

**COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN  
21 SEPTEMBER 2005**

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**South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council**

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**MINUTES**

1. Milton Country Park Advisory Group – draft Minutes of 12 September 2005

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FROM:  
26 September to 30 September 2005**

				<b>Contact</b>
<b>Mon 26 Sep</b>	10 am	South Cambridgeshire Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership	Swansley Room	Maggie Jennings
	10 am	Licensing – Lion & Lamb, Milton	Mezzanine	Katrina Perry
	2 pm	Licensing – Longbow, Stapleford	Mezzanine	Katrina Perry
<b>Tue 27 Sep</b>	10 am	Member Training Advisory Group	Monkfield Room	Carol Tyrrell
	10 am	Licensing – Waggon & Horses, Milton	Mezzanine	Katrina Perry
	2 pm	Environmental Health PFH Meeting		Christine Martin
	2 pm	Licensing – Waggon & Horses, Linton	Mezzanine	Katrina Perry
<b>Wed 28 Sep</b>	10 am	Licensing – White Horse, Milton	Mezzanine	Katrina Perry
	2 pm	Licensing – Navigator, Little Shelford	Mezzanine	Katrina Perry
<b>Thu 29 Sep</b>	10 am	Licensing – Ancient Shepherds, Fen Ditton	Mezzanine	Katrina Perry
	2 pm	Licensing – Plough, Coton	Mezzanine	Katrina Perry
<b>Fri 30 Sep</b>	10 am	Licensing – Tesco Extra, Milton	Mezzanine	Katrina Perry

**SHIRE HOMES MANAGEMENT TEAM REORGANISATION**

Members will be aware that Cabinet recently approved proposals for the creation of a new Housing Services management team structure. Internal recruitment has now resulted in the following appointments:

**Pauline Gardner** has been appointed Housing Services Manager, and will assume responsibility for the sheltered housing service when Celia Chappell retires next month.

**Steve Annetts** has been appointed Housing Asset & Investment Manager and **Kelvin Belcher** has been appointed Housing ICT & Performance Manager. Both Steve and Kelvin will be commencing their new duties in November, as in the short term they will be covering some of the areas previously overseen by managers who have left the service.

Kari Greaves, Head of Shire Homes, and Andy Newman, Principal Projects Manager, did not apply for posts in the new management structure and so will be leaving the Council. I am sure that members would wish to join me in thanking them for their many years loyal service to the Council.

The two remaining posts, Property Services Manager and Repairs Operational Manager, will be advertised externally. As part of the DLO recovery project, **Peter Fiddeman** from Echelon Consulting is acting as interim DLO Manager.

If you have any questions about these staffing changes please do not hesitate to contact me.

Steve Hampson  
DHES

**MEETING FOR ELECTED COUNCILLORS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF NHS BODIES**

An LGA meeting aimed at Councillors who are members of NHS Trusts, Primary Care Trusts, Care Trusts, or Strategic Health Authorities is being held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2005 in Local Government House, Smith Square, London between 10.30 am and 2.30 pm.

NHS Organisations are undergoing change and development as they seek: to achieve a move towards effective commissioning for a patient led NHS; to make progress in implementing Choosing Health with stakeholders, including Local Government; and deliver the commitment to make £250 million of savings in overhead costs.

The Government is also undertaking a large scale public consultation exercise this autumn, 'Your Health, Your Care, Your Say: Improving Community Health and Care Services,' which will lead to a White Paper towards the end of the year on improving community health and care services.

These issues will impact significantly on local government and the health sectors. The meeting will give members the opportunity to consider the impact of these changes for local government and contribute to the LGA's policy development prior to the publication of the White Paper.

If there are any members who would like to attend the meeting, please contact Carol Tyrrell in Democratic Services (Telephone 01954 713026 or email [carol.tyrrell@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:carol.tyrrell@scambs.gov.uk).) as soon as possible as names are required to be submitted no later than 13 October 2005.

