhood Panel structure which at times is farcical, and promised improvement

. The District Council has held its AGM, at which all committees and other groups are re-constituted. The leadership has shown precisely what weight it attaches to climate change and sustainability by appointing as PFH one of the supporters of the motion I mentioned in my March report, to ban wind power development in the District. The Planning Committee has been reduced by 1 to 14 members, thus depriving one LibDem seat. I am a substitute for the Independent Group's single seat, but am in any event entitled to speak to the Committee on any issue affecting Girton. The size of the Climate Change Working Group has been increased and we were informed that this would permit the only Labour member to join the group (and he accepted the offer); however at the meeting we were told this had been 'a mistake' and a Tory would take the extra place. I was nominated to chair of the Corporate Governance Committee but the post went to the Administration's nominee.

There were several complex and searching questions from councillors. Since cabinet members had been boasting of their contacts with Ministers they were asked for reports on the conversations: we were told it saves paper not to provide them. We have also had a lot of boasts that our financial prudence means that our services will be unaffected by the cuts, but we discover that counselling is having to be offered to staff with advice on 'more efficient ways of living' and sympathy for those made redundant.

To end the report of this depressing meeting on a positive note: it was reported that our Revenues & Benefits officers are to be congratulated for managing to collect over 99% of rates and Council Tax over the past year, a magnificent achievement.

I am informed by our Drainage Manager that Girton has been selected for a detailed study on surface water impacts by the County; he promises me a report later in the year. This should help us understand flood risks in Girton and make plans accordingly.

Douglas de Lacey

ATTACHMENTS TO APPENDIX B

Forwarded message -----

Date: Tue, 10 May 2011 14:58:18 +0100

From: Fisher James <James.Fisher@scambs.gov.uk>

To: Cllr Douglas De Lacey <del2@cam.ac.uk>, del2@hermes.cam.ac.uk,

Cllr Douglas De Lacey <del2@cam.ac.uk>

Subject: Wellbrook Way Girton

Dear Cllr de Lacey,

Many apologies for the delay in sending this information to you. I have had a chance to look at the unilateral undertaking and have produced a table as below (and attached) as per my understanding of the community land contribution (£100,000) and the establishment sum (£72,500).

You will see that the indexation is retail price index and the latest information (for March) shows that the contributions should be increased to circa £130k and £94k. To my mind the triggers for payment in the unilateral undertaking are clearly defined and Parish Council should not feel that they have to vary any terms of transfer as outlined in the undertaking.

You have told me that Taylor Wimpey wish to make the sums payable as at November 2009 (i.e. circa £121k and £88k), however, I do not feel this is a reasonable request, especially given the LEAP was not provided until June 2010.

If we were to look at the contributions at June 2010 the contributions would be circa £126k and £91k.

My interpretation of the legal agreement is that interest only applies if the transfer takes place but the monies are not transferred at the same time.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

James

Wellbrook Way Girton Suggested date by TW Date LEAP provided Most recent indexation

Trigger Indexation (all items RPI) date Indexation at trigger Indexation at Nov 09 Nov 09 contribution

Indexation at Jun 10 Jun 10 contribution Indexation at March 11 March 11 contribution Interest

Community land £100,000 No dwelling should be occupied From date of agreement 10/09/2002 177.6 216.6

£121,959.46 224.1 £126,182.43 232.5 £130,912.16 Only if payment delayed from date of transfer completion of transfer

Establishment sum £72,500 Prior to occupation of 80 free market dwellings From date of agreement 10/09/2002

177.6 216.6 £88,420.61 224.1 £91,482.26 232.5 £94,911.32 Only if payment delayed from date of transfer completion of transfer

£210,380.07 £217,664.70 £225,823.48

James Fisher

Section 106 Officer

Planning and New Communities

South Cambridgeshire District Council

South Cambridgeshire Hall

Cambourne Business Park

Cambourne

Cambridge

CB23 6EA

Tel: 01954 713217

Forwarded message -----

Date: Wed, 15 Jun 2011 15:48:26 +0100
From: Hamilton David <David.Hamilton@scambs.gov.uk>
To: Cllr Douglas De Lacey <del2@cam.ac.uk>
Cc: Mungovan Rob <Rob.Mungovan@scambs.gov.uk>, Fisher James <James.Fisher@scambs.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Need advice

Dear Dr De Lacey

Please find enclosed the list of replacements needed at the lagoon area at Wellbrook Way. This was discussed at length with Wimpy in February this year - It got as far as the commercial department to arrange for replacements, but then became embroiled in the acoustic fence issues. However Wimpy have said that they will replace the plants.

