

Lavinia Edwards – District Council Report January 2010

Planning - At this months Planning Committee there was just one application to be considered which was the change of use from staff facilities/office building to one bedroom/living accommodation.

The applicant spoke strongly about the application stating that he had about 80 - 100 animals boarding on the premises which needed to have someone in 24 hour attendance.

The application was recommended by officers for refusal due to the site being in open countryside where there is a strict policy of control regarding new developments set out in the core strategy. Also the applicant had his own house on the site.

The application was refused.

Licensing - We were asked to recommend an annual licence scheme for the home boarding of dogs which

came into force on the 13th January, 2010.

The home boarding of dogs is growing in the District and needed to be regulated. The homeowner needs

to apply for an annual licence which costs £83.00. This licence allows the applicant to look after the

maximum number of three dogs at any one time

Internal Overview & Scrutiny - At this meeting we were asked to review the draft Soham Masterplan Vision

which was going to be considered by Strategic Development Committee. We heard that the Vision had been

received on the whole very favourably in Soham with good support for the railway station and town park.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that there should be further dialogue concerning

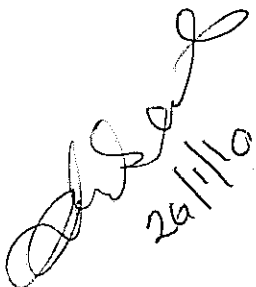
coach operators not calling at Soham when travelling between Cambridge, Newmarket and Ely. The

proposal to self-build houses in the draft plan should also be endorsed to allow for more individual houses.

Weatheralls School should also be consulted regarding the access from the eastern gateway.

The drat plans are to go out for public consultation between 15th February - 28th March, 2010. Then to be

adopted by full Council on 25th May, 2010.


26/1/10

I attended Licensing, a Making Cambridgeshire Count seminar and Internal Overview and Scrutiny meetings. These are in the other District Council Reports so I will not duplicate them.

About 70 people attended the Community Services meeting because the main item on the agenda was cuts to the Community Services budget. This included a £25,000 cut to the ADeC grant although there had been no discussion with ADeC. After last minute consultation, arrangements have now been made to manage the cuts to this organisation by reorganising the work they undertake. Removal of the supply and erection of Market Stalls also created considerable debate. Cuts in all grants are also proposed.

Yesterday evening (Monday) a seminar on the budget took place followed by an Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

ECDC needs to make 1.6 million pounds in savings in the next financial year. A very poor government settlement plus the recession (e.g. loss of investment interest, reduction in income streams in departments such as Building Control and Planning), have contributed to this figure.

In order to reach this figure the following is a list of some of the proposed savings:

- Freeze on recruitment
- Flexible working options
- 15-20 people made redundant
- No salary or incremental increase
- Less community grants (offset by s106 money)
- No market stalls erected or supplied
- Extra management fee income from the Maltings
- Increase in Angel Grove car park charge
- Charge for Market Traders parking permits
- Business permit charges increase
- Cease doorstep plastic recycling (bring sites to be emptied twice a week)
- Grass cutting brought back in house
- Facilities Management savings e.g. energy, paper
- Building Control service may be supplied by another Council
- Less to spend on consultants

There will continue to be debate over the proposed savings and at O&S a number of suggestions were put forward which will be investigated. Environment and Transport and Policy and Resources committees have yet to meet and final decisions will not be made until Full Council on 23rd February


26/1/10

**County Council Report
January 2010**

I attended the South Neighbourhood Panel as County Council Representative – probably unsurprisingly 2 of the major topics raised were gritting schedules and concerns about the waste collections during the bad weather.

I also attended a meeting of the Littleport Masterplan Working Party, which I sit on for the County Council as a “neutral”.

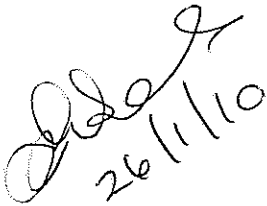
I have been appointed to the East Cambs Community Safety Partnership and attended my first meeting this month. This grouping considers crime and disorder issues across the district and received similar police reports to those provided at neighbourhood panels. We had also had a presentation on the work of the drug awareness and action team.

The Adults and Communities Policy Development Group met. The main topics for discussion surrounded libraries, including the good performance of newly opened libraries in Cambridge, Huntingdon and Great Shelford.

Budget proposals will be considered at the Cabinet meeting today, prior to a meeting of the full County Council on 16 February.

Stagecoach is making some changes to bus timetables from 14 February, with suggestions that the current half-hourly service to Cambridge and Newmarket will revert to hourly off-peak and there will be changes to the Sunday service. Discussions are ongoing to mitigate the effects of the proposals. Once I have details I will let you know.

David Brown


26/1/10

**District Council Report
December 2009 – January 2010**

December Planning Committee considered an application for a travelling showpeople site at Wilburton, which was approved subject to road improvements and various other conditions. There was also a site visit to County Council Highways at Witchford. CCC had put in an application to store a concrete crusher at the site to recycle road surfaces etc. ECDC had expressed concern about noise and dust affecting Lancaster Way Business Park. The visit allayed those concerns. The only items at January Planning Committee were a retrospective application for a permanent residence at a kennels at Sutton which was refused and to confirm a Tree Preservation Order in Littleport.

External Partnerships Review Committee met and received a presentation from the Chief Fire Officer for East Cambs – Graham Stagg. Of local interest he assured me that his intention is to spend some money on Burwell Fire Station to refurbish it. The next meeting on 8 February will be concentrating on the consultation regarding future secondary school provision in East Cambs.

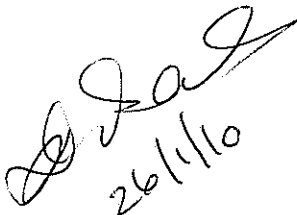
I attended a conference on the work being done through the “Making Cambridgeshire Count” initiative. The conference agreed to further work in a number of areas to make better use of public resources across the County. This includes joint working, better use of buildings, work with migrant workers, tackling domestic violence and seeing how local communities can be encouraged to be more sustainable. Burwell was cited as an example of a community which does much for itself.

We had a members’ seminar last night about budget proposals for 2010/2011. Hazel is reporting in more detail.

A number of other meetings were cancelled due to the bad weather earlier this month.

Finally, I have been elected Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Group.

David Brown


26/1/10