



SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN – ISSUE DATE 16TH APRIL 2003

CONTENTS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

1. Forthcoming Committee Meetings
2. Training Courses:
 - Audit Commission User Focus Forum on 12th June 2003
 - Overview and Scrutiny: Skills Development for Members
3. Bassingbourn Post Office – re-scheduling of re-opening.

MINUTES OF CABINET 10TH APRIL 2003

Cabinet Agreed:

3. **GRANTS TO CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAUX**
4. **RIGHT TO BUY SCHEME: RESTRICTING THE RESALE OF SOCIAL HOUSING IN RURAL AREAS TO LOCAL PEOPLE**
5. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCRUTINY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE IN SOUTH CAMBS**
6. **LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT**

MINUTES OF CONSERVATION ADVISORY GROUP 25TH MARCH 2003

3. **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INITIATIVES AND THE MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE – 2002-2003 AND 2003-2004**
4. **ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRAINING EXCAVATION AT FULBOURN**
5. **HORNINGSEA JUBILEE GARDEN**
6. **WATTS' WOOD, COMBERTON**
7. **CONSERVATION AWARD SCHEME**
8. **S/0003/03/O – BABRAHAM HALL MASTERPLAN**
9. **DESIGN GUIDE**
10. **DESIGNATION OF EVERSDEN AND WIMPOLE WOODS AS A SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI) AND PROPOSAL TO REDESIGNATE THE WOODS AS A SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC)**
11. **PRESERVING AND ENHANCING OUR HERITAGE RESOURCES: A CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE**
12. **CHURCH OF ST. DENIS, EAST HATLEY**

DECISION MADE BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER

1. Awarding of £7,875 to Caxton Parish Council for Play Equipment on Playing Fields

DECISION MADE BY HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER

1. Rollover request

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Notes and Minutes now available
2. Call-in Arrangements

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

<u>COMMITTEE MEETINGS</u>			
FROM 22nd – 25th APRIL 2003			
THURSDAY 24TH APRIL 2003	AT 10 AM	CABINET (Contact Officer Patrick Adams)	COUNCIL CHAMBER
	AT 2 PM	CAMBOURNE DEG (Contact Officer Holly McKenzie)	PROJECT OFFICE, CAMBOURNE
	AT 2.30 PM	HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL	COMMITTEE ROOM 1

Training Courses

Name of Course	Description	Date and Venue
Audit Commission User Focus Forum	This National Conference hosted by the Audit Commission will provide an opportunity for those in the public sector to discuss the possible strategic approaches to involving service users in prioritisation and budget choices. While this conference will not be able to provide all of the answers, it will enable delegates to assess different experiences both from the UK and abroad and will share experiences and learning from those who have pioneered such initiatives.	12 th June 2003 in Central London
Overview and Scrutiny: Skills' Development for Members	This all-day seminar, hosted by the Institute of Local Government Studies (part of the School of Public Policy at the University of Birmingham) will provide an opportunity to meet Councillors from across the country, gain from the expertise of one of the national experts on overview and scrutiny, Frances Taylor from the ILGS, get up-to-date in terms of the latest research findings on this challenging role, and practise and develop the relevant skills.	5 th June 2003 in Birmingham

If you are interested in any of the above courses please contact Patrick Adams on (01223) 443408 or patrick.adams@scambs.gov.uk

BASSINGBOURN POST OFFICE

A structural problem has delayed completion of the building. As a result, the re-opening of Bassingbourn Post Office, originally planned for 12th April 2003, has been rescheduled for 17th April 2003.

CABINET MEETING

At a meeting of the Cabinet held on
10th April 2003 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT:	Mrs DSK Spink	Leader and Conservation Portfolio Holder
	RT Summerfield	Deputy Leader and Finance and Resources Portfolio Holder
Councillors:	CC Barker	Environmental Health Portfolio Holder
	JD Batchelor	Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder
	Mrs EM Heazell	Housing Portfolio Holder
	SJ Kime	Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder
	Mrs DP Roberts	Community Development Portfolio Holder

Councillors RE Barrett, RF Bryant, G Elsbury, CJ Gravatt, R Hall, Mrs J Hughes, SGM Kindersley and PL Stroude were also in attendance, by invitation.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr DR Bard, Information and Customer Services Portfolio Holder, and from the Finance and Resources Director.

A one minute silence was held at the beginning of the meeting to honour Kelan Turrington, the eighteen year old Fusilier from Haslingfield who was killed on Sunday in Basra.