As a very rough estimate this may cost in the region of £7000. Completing the path may cost another £7000 or so. Plus the landscaping to the north of the care home. Plus another good chunk to look after it all. This (or any other alternative scheme) is certainly going to cost much more than £2000-£2500

As we discussed, if the approved landscape scheme is changed substantially within five years of completion, it would need an amendment or a new application. We would need to be satisfied that the new proposals are appropriate (e.g. in terms of biodiversity requirements- toads etc) and that is viable in terms of cost.

I would strongly suggest that over the summer, we continue to persuade Wimpey to complete the scheme and to replace the dead plants, complete the paths etc.

Alternatively, if the Parish would want to take over the scheme early and complete the planting and paths themselves then they would need to carefully cost the scheme and its maintenance, plus any savings to Wimpey for releasing early, plus a good contingency to cover unexpected items which always crop up. If you feel that this would be more effective then I could speak to James Fisher here and Wimpey and see if anything can be arranged.

As we discussed we have not yet received the final drawings for north of the care home area which will join the east and west sections of the landscape and the path. There are more proposals for the north east of the site which will also effect how the eastern end of the path is dealt with, so a while to go yet.

Best Wishes

David Hamilton

Area A

Scrub and Trees to the NW of the Lagoon

Trees

All but 2No. trees are dead. Remove all dead trees and replace with the following 19No. Trees

Acer campestre 1No. 10-12cm pot grown 40ltr
Alnus glutinosa 3No. 1800-2500 fthr
Prunus avium 3No. 10-12cm pot grown 40ltr
Betula pendula 6No. 1800-2500 fthr
Quercus robur 3No. 1800-2500 fthr
Salix alba 3No. 10-12cm pot grown 40ltr

Shrubs

95% of original planting is dead or missing. Remove all dead plants and replace the Canopy and Sub-Canopy mix with the following:

335No. Hedgerow plants - 600mm bare root whips at 1.5m centres planted in groups of 3-5 of same species except Rosa which is spot planted.

Acer Campestre 10% - 35No.
Corylus avellana 15% - 50No.
Crataegus monogyna 25% - 90No.
Cornus Sanguinea 10% - 35No.
Prunus spinosa 15% - 50No.
Rosa Canina 5% - 15No.
Salix Caprea 5% - 15No.
Salix Viminalis 5% - 15No.
Viburnum opulus 10% - 30No.

Ground cover planting Mix C – Replace with grass seed.

95% of Groundcover Mix C is dead or missing. Remove all remaining dead plants and replace with a shade tolerant seed mixture.

Emorsgate seeds EH1 hedgerow mixture (or similar and approved) at a rate of 3grm/m² on ground prepared to the supplier's recommendations.

Area B

Lagoon Area

Trees

All but 2No. trees are dead. Remove all dead trees and replace with 17No. trees as follows.

Alnus cordata 5No. 12-14cm pot grown 40ltr
Alnus glutinosa 10No. 1800-2500 fthr
Salix alba 2No. 10-12cm pot grown 40ltr

hedge - Planting at eastern edge adjacent to retirement development – area approximately 45m x 2m

Shrub planting

70No. 'Wetland' hedgerow plants - 600mm bare root whips at 1.5m centres planted in groups of 3-5 of same species.

Acer Campestre 15% - 10No
Cornus Sanguinea 20% - 15No.
Corylus avellana 20% - 15No.
Crataegus monogyna 30% - 20No.
Salix Caprea 15% - 10No.

