

**COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN
7 SEPTEMBER 2005**

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**South
Cambridgeshire
District Council**

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS FROM: 12 September to 16 September 2005				Contact
Mon 12 Sep	10 am	Info & Customer Services PFH		
	2.30 pm	South Cambridgeshire Environment & Transport Area Joint Committee	Council Chamber	Michelle Rowe, 01223 717293
Tue 13 Sep				
Wed 14 Sep	10 am	Conservation Advisory Group	Swansley Room	Ian Senior
	2 pm	Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder	Swansley Room	Patrick Adams
	2 pm	Joint Strategic Forum	Council Chamber	Michelle Rowe, 01223 717293
Thu 15 Sep	2 pm	Scrutiny and Overview Committee	Council Chamber	Patrick Adams
Fri 16 Sep				

SUPPORTING PEOPLE – PRESENTATION TO COUNCILLORS

The Supporting People team is arranging a one-hour presentation to outline the current issues around Supporting People in Cambridgeshire. This will cover supported housing in general. Two background papers produced by the team are attached to this Bulletin.

The presentation will be on Monday 19 September at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber, followed by the Housing for Older People Advisory Group meeting, which is at 2.00pm. Members of the Advisory Group have been invited to attend, but other interested Members are also invited. Please note that because this session covers all Supporting People issues, South Cambridgeshire County Councillors have also been invited.

If you intend to attend, please contact Katrina Perry in Democratic Services (01954 713030 or katrina.perry@scambs.gov.uk) and let her know if you require a car parking space.

PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEWS – CONSULTATION PAPER

The Electoral Commission has published a consultation paper on the Commission's evaluation of Periodic electoral reviews (PERs) in England.

The Commission concluded an eight-year programme of PERs in October 2004, with the completion of 386 electoral reviews covering 35 County Councils and 351 District Councils. It now wants to take stock of the lessons learnt from that recent PER programme and, in the light of the responses to the consultation paper, consider the need for any changes to legislation.

A copy of the consultation paper is currently on circulation to members of the Electoral Arrangements Committee; a further copy is available for all members to look at. It can be found in the Members Lounge. If you have any comments, please pass them to Susan May in Democratic Services (01954 713016 or susan.may@scambs.gov.uk). Susan will send a consolidated response to the Electoral Commission on behalf of South Cambs Members.

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 14 September 2005 at 5 pm**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Thursday 15 September 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.

DECISION MADE BY THE HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Applicant	Decision
Mrs F (Reference E/05/025)	Agreed Mrs F could remain in the property to which she has been decanted while refurbishment works are carried out.
Ms G (Reference E/05/026)	Agreed to transfer to larger accommodation.

Ten things you need to know about the Supporting People Programme

- 1 Supporting People is a national programme funded by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister costing £1.7Billion per year. The programme funds housing related support services to over 1.2 million vulnerable people nationally through 6000 housing support providers.
- 2 In Cambridgeshire the £12.5Million programme currently provides funding for 450 services to 8600 service users. Support is provided either directly to people in their own home or in specialist accommodation designed to meet their needs.
- 3 The aim of the Supporting People Programme is to maximise independence and help people to help themselves. Examples of this would be helping people to develop essential life skills such as budgeting or cooking. Supporting People does not fund personal care services.
- 4 The Supporting People programme is managed by the Supporting People Team, a team of 10 employed by Cambridgeshire County Council and based at Stanton House in Huntingdon.
- 5 Supporting People is a multi-agency partnership between the County Council, 5 District Council's, Probation and Health. A Core Strategy Group, Commissioning Body and Joint Member Group guide the Supporting People Team in delivering the programme.
- 6 The Supporting People Strategy, completed in March 2005, sets our strategic direction and priority client groups, which are older people, young people at risk, adults with mental health needs and offenders.
- 7 Contracting with 60 provider organisations, services are delivered to 19 different client groups ranging from older people living in sheltered accommodation to young people who are leaving care.
- 8 The Supporting People Team individually accredits each of the 60 providers to ensure the organisations have the necessary governance and accountability in place to deliver services to vulnerable people. Each of the 450 services is reviewed to assess its quality and value for money.
- 9 Service user participation is at the heart of each Supporting People Review incorporating service users views through individual interviews and focus groups.
- 10 The programme is currently facing a difficult period as a result of government cuts to the national budget. The impact on Cambridgeshire could be a 36% reduction in funding over the next 5-7 years. The Supporting People Partnership is a critical mechanism for delivering health, housing and social care objectives. The partnership must address the cuts minimising the impact on service users and other programmes working with vulnerable individuals.

If you want to know more about the programme please contact the team by phone on 01480 37 53 61 or by e-mail: supporting.people@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Update on the Supporting People Programme – 2005

What is Supporting People (SP)?

