

**COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN
23 FEBRUARY 2005**

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**South
Cambridgeshire
District Council**

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1. Conservation Advisory Group – Draft Minutes of 26 January 2005

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FROM:
28 February 2005 to 4 March 2005**

				Contact
Mon 28 Feb	10 am	Site Visits		Janice Fisher
	2 pm	Development and Conservation Control Committee Chairman's Briefing	Swansley Room	Janice Fisher
Tue 1 Mar	12.15 pm	Housing Options Working Group	Swansley Room	Maggie Jennings
	6 pm	Youth Debating Competition – Finals	Council Chamber	Susannah Harris
Wed 2 Mar	10 am	Development and Conservation Control Committee	Council Chamber	Ian Senior
Thu 3 Mar				
Fri 4 Mar	9 am	Employment Committee Training – Interviews	Swansley Room	Susan May / Carol Tyrrell

YOUTH DEBATING COMPETITION FINALS – 1 MARCH 2005

You are invited to attend this year's final of the Debating competition for Young People in South Cambs. It is taking place in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 1st March from 6.30 pm, although doors are open and refreshments available from 6 pm. The competition so far has been an opportunity for young people to debate about various topics affecting them, from a 'fat tax' to 'positive discrimination for women'. The topic for the final is 'should voting be compulsory?' Previous rounds have proved very difficult to judge as the standard of the entrants has been so high. All those who have been involved so far have been impressed by the contestants' presentation and debating skills, so come to the event next Tuesday and hear for yourself what young people have to say.

There will also be a presentation by Andy O'Hanlon, including showing some consultation/information videos that have been made by young people in South Cambs.

Please let Susannah Harris, Community Development Officer, know if you intend to attend the finals so that numbers can be confirmed for the refreshments: telephone 01954 713355 or e-mail susannah.harris@scambs.gov.uk.

WHEEL CLAMPING AT SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HALL

Members please note that the Cambourne Business Park is to implement wheel clamping in the civic square area in the very near future (likely from early March 2005). Please park in the designated areas only.

SIGNING UP FOR E-MAIL INFORMATION BULLETINS FROM THE LGA

The LGA have a range of information sources including press release bulletins, daily news headlines on matters affecting local government, and new bulletin boards on particular subject areas. The proposal is that members and officers of member authorities subscribe to these individually (for free) to ensure personal interests are covered. Please visit www.lga.gov.uk/emailLogon.asp to find out more, e-mail info@lga.gov.uk, or ring the LG Connect line on 020 7664 3131.

CALL IN ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or any five other Councillors may call in any executive decision recorded in this bulletin for review. The Democratic Services Manager must be notified of any call in by **Wednesday 2 March 2005 at 5 pm**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Thursday 3 March 2005**.

Any member considering calling in a decision made by Cabinet is requested to contact the Democratic Services Section to determine whether any relevant amendments have been incorporated.

The call in procedure is set out in full in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, 'Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules', paragraph 12.

DECISIONS MADE BY THE HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Subject	Decision
Application for vehicular Right of Way over District Council verge fronting 10 Holme Way, Sawston	Vehicular Right of Way granted, subject to valuation, on condition that the access is constructed and maintained by the grantee.
Application to buy land at, and for vehicular Right of Way over a District Council-owned layby to, 26 Sheppard Way, Teversham	Agreed, subject to valuation, to offer for sale to the owner of 26 Sheppard Way the land to the front of that property, subject to covenants restricting its use to that of garden only (albeit block-paved), and prohibiting parking thereon, and a Condition requiring all block paving to the side of the property to be removed, the grass there being reinstated by the owner of 26 Sheppard Way, prior to completion of sale of the block-paved area to the front.
Application for permissive cycle rights over District Council-owned land at Chaston Road, Great Shelford	Permissive cycle rights granted to Cambridgeshire County Council to facilitate completion of a proposed new shared use path over District Council-owned land at the end of Chaston Road, Great Shelford, with a Condition that Cambridgeshire County Council funds construction of, and maintains, the new path.

DECISION MADE BY THE RESOURCES AND STAFFING PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Subject	Decision	Reasons
Approval of Precautionary Items	<p>Following a meeting which took place in December 2002 where Cabinet resolved that delegated authority be given to the Resources and Staffing Portfolio Holder to approve expenditure on precautionary items to be met from reserves, the following items to be released for use in the period 2004/05 as follows:</p> <p>1) Planning – Legal Costs of £100,000 2) Planning – Local Inquiry of £139,000</p>	<p>The uses of these monies are as follows:</p> <p>1) Following various Cabinet meetings it was agreed to use these monies from the reserves to help meet the escalated legal costs relating to Travellers and Traveller issues</p> <p>2) Following various Cabinet meetings it was agreed to use these monies from the reserves to help meet the escalated local inquiry costs regarding Travellers and Traveller issues. Although this was not the original intention for these monies – local inquiry costs relating to the LDF – the authority has a commitment to meet the financial obligation relating to the Travellers.</p>

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group held on
Wednesday, 26 January 2005 at 10.00am

PRESENT: Councillor SJ Agnew – Chairman
Councillor NN Cathcart – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: Mrs A Elsby Dr JA Heap
Mrs CA Hunt Dr JPR Orme
JH Stewart RJ Turner
Dr JR Williamson NIC Wright

and Councillor Mrs JM Healey (Conservation, Sustainability & Community Planning Portfolio Holder).

Councillor Mrs DSK Spink MBE was in attendance, by invitation.

1. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Councillors Mrs A Elsby, JH Stewart and Dr J Williamson as new Members of the Conservation Advisory Group. For their benefit, he outlined the process being followed in making Natural Environment Awards later in the year. It was agreed that Members should undertake site visits as part of this process on Wednesday 13th April 2005.