Procedural Items

15. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Leader was authorised to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2003 as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

Development Progress at Papworth Everard (minute 3, third paragraph)

“...any such proposals would need to be very exciting and innovative to persuade her to think of an exception being made.”

Arts Dual Use Strategy (minute 4, third paragraph)

“...a pilot scheme would be operated for the first two years...”

Basic Credit Approval 2003-04 (minute 7)

Councillor RT Summerfield confirmed that the Finance and Resources Director would, under the delegated authority granted by Cabinet, offer to transfer unconditionally the BCA to Liverpool City Council as a second choice if the transfer were turned down by North Cornwall District Council.

Support to Families of Waterbeach Soldiers (minute 10)

The Commanding Officer's wife had discussed the date and venue with the families and they had chosen to have the family event on Friday 30th May at the Mepal Outdoor Centre. The families had seen a poster of showing the alternative activities available at Mepal and Milton Country Park, produced by Community Services and the Graphics Section, and were enthusiastic about the location of Mepal and the number of activities there for children. Mepal Outdoor Centre staff would be organising the event on behalf of this Council and Council officers would be meeting with them shortly.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

Decisions made by Cabinet and reported for information

17. GRANTS TO CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAUX

The Community Development Portfolio Holder noted that the Council had supported the Citizens' Advice Bureaux in previous years and that support to them was being considered as part of the current review of all community grants. The work of the Citizens' Advice Bureaux was commended.

It was confirmed that the recommendations for 2003/04 were based on the historical approach, and that information regarding the Cambridge Independent Advice Centre was being considered under the review. Cabinet

AGREED the following grant awards for 2003/04:

Cambridge Citizens' Advice Bureau	£65,000
North Herts and District Citizens' Advice Bureau	£23,000

18. RIGHT TO BUY SCHEME: RESTRICTING THE RESALE OF SOCIAL HOUSING IN RURAL AREAS TO LOCAL PEOPLE

The Housing Portfolio Holder felt that there was merit in applying to have South Cambridgeshire designated as 'rural', although it was difficult to conjecture the effect that this would have on the number of sales. The Housing and Community Services Director confirmed that the designation would have an impact only on Section 157 of the Housing Act 1985 and would not affect Planning matters. He explained that the government was allowing local authorities to make applications within the current legislation, rather than writing new primary legislation.

Concerns and reservations were expressed on the grounds of:

- the small effect it would have on the price of the houses affected
- the possibilities for continued abuse of the system (for example, buying to rent)
- the perception of interference by the Council in market forces
- discrimination against people living on the borders of the District

The Housing and Community Services Director acknowledged that the policy was weak and would contain anomalies, but confirmed that it was the only option available. The Council was not able to impose further restrictions and any change would require primary legislation. He advised Members that the designation could be achieved on a parish-by-parish basis, requiring an enormous amount of administrative work, or across the entire county, requiring the agreement of the other Cambridgeshire authorities, but felt it best that the entire district be designated. If the application were successful, publicity would be handled very carefully.

The Housing Portfolio Holder explained that the Council had not previously had the opportunity to be classified as rural. She noted that the Greater Cambridge Partnership had determined that Southern Cambridgeshire was now the most expensive county for housing outside London, aside from Surrey.

Cabinet, accepting that there were flaws, but hopeful that designation as rural in this context might assist in future,

AGREED to make an application to the Secretary of State for the designation of the South Cambridgeshire district as 'rural' for the purposes of Section 157 of the Housing Act 1985 in order to restrict the resale of properties sold under the Right to Buy scheme to someone who has lived or worked in the District for at least the last three years.

19. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCRUTINY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE IN SOUTH CAMBS

The Environmental Health Portfolio Holder noted that the government had established the new provisions for health scrutiny by County Councils partly to replace the former Community Health Councils. Adopting the working principles was a matter for Cabinet and adoption was required before the first public meeting of the South Cambridgeshire Panel on 24th April. South Cambridgeshire District Council is represented on the Local Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel by Councillors Barrett, Mrs Lockwood and Ziaian-Gillan, although it was noted that none of these members was on the District's Scrutiny Committee, which was a prerequisite for voting rights of the District co-opted member on the county-wide Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee. Members of the Area Panel would be representatives of the area that they were serving.

Councillor Mrs EM Heazell felt that there was an imbalance in the membership on the Area Panels, with four County Councillors and three District Councillors. She expressed her wish for equal representation. Councillor PL Stroude responded that the County Council was working to scrutinise social care and health, rather than to manage it and that political power was not relevant. He noted that the role of the Area Panel was to challenge the health and social services to close any identified gaps between them.