Supporting People is the Government programme that covers both supported housing schemes and housing support services to vulnerable people in their own homes. The purpose of the programme is to prevent problems that can often lead to hospitalisation, institutional care or homelessness and can help the smooth transition to independent living for those leaving an institutional environment. Housing support covers those services such as sheltered housing scheme managers, home improvement agencies, community alarms, counseling and advice that enable people to sustain tenancies and remain in the community. It has been introduced across the country from 1 April 2003.

SP funding situation & Implications

Unlike many other funding streams, the SP budget is cash-limited and ever decreasing as a result of the cuts imposed by ODPM as the government's way of re-distributing funds. The initial grant allocation for Cambridgeshire at the start of the SP programme was approx £13.5m. With the recently announced cuts for Cambridgeshire of 5.9% on the grant for 2005/06, in addition to the annual cuts since the beginning of the programme, Cambridgeshire's grant has already been reduced by over £1m in three years. (The SP grant for England overall has been reduced by £100million over this timescale.)

A cut of over 5% for any authority indicates long-term cuts, so this is only the beginning. ODPM are producing a distribution formula to determine how funds will be reallocated. The latest version indicates that Cambridgeshire will have an overall cut of 36.4% from the 2005/06 grant level of £12.5million. The cuts for 2006/07 and 2007/08 have been capped at 5%, but no information has been received as to the size of the cuts thereafter and the period over which they will be phased in.

Given the nature of the support provided, reductions in the SP grant of this magnitude are likely to result in the following, unless replacement funding is found / alternatives are put in place:

- Increased hospital admissions
- Increased emergency admissions
- More delayed discharges
- Less prevention and rehabilitation for older people
- Inequitable service provision throughout the county
- Fewer people supported to live in their own homes
- Increased social exclusion
- Reduced homelessness prevention
- Increased crime and anti-social behaviour, resulting in reduced community safety
- Increased prison admissions

Various arrangements and agreements have already been put in place to meet the grant cuts imposed to date (including a risk-share agreement between the county council and the district councils; retrenchment for the County Council, District Councils and RSLs where the housing stock was transferred from the District Councils; efficiency savings). However, these are only sufficient in the immediate term. Alternative arrangements need to be put in place for the financial year 2006/07 onwards, which means taking action now. The Supporting People partnership is planning an intense scrutiny of services in an attempt to make additional savings, but this alone will not be enough.

Issues for consideration

- Difficult decisions will have to be made regarding the future of services. Extensive consultation and planning is required. New ways of jointly funding and commissioning services must be put

in place as soon as possible to protect the vulnerable and to enable performance targets to be achieved.

- Supporting People is a critical mechanism for the delivery of health; housing and social care objectives and as such must be integrated into the broader agenda.
- The Supporting People Programme in Cambridgeshire will undergo an inspection by the Audit Commission in November 2005. Thereafter, Supporting People will be inspected as part of the CPA process.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group held on
Wednesday, 20 July 2005 at 10.00 a.m.

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

Councillors:	RF Bryant	Mrs PS Corney
	Mrs SJO Doggett	Mrs A Elsby
	R Hall	Mrs CA Hunt
	Dr JPR Orme	Mrs DSK Spink MBE
	RJ Turner	Dr JR Williamson

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

Councillor SGM Kindersley (Leader of the Council) was in attendance, by invitation.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Dr JA Heap, E Pateman, JH Stewart and NIC Wright sent apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. 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 June 2005.

In connection with Minute no. 4 (Minutes of the previous meeting), and with particular reference to the Natural Heritage Awards 2004-05, the Conservation Advisory Group and Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder conveyed their appreciation, and that of others, for the manner in which the awards ceremony had been arranged.

4. CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL - LONGSTANTON

The Conservation Advisory Group considered a report detailing the results of the public consultation exercise relating to the Longstanton Conservation Area Appraisal, and seeking its support for the adoption of the document as Council Policy, incorporating the proposed changes to boundaries.

Councillor Alex Riley, the local Member, congratulated the Conservation Area and Design Officer on the high quality of the Appraisal. Councillor Riley explained to Members of the Advisory Group a number of issues underlying the objections and comments received. He concluded by stating that expanding the Conservation Area as proposed would afford this part of the village much needed protection from future development.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder presents the draft Conservation Area Appraisal

for Longstanton to Cabinet to seek its approval and adoption as Council Policy, subject to the incorporation of the changes outlined in the appendix to the Conservation Manager's report, and including approval of the boundary changes contained therein.

5. CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL - OAKINGTON

The Conservation Advisory Group considered a report detailing the results of the public consultation exercise relating to the Oakington Conservation Area Appraisal, and seeking its support for the adoption of the document as Council Policy, incorporating the proposed changes to boundaries.