Grass Areas

The seed and plug plants have failed to take. Re-seed with suitable seed mixtures

E.g. Emorsgate EM8 Meadow mixture for wetlands (for areas occasionally wet but dry out for most of the year) and Emorsgate EP 1 (for areas which remain damp) or similar and approved at a rate of 3g/m² on ground prepared to the supplier's recommendations.

Area C

Area north of lagoon

The area was to have been retained existing shrub planting, but all has been removed.

Replace with the following plants:

Acer campestre 3No. 12-14cm pot grown 40ltr
Salix alba 1No. 10-12cm pot grown 40ltr
Salix caprea 5No. 600-900mm whip.

Seed remaining area with Emorsgate seeds EH1 hedgerow mixture (or similar and approved) at a rate of 3g/m² on ground prepared to the supplier's recommendations.

APPENDIX C

Chairman's Report to Girton Parish Council

7. 6. 2011

The University is about to approve the submission of a planning application for NW Cambridge, and I attach the remarks I made at the Regent House Discussion on the issue. For this Council the key issue will be the impact on the Village, and the possibility of obtaining amelioration through the S106 agreement. I hope that Mr Taylor will touch on this in his presentation to the Council, and hope also that all Councillors will consider what proposals we could put to the University

. The Town End Close Open Day was a great success; well attended and with a very informative walk around the site led by Stephen Tomkins. The University Farmer has agreed to take a hay mow and graze Town End Close again, as required by our agreement with Natural England, but has given us notice that the development of the Farm site will entail the cessation of his activities here in Girton. The Council, through the Environment Committee, will need to source alternative arrangements.

The levelling of the Hibbert-Ware Garden, thanks to the generosity of Girton Town Charity, has been a great success; but the seeding of the levelled area with grass has had a difficult season. George Thorpe and Penny de Lacey organised a weeding session just before this week's rain and they hope this will encourage the grass seed to sprout. The Garden looks very much better thanks to their efforts.

I have been contacted by members of the public who would like to see the cleared scrub area at the bottom of Dodford Lane developed as a community orchard or a nature reserve, and the Land Agent has agreed in principle that its usage could be a matter for discussion by the community. It is not yet clear how such a discussion might happen.

Douglas de Lacey

ATTACHMENT TO APPENDIX C

Deputy Vice-Chancellor:

The Council wishes to create a vibrant, urban extension to the City that predominates as a University quarter but one that is also a mixed academic and residential community supported by high-quality schooling, shops, community, and leisure facilities, connected internally and with the wider city by green spaces and pedestrian and cycle routes (paragraph 4).

It's a great goal, and I could only wish that it included recognition that half of the site is outside the City, and in my own Parish of Girton: so that when paragraph 4 continues: 'It will also integrate with the development of West Cambridge and the adjoining areas' some of us are a little surprised. The nwcambridge.co.uk website likewise ignores the needs and wishes of the Parish: the page 'How You'll Benefit'[1] refers only to Cambridge residents.

However, let that pass. Of greater concern to me is that some key aspects of those 'high-quality . . . facilities' are not going to be provided on site, but will be the subject of a section 106 contribution to the NIAB site, which is proposed for the other side of an extraordinarily busy road. Two problems here.

The road is one, particularly so for those most likely to benefit from these facilities - that is, the young and the old; and I do find it extraordinary that so little thought has been given to coherence (to use the Report's own word) in this important area of the planning. The development of the site will, of course, significantly increase this problem. I have a proposal to put to Regents and to the planners: in this liberated era of localism, please work with the Councils (the Parish, the County, and the City: they have all said they want it) to plan and finance an enforceable 30 mph limit along Huntingdon Road. This would at least be a start. Permeability across Madingley Road is a similar problem, but that is not in my Parish

. A second, possibly even greater, problem lies with the proposal to position facilities such as school and library across the road. My concern is not just about the County's predilection for closing libraries down. When the University is ready, and the signs seem to be that it pretty well is, our site can be built. There is absolutely no guarantee that the NIAB site will be developed in step, or indeed be developed at all if the economic downturn continues. We could find we have a 'vibrant, urban extension to the City' entirely devoid of some of those 'high-quality . . . facilities' necessary to make it, er, vibrate. Please will Council inform us of Plan B if that were to occur?