Councillor Stroude confirmed that it was acknowledged that communities on the borders of Cambridgeshire were served by organisations in neighbouring authorities. The new system was all about partnership to ensure that no-one's needs were missed. The Leader suggested that the District's representatives bring these issues to the attention of the Panel to ensure all South Cambridgeshire residents were covered.

Cabinet

AGREED to adopt the Working Principles for the scrutiny of health and social care in Cambridgeshire as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

20. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT

The Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder introduced the report, which had been brought to Cabinet for information. He noted that a leaflet, South Cambs Futures, had been enclosed in the latest edition of South Cambs Magazine so residents could provide feedback on the highlighted issues.

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) was developed to create joined-up thinking and a Shadow Board had been established to prepare a draft community strategy, due in September. The Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio Holder

thanked the Assistant Director of Housing and Community Services for his work with the LSP officer working party and noted that County Council officers were also very committed to and supportive of the work of the LSP. In addition to preparing the community strategy, the LSP had taken on three current projects :

- community development in the Northern Fringe area of Cambridge;
- support for those communities affected by library closures; and
- contacting major partners to determine if there were possibilities for joint use of capital facilities throughout the district.

The Assistant Director of Housing and Community Services provided a verbal update on libraries. The County Council had asked each village affected by a library closure to prepare a report by 28th April indicating whether or not the community had a viable plan for the continuation of library services run by volunteers. In most cases the communities wanted to use the existing library building, and it was noted that the Library Service would keep the existing buildings in repair, but not replace them at the end of their useful life. The communities were working from templates to prepare their business plans and it was hoped that they would be ready to bring proposals to the County Council Cabinet at the end of the month.

Councillor SGM Kindersley reported that the DETR Index of Deprivation highlighted pockets of substantial deprivation in South Cambridgeshire although there was a perception that there was not any deprivation in the District. He asked that the LSP consider this in its Community Strategy.

Cabinet **ENDORSED** the developments of the Local Strategic Partnership.

Information Item

21. APPROVED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2003/04

The Housing Portfolio Holder presented the Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme 2003/04 (ADP) for information. She noted that more money would be available in this District through the Challenge Fund than the ADP.

Councillor CC Barker, noting the references made in the report to key workers, reiterated his concerns about the lack of definition of the term and his wish that key worker housing be available to a wider section of the population, including low paid workers in the private sector. The Housing and Community Services Director commented that the definition would be determined by the government, but explained that the money in the Challenge Fund had been ring-fenced for key worker housing, off site manufactured (OSM) systems and homelessness. The low levels of OSM and homelessness in the district meant that the majority of funding would go to key worker housing, focussing primarily on Cambourne as a housing site unique to the region. It was the Registered Social Housing Landlords who would bid for, and receive, the funding.

Disappointment was expressed at the new schemes being put forward by the government, as it was felt that the previous funding mechanisms had been successful and had allowed for local discretion. The Housing and Community Services Director reported that he was raising these issues with GO-East but that he did not feel the government was receptive. Councillor Mrs DSK Spink reported that she had been told by Lord Rooker that the changes had occurred since some authorities had not been using the recycled LASHG for housing projects. She would be raising the concerns of the Council with Lord Sainsbury at a meeting on 6th June

and take every other opportunity to make representations. All the housing authorities in the county had sent joint representations to the government.

The Housing Portfolio Holder agreed that it was important to continue protesting at the changes the government had put forward as silence could be mistaken for acquiescence.

Cabinet **NOTED** the Approved Development Programme 2003/04.

Standing Items

22. MATTERS REFERRED BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

None.

23. RE-LOCATION OF OFFICES TO CAMBOURNE

The construction was progressing broadly on schedule. Breathe, the furniture suppliers, were collecting information for floor allocation and layout plans and storage space requirements.

24. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL BY CONSULTANTS

The Finance and Resources Director and Human Resources Manager, in conjunction with other directors as appropriate, were applying the salary information from the consultant to the job evaluations. From this an appropriate salary structure would be generated.

The meeting ended at 11.15

CONSERVATION ADVISORY GROUP

At a meeting of the Committee
held on 25th March 2003 at 2.00pm

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

Councillors: Councillor RF Collinson Councillor RGR Smith
Councillor Dr JA Heap Councillor AW Wyatt
Councillor Dr JPR Orme

Co-opted Member Councillor Mrs MP
Course

Councillors RF Bryant, Mrs JM Healey and Mrs DSK Spink (Portfolio Holder for Conservation) attended the meeting by invitation.