Councillor SM Edwards, a local Member, expressed some sympathy with the objection raised by Oakington and Westwick Parish Council, focusing on the potential increased costs that would be imposed on the school in having to have regard to certain design criteria when considering expansion in the light of an increasing village population. A member of the Conservation Advisory Group assured him that any additional cost was unlikely to be significant in that good design should not necessarily cost any more and, ultimately, the existence of the Conservation Area was actually likely to be more beneficial than detrimental.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder presents the draft Conservation Area Appraisal for Oakington to Cabinet to seek its approval and adoption as Council Policy, subject to the incorporation of the changes outlined in the appendix to the Conservation Manager's report, and including approval of the boundary changes contained therein.

6. CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL - WESTWICK

The Conservation Advisory Group considered a report detailing the results of the public consultation exercise relating to the Westwick Conservation Area Appraisal, and seeking its support for the adoption of the document as Council Policy, incorporating the proposed changes to boundaries.

Councillor SM Edwards, a local Member, welcomed the proposed extension to the Conservation Area as a means of adding protection to the village from future development.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder presents the draft Conservation Area Appraisal for Westwick to Cabinet to seek its approval and adoption as Council Policy, subject to the incorporation of the changes outlined in the appendix to the Conservation Manager's report, and including approval of the boundary changes contained therein.

7. CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL - RAMPTON

The Conservation Advisory Group considered a report detailing the results of the public consultation exercise on the proposed new Conservation Area at Rampton, and seeking its support for the designation of a new Conservation Area in accordance with the suggested boundaries set out in the report, and the adoption of the appraisal document as Council Policy.

Councillor SM Edwards, a local Member, welcomed the proposal in support of Rampton Parish Council.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder presents the draft Conservation Area Appraisal for Rampton to Cabinet and seeks its approval to designate a new Conservation Area, and

its adoption of the Appraisal as Council Policy, subject to the incorporation of the changes outlined in the appendix to the Conservation Manager's report.

8. THATCH AND THATCHING POLICY

The Conservation Advisory Group considered outline draft supplementary planning guidance on thatching policy.

In connection with paragraph 10 of his report (Change in Thatching Materials, Methods or Detailing), the Conservation Manager said that, in all cases, the Council would require a thatching survey to be undertaken.

The Conservation Advisory Group supported the direction and proposed content of the Thatch and thatching planning policy guidance document, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder authorises officers to complete the draft of the document and undertake an appropriate consultation exercise, reporting the results back to the Conservation Advisory Group for consideration prior to presentation to Cabinet for initial adoption as Council Policy.

9. WAR MEMORIAL GUIDANCE AND GAZETTEER

The Conservation Advisory Group considered a report outlining progress being made with the War Memorials initiative, and seeking its support for the final production of the advisory document and Gazetteer and the continued promotion of the repair project within 2005-06.

Members received copies of the draft Gazetteer, which would be amended and added to prior to its final production. They agreed that, as well as circulating copies to parish councils and other relevant bodies, enquiries should be made into the practicalities of selling further copies to members of the public, particularly through outlets such as Duxford Imperial War Museum.

Members joined the Chairman in thanking Charmain Hawkins, Historic Buildings Officer, for her work in compiling the Gazetteer and for all her work for the Council, and wished her well for the future when she leaves the Council in October 2005.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder makes available necessary funding to support the production and distribution of the War Memorials of South Cambridgeshire Gazetteer, subject to the final confirmation of printing costs, and authorises the subsequent production of commemorative plaques and the four spin off leaflets referred to in paragraph 16 of the Conservation Manager's report.

10. TREE AND HEDGE PACK SCHEME

The Conservation Advisory Group considered a report outlining the proposed Tree and Hedge Pack (THP) scheme, and seeking its support and approval to launch the initiative, in partnership with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, as a pilot for 2005/06.

The Trees and Landscape Officer confirmed that, while the scheme sought, in part, to continue the success of that previously supported by Cambridgeshire County Council but now discontinued, packs would no longer be made available to parish councils (as the parallel Parish Tree initiative will specifically focus on parish councils), with the emphasis being placed instead on agricultural landowners.

Members noted that the pilot scheme would only last for one year. They asked officers to prepare a report on the success of that pilot scheme for consideration by the Conservation

Advisory Group in March 2006, prior to any further commitment to the continuation of the scheme within 2006-07.

The Conservation Advisory Group supported the proposed Tree and Hedge Pack scheme as outlined in the Conservation Manager's report, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Conservation, Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder authorises the initiation of the project, as a pilot in 2005-06, to be funded by the current allocation in the Conservation budget for Revenue grants.

11. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group would be held at South Cambridgeshire Hall on Wednesday 14th September 2005 starting at 10.00am.

The Meeting ended at 12.35 p.m.