### **YOUR HEALTH, YOUR CARE, YOUR SAY – LOCAL CONSULTATIONS**

A large-scale consultation on community health and care services - *Your Health, Your Care, Your Say* – is being held throughout September and October by the Department of Health. The outcomes of this listening exercise will be combined with the consultation already carried out on the Adult Social Care Green Paper and will shape the White Paper on improving community health and care services, which is due to be published at the turn of the year.

A joint letter from Patricia Hewitt and David Miliband to Chairs of Local Strategic Partnerships, Chief Executives of Local Authorities and Chairs of Strategic Health Authorities which encourages local activity as part of the listening exercise is available to look at in Democratic Services.

If any member wishes to take part in the consultation on an individual basis, details can be found at: <http://www.nhs.uk/yoursay>

### **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 28 September 2005 at 5 pm**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Thursday 29 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.

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the Milton Country Park Advisory Group held on  
Monday, 12 September 2005

Councillors: Mrs SA Hatton Mrs HF Kember  
Mrs JA Muncey Mrs HM Smith  
RT Summerfield

And Paul Oldham (Milton Parish Council)

### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

1.1 It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs HM Smith be elected Chairman of the Advisory Group for the coming year.

### **2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

2.1 It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs JA Muncey be elected Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Group for the coming year.

### **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Hall, Mrs DP Roberts, Community Development Portfolio Holder and Stephen Bennett, representative of the Friends of Milton Country Park.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4.1 None.

### **5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

5.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2005 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- (a) Minute 3 – substitute 'Cambridge Rowing Trust' to 'Cambridge Sports Lakes Trust' as it had recently been renamed.
- (b) Minute 7 – deletion of the words 'and would take approximately two days to inspect' in the penultimate sentence.
- (c) Minute 8 – second bullet point – substitute 'encouraged in the Visitor Centre' with 'appropriate in the new facility'
- (d) Minute 8 – substitute 'Arbury Camps' in the penultimate paragraph with 'Cambridge Northern Fringe East'

### **6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

6.1 The Head of Community Services informed the Advisory Group that due to issues arising from capping of the Council Tax, both he and the Cultural Services Manager would be working jointly on matters relating to Milton Country Park.

6.2 Minute 6 – Cambridge Evening News Hedge – Approval of the plan submitted by the Ranger to the CEN regarding remedial work to the hedge had still not received formal approval. It was however noted that they had given verbal agreement that they were

happy to work with the Ranger on the restoration of the hedge.

- 6.3 In response to concern regarding the Council's liability in circumstances where a tree or trees fall onto the side of the park and inflict damage to persons or property, legal advice stated that if the trees were on other owners property, they would be liable for any damage.
- 6.4 Minute 8 – Visitor Centre – The Head of Community Services informed the Group that he had had a discussion with Cambridge Mencap regarding the provision of a new building and as a result of this Council's capping situation, it was unlikely the Council could agree for them to proceed with a new building in the near future.
- 6.5 Minute 9 – Dog Update – It was noted that an awareness event for dog owners had not yet taken place, due mainly to the long-term absence of the Council's Dog Warden.
- 6.6 Advice had been sought from the Legal Section regarding prosecuting offenders of the dog byelaws in the Park; it remained the view that this form of prosecution would not be financially viable. The Group felt that a high-profile prosecution would raise everyone's awareness as this had worked in Milton village. The Head of Community Services, indicated however that he would pursue the matter further if the Portfolio Holder and the Advisory Group requested him to do so.

## **7. RANGER'S REPORT**

- 7.1 The Advisory Group noted the Rangers report and in particular the smaller than expected amount of rubbish left in the litterbin by the path to the Community Centre. A temporary bin was sited there to reduce the reported large amounts of litter being put in the community centre bins by park users. The Chairman undertook to check with the Community Centre if the amount of their rubbish had declined. **Cllr Mrs H Smith to action**
- 7.2 It was also noted that at the leavers interview for Steve Woods, a temporary member of staff, he had indicated that in his experience the Park was understaffed and required four full time personnel; he would also make more use of the Visitors' Centre. (Steve had previously managed Brandon Country Park in Suffolk)
- 7.3 Since writing the report for this meeting, the Ranger reported an incident of rubbish placed on top of a picnic bench being set alight; the fire services had been called to attend.
- 7.4 The Ranger also reported that several people had received ankle injuries during the summer months; one was attributable to a rabbit hole and another on the slope to one of the swims. The Council's Health and Safety Adviser had investigated the slope to the swim and found it entirely appropriate for a country park and it was deemed that the injured person had been wearing unsuitable footwear.
- 7.5 Re-surfacing of the paths had not yet taken place, mainly due to availability of storage space for materials, however the Ranger was anticipating commencing the work before the winter after suitable storage facilities had been provided.