Councillor JH Stewart sent his apologies for absence.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In connection with Minute no. 3 (Archaeological Initiatives and the Monument Management Project), Councillor SJ Agnew declared a personal interest as Chairman of The Friends of Roman Road and Fleam Dyke.

In connection with Minute no. 10 (Eversden and Wimpole Woods), Councillor SJ Agnew declared a personal interest as a member of the Cambridge Bat Group.

2. MINUTES

The Group authorised the Chairman to sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2003.

In response to a query from Councillor Dr JPR Orme, Councillor RF Collinson confirmed that the third bullet point (seeking the avoidance of possible duplication) of Minute no. 7 (Proposed Historic Resource and Cultural Centre) had been accurately recorded.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INITIATIVES AND THE MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE – 2002-2003 AND 2003-2004

Stephen Macauley (Project Manager with the Archaeological Field Unit at Cambridgeshire County Council) and Aileen Connor (Archaeological Project Officer with the County Council) made a slide presentation to the Advisory Group, summarising the basis upon which the Monument Management Project (“MMP”) operates.

Members then considered a report highlighting progress being made with the MMP, and seeking ongoing and enhanced financial support for the Project.

Noting the significance, to the MMP as a whole, of archaeology in South Cambridgeshire, Councillor AW Wyatt proposed, and was seconded by Councillor Mrs MP Course, that the initiatives being addressed be identified in the form of a book, which could then be made available to members of the public. During the course of the debate, alternative methods of publicising the Project’s aims were identified as being production of a CD-ROM, and publication of a series of articles in the *South Cambs Magazine*. The Chairman acknowledged these suggestions, and asked that the Group be consulted further before any decision was made to issue specific leaflets which, he noted, tended to have a smaller readership than the magazine.

The Vice-Chairman endorsed the initiatives in principle, but urged caution in guarding against over-management, which might have a detrimental effect on the “atmospheric presence” of particular sites. In response, Mr Macauley explained that management schemes had first to be endorsed by English Heritage.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** to the Portfolio Holder for Conservation:

- (1) that Option (a) contained in paragraph 7 of the Conservation Manager’s report be endorsed, and that the allocation be made of £5,000 from the Conservation Portfolio budget to contribute to the Monument Management Programme in 2003/04 and the work programme set out in paragraph 5 of the report;.

- (2) that the County Archaeologists be invited to present a progress report on the development of the Monument Management Programme and developing archaeological initiatives early in 2003-04 for consideration and prioritisation by the Conservation Advisory Group;
- (3) that officers explore the possibility of producing a booklet setting out the principle objectives and achievements of the Monument Management Project, in consultation with the Conservation Advisory Group, where appropriate; and
- (4) that officers consider preparing a series of relevant articles for inclusion in future issues of the *South Cambs Magazine*, and explore the feasibility of designing such articles so they can eventually be grouped together by interested readers as a stand-alone guide.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRAINING EXCAVATION AT FULBOURN

Aileen Connor, Archaeological Projects Officer with Cambridgeshire County Council, made a short presentation to Members, highlighting local public interest in archaeology. The excavation in Fulbourn would be carried out during the last two weeks in August 2003 and the first two weeks in September. Members of the public would be able to participate in the excavation for either one, two, three or all four weeks. The County Council expected between 12 and 15 people each week, with a total of about 50 people over the four week period. The public would also be able to visit the site to view progress.

Members then considered a report on the scheme.

It was confirmed that the cost of the initiative would be £150 per person per week. While acknowledging the educational value, Members discussed, at some length, the financial implications. In particular, it was noted that the contribution being sought from South Cambridgeshire District Council amounted to one third of the total cost. Councillor AW Wyatt proposed that a more proportionate figure would be appropriate, and suggested that the District Council contribute no more than £4,000. This was seconded by Councillor NN Cathcart and supported by the Group.

The Portfolio Holder said that any financial contribution from South Cambridgeshire District Council should be used to benefit as many residents as possible from within the District. She undertook to reassess the relative financial contributions being made by all of the partners involved in the project.

Councillor RGR Smith observed that that such an initiative might act as a way of recruiting archaeological staff, whom the County Council had difficulty in attracting by conventional means. Aileen Connor indicated that the use of metal detectors on private land should not necessarily be discouraged, so long as their operators shared information gleaned from their use with the County Council.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** to the Portfolio Holder that this short-term archaeological educational programme be supported as a partnership

initiative with the County Council archaeologists, and that the sum equivalent to one third of the total or £4,000 (whichever is less) be allocated from the Heritage Initiative Fund for 2003-04 to support the project.