2. APOLOGIES

The Conservation Advisory Group received Apologies for Absence on behalf of Councillor R Page.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Conservation Advisory Group authorised the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2004, subject to the correction of two typographical errors, namely:

In connection with Minute 5 (Management of Roadside Verges ("RSVs") for Biodiversity Enhancement), Recommendation (2), the Conservation Manager informed Members that an effort was being made to arrange a meeting with relevant officers at Cambridgeshire County Council. In connection with the "one other Member" referred to in Recommendation (3) of that Minute, Councillor NIC Wright agreed to join the Conservation Advisory Group Chairman and the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder in highlighting the District Council's concerns about the management of RSVs, and identifying areas in need of most attention through engagement with a selected group of parish councils each year.

In connection with Minute 11 (St. Denis Church, East Hatley - Grant Application Results), the Conservation Manager informed Members that English Heritage had now made a formal Grant offer in the region of 75% of the total anticipated costs of repair. Accordingly, the Council had now instructed architects to prepare two Schedules of Works, identical to each other except that one included a corrugated iron roof and the other tiles. Tenders were expected to be received by the middle of February and, as a result of the English

Heritage grant and subject to the extent of the tenders, a report to Cabinet would be prepared if the contribution from this Council then exceeded what could be authorised by the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder.

5. SOUTH CAMBS D.C. BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

The Ecology Officer presented a report updating the Conservation Advisory Group on progress being made in preparing the South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Strategy. He drew Members' attention to the draft Local Development Framework's *Core Strategy and Development Control Policies – Preferred Options Report* and, in particular, to CS66 (Biodiversity – Preferred Approach). The Biodiversity Strategy would eventually be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document under the LDF.

In developing the Strategy, the Council would need to ensure that its objectives were clearly defined, and remained quantifiable and deliverable.

Members made the following comments:

- Paragraph 3.3 of the Strategy (Local Authority Documents) should make specific reference to CS66
- It was important that the District Council's Strategy should relate to both County- and national policies in order to avoid unnecessary duplication
- Table 1 should include a column headed 'Biodiversity Gain', and a seventh Development Type – Backland Development

It was essential that the Strategy should give a clear indication of what activities were acceptable and, with this in mind, the Council would work closely with Developers to ensure compliance to the benefit of all concerned in the context of South Cambridgeshire's geographical relationship with neighbouring local authority areas. It should also include policies addressing potential, future issues. Members discussed a number of other aspirations and agreed that, while targets (including those in respect of aquatics) should be kept as broad as possible, a more specific approach to the maintenance of Roadside Verges should be adopted. Strong policies on Water abstraction would be crucial in the years to come.

Officers outlined the proposed timetable for progressing the Biodiversity Strategy as a Supplementary Planning Document.

A Member sounded a note of caution, questioning the practicality of trying to protect and enhance at the same time.

An informal sub-Group consisting of Councillors Cathcart, Heap and Orme would work with the Ecology Officer to finalise the draft Biodiversity Strategy and, in particular, to review the list of local development control policies referred to in paragraph 5.4 thereof.

The Chairman conveyed the Conservation Advisory Group's appreciation of the work undertaken by the Ecology Officer.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RESOLVED** that further consideration be given to the structure of the document by a liaison group consisting of Councillors Cathcart, Orme and Heap, a revised document being reported back to the Conservation Advisory Group meeting on 9th March 2005 for appropriate recommendation to the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder prior to going out for formal consultation.

6. SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DESIGN GUIDE

The Conservation Area and Design Officer gave a PowerPoint presentation updating the Conservation Advisory Group on progress in preparing the South Cambridgeshire Design Guide.

The Design Guide was intended to be just that, and did not set out to prescribe what was and was not acceptable to the Local Planning Authority. The intention was to adopt it as a Supplementary Planning Document under the Local Development Framework.

A Member highlighted the importance of striking a balance in establishing a Design Guide, suggesting that good design contributed substantially to the creation of successful communities.

Officers outlined the proposed timetable for progressing the Design Guide as a Supplementary Planning Document.

The Chairman conveyed the Conservation Advisory Group's appreciation of the work undertaken by the Conservation Area and Design Officer.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RESOLVED** to recommend that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder:

1. Agrees to the draft of the Design Guide
2. Agrees to the preparation of a Consultation Draft and the undertaking of a consultation exercise.

The Conservation Advisory Group further requested that the Conservation Area and Design Officer submits worked up examples of sections of the consultation draft for consideration at its meeting on 9th March 2005.

7. CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS

The Conservation Area and Design Officer presented a report updating the Conservation Advisory Group on work carried out by the Sub-Group of Members appointed at the meeting on 15th September 2004 (Minute 10 refers) in considering the first draft of Conservation Area Appraisals prepared by external consultants.

It was hoped that the Council's consultants would deliver their findings by the middle of February, in which case it was likely that a further and more detailed report could be presented to the Conservation Advisory Group meeting on 9th March 2005 for appropriate recommendation to the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder prior to submitting the draft Appraisals for public consultation.

Members discussed the availability of In-House resources, and impact on the Planning Delivery Grant.

In response to a question from a Member, the Conservation Manager explained that preparation of the current set of Conservation Area Appraisals was being funded from resources identified within the Planning Delivery Grant, but that work on the preparation of future Appraisals would be undertaken in-house using existing resources. In the event that further funding from within the Planning Delivery Grant could be made available in future years, this would enable the programme for preparation of new Conservation Area Appraisals to be accelerated.

The Conservation Advisory Group **NOTED** the position.

The Meeting ended at 12.50 p.m.