## **8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

- 8.1 Exclusion of the press and public was not required as there were none in attendance at the meeting.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS OF COUNCIL TAX CAPPING FOR MILTON COUNTRY PARK**

- 9.1 A verbal report was given to the Advisory Group by the Head of Community Services on initial discussions held relating to the savings to be made as a result of Council Tax

capping. The Group noted that:

- (a) A total of £688,000 savings, equating to approximately 36% of the budget was required from the Community Development budget
- (b) Each service area was looking at changing the delivery in order to make savings
- (c) The Park had been given a low priority in the assessment undertaken by Cabinet members
- (d) Future events would have to be scaled down
- (e) Income for the Park could be derived from car parking charges, increased use of the Visitor Centre and reduction in maintenance spending
- (f) Investigations would continue into all options for future management of the Park and any additional ways of funding it, in the short and long term

9.2 The Head of Community Services also informed the Group that he had recently held discussions with Stephen Bennett, the Chairman of the Friends of Milton Country Park and as a result had received an e-mail from him containing his personal opinions on the situation. A précis of the e-mail is as follows:

- (a) The Park was well run and the Rangers highly regarded; would not like to see a reduction in staffing levels
- (b) The Park should continue to provide its existing roles, ie nature reserve, educational resource, leisure and recreation facility
- (c) Did not support charging for car parking, if this could be avoided, as it could lead to problems elsewhere in the village
- (d) Would like to see more events in the Park
- (e) The Friends staff the information desk in the Visitors' Centre at special events
- (f) The Friends receive donations for use of the Visitors' Centre by outside groups, however he would be happy to lose this income if the Centre was hired for commercial use
- (g) Consider expanding the refreshment services and include some selling of birdfood and gifts currently sold by the Friends
- (h) Money raised or donated to the Friends were used to provide extras for the Park, eg planting for the sensory garden, refurbishment of the fish tank display, weather station equipment for use by schools, new garden area opposite the sensory garden

9.3 The following observations and suggestions were made:

- (a) Surrounding businesses could be encouraged to use the kiosk for light lunches
- (b) Investment in the catering facilities would be required in order to expand the refreshment provision
- (c) Consideration be given to increasing the rent payable by Swallows
- (d) Increase the opening hours of the refreshment kiosk
- (e) Invite other catering businesses to tender
- (f) If introduce car parking charges, offer money back if buying lunch
- (g) Charge other sections of the District Council and the Regional College for using the facilities at the Visitors' Centre
- (h) Offer conferencing facilities and include catering
- (i) Terminate the cleaning contract and employ a caretaker to include cleaning
- (j) If expanding refreshment facilities and Visitors' Centre activities, an additional WC and doorway to the upstairs part of the centre could be created

## **10. SCRUTINY OF THE MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL REVIEW**

10.1 The Advisory Group noted the contents of the report and that the Head of Community Services would continue to investigate ways in which to make savings.

**11. THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF MILTON COUNTRY PARK**

- 11.1 The Advisory Group discussed various options regarding the future management of the Park and **AGREED** that the Head of Community Services consider in detail and action those options and report again to the next meeting of the Advisory Group.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 12.1 The next meeting of the Advisory Group will be held on Thursday, 1 December 2005 at 10.00am, followed by a walk around the Park.

**13. WALK AROUND THE PARK**

- 13.1 Due to time constraints it was decided not to walk around the Park.

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**The Meeting ended at 12.00 p.m.**

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