Paragraph 4 continues: 'The highest principles of energy and transport sustainability will be incorporated into the development so that not only will North West Cambridge support the academic and social needs of the University, it will show what can be achieved through contemporary technology ...'

. That being so, it is a pity that the planners have apparently not availed themselves of the advice of the leading sustainable energy expert, who conveniently holds a chair in this University and has made the fruits of his labours freely available in a downloadable book[2]. I gather the recent overhyped press release (which a search of our press office website strangely fails to reveal now), failed to give the full story when it seemed to put all our faith in Combined Heat and Power (CHP) yet I remain underwhelmed at the current proposals. Here surely is an opportunity to use the leading-edge technology of which Cambridge is so proud, and for which it is renowned. Perhaps we should encourage relevant Departments to organize competitions for innovative sustainable solutions, or grant scholarships for research into some of the latest ideas, to make this a totally zero-carbon development. But we would have to act fast.

'The financial implications of all relevant parts of the anticipated section 106 Agreement are being included in the project budget' (paragraph 22). This is rather startling. I understood that the days of a developer and an officer hammering out a section 106 agreement in a smoke-filled room and in secrecy (nudge, nudge; wink, wink) were over, and not just because of the smoking ban. I should declare an interest: I am both a District Councillor for Girton and its Parish Chairman, and in neither capacity am I aware of being consulted over our section 106 needs. I do hope before the budget is finalized this omission will be corrected. It is all the more surprising given that the project team has to its credit been enthusiastic over consultation: perhaps when we next meet they could bring some section 106 ideas with them.

Footnotes

[1] <http://www.nwcambridge.co.uk/benefits.php>

[2] At <http://www.withouthotair.com/>

APPENDIX D

South Cambs District Council: Speed Sticker Initiative

South Cambridgeshire District Council has been working with a number of parish councils over the past year to trial an initiative to display speed limits in villages on wheelie bins.

We have now agreed a revised sticker design with colleagues from the Police and Road Safety Partnership, and have set aside some funding to provide stickers District-wide, and this document summarises how the scheme works and how parishes can obtain the stickers.

The scheme has already proved very popular with residents, but before ordering parish councils should be aware that data analysis of each pilot location has shown no clear visible impact on speeding levels. However, it is clear from speeding consistently being set as a priority at Neighbourhood Panels, that residents are keen to contribute in any way they can to reducing speed in their villages. Therefore the District Council is happy to fund distributing a number of stickers to all interested parishes and villages as it helps clearly demonstrate strong community spirit, as well as present a clear message to remind motorists of the speed limit in a village.

Funding for this initiative is limited, and this is a one-off opportunity to order replacement or additional stickers for your parish. The District Council is able to fund up to 120 stickers for each parish. Parishes can use this opportunity to order more than 120 stickers if they wish, and the District Council will order them and then invoice the parish separately. All orders must be received by Friday 8 July 2011. After this date the District Council will not be producing or distributing any more Speed Stickers

The following bullet points give a summary of the scheme:

- The sticker design has been agreed and approved by the District Council and Police. Please do not amend or use an alternative design.
- Stickers are A4 and are available for 30 and 40 mph roads
- Up to 6 stickers can be distributed to each participating household, i.e. two per bin
- To keep costs to a minimum, stickers are not distributed to every house, but typically instead to 5-10 houses on both sides of the roads at the "entrances" to villages to reinforce existing speed signage.
- Stickers will need to be distributed by the Parish Council. In the pilot locations local Police Community Support Officers have been happy to help. However you may wish to distribute them using volunteers or a local group. A covering letter can be provided for distribution too.

If you would like a supply of stickers for your parish, please complete the attached form and return it to Linda.Browne@scambs.gov.uk by **FRIDAY 8 JULY 2011** with the words "**Speed Stickers**" **only in the subject box**. After that date, we will arrange for a bulk order of stickers to be placed to obtain the lowest price, and will contact you to arrange for delivery and any payment due.

Linda Browne
Community Liaison Support Assistant
linda.browne@scambs.gov.uk
01954 713477