The Conservation Advisory Group **AGREED** that the County Archaeologists should present a report on the results of the initiative and its implications to the Conservation Advisory Group at its meeting scheduled to take place on 10th September 2003.

5. HORNINGSEA JUBILEE GARDEN

The Advisory Group considered a report seeking the financial support of an initiative by Horningsea Parish Council to create a public park. The Conservation Manager highlighted the financial aspects outlined in paragraph 6 of the report.

Councillor SJ Kime (local Member) had sent apologies for not being able to attend this meeting. It was reported that he fully supported the initiative.

The Portfolio Holder endorsed the initiative in principle, but argued that, as an ongoing recreational project, discussion should take place between the Conservation and Community Development departments to determine from which budgets funding should be taken, and in what proportions. It was noted that, in some instances, District Council support was a pre-requisite to funding becoming available from other sources. Nevertheless, Councillor RF Collinson stated that the overall contribution from the Council should not exceed £5,000.

Future maintenance of the garden was a significant issue, and the Conservation Manager assured Members that this would be addressed by means of a Maintenance Plan to be prepared by Horningsea Parish Council.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** that the Portfolio Holder support Horningsea Parish Council's Jubilee Garden initiative in principle, and liaise with the Portfolio Holder for Community Development to determine a corporate capital grant not exceeding £5,000, such grant sum to be allocated proportionately from the Heritage Initiative Fund for 2003-04 and from the appropriate budget within the Community Services section.

6. WATTS' WOOD, COMBERTON

The Advisory Group considered a request from Comberton Parish Council to buy Watts' Wood from the District Council, subject to independent valuation.

Members noted that the Cabinet could agree to sell at less than market value in certain circumstances. The Portfolio Holder pointed out that the Parish Council had maintained the wood for twenty years, and the Council should cite this as justification for disposing of the land for a nominal consideration.

Comberton Parish Council would be liable to meet its own legal fees.

Councillor RF Collinson supported sale for a nominal sum, observing that this would save the Parish Council money, which could then be used to maintain the wood. He reminded the Group that the late Bill Watts had submitted a

series of detailed reports to the Council and, should it be possible to retrieve these reports from the Council's archives, they would form interesting reading.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** to the Cabinet that Watts' Wood, Comberton be transferred to Comberton Parish Council for a nominal sum, subject to the Portfolio Holder receiving appropriate advice from the Head of Legal Services and to the Parish Council meeting its own legal expenses and entering into an approved scheme securing its future management of the wood and safeguarding public access to the wood..

(Malcolm Wright, Chairman of Comberton Parish Council, addressed the meeting. Councillor SA Harangozo (local Member) was unable to attend the meeting, but had expressed support for transfer at a nominal value)

7. CONSERVATION AWARD SCHEME

The Advisory Group considered a report on a proposed Conservation Awards Scheme for 2003 encompassing both the natural and built environments, for which Members expressed a strong preference for distinct schemes, rather than an all-embracing joint one.

The Advisory Group discussed the establishment of a sub-Group of Members that could assist the Conservation Manager in formulating details of the scheme.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED** to the Portfolio Holder that the Conservation Awards Scheme be held in 2003.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RESOLVED** that a sub-Group be established to determine the classification of entries into the competition and the criteria against which those entries should be considered. such sub-Group to consist of the Conservation Manager and Councillors Mrs MP Course, Dr JA Heap, Dr JPR Orme and AW Wyatt.

8. S/0003/03/O – BABRAHAM HALL MASTERPLAN

The Conservation Manager summarised progress to date in determining a Masterplan relating to development proposals for Babraham Hall.

Councillor RF Collinson regretted the fact that no formal presentation was being given. However, it was noted that members of the Development and Conservation Control Committee would be visiting the site on 31st March 2003, and suggested that those members of the Advisory Group who were not members of the Development and Conservation Control Committee might like to join that visit.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED**

- (1) that the Portfolio Holder inform the Development and Conservation Control Committee that the Advisory Group recognises the efforts made to accommodate previously raised concerns and that it welcomes the principles on which the Master Plan (dated 21 February 2003) is based; and

- (2) that the Portfolio Holder agrees a form of words to be included in the reports presented to the Development and Conservation Control Committee in respect of this matter.

9. DESIGN GUIDE

The Conservation Advisory Group considered a report on the progress being made with the Design Guide Project.

The Conservation Manager circulated a work plan.

The Conservation Advisory Group **RESOLVED**

- (1) to support the Design Guide project on the basis of the revised programme and to appoint Councillor SJ Agnew (with Councillor NN Cathcart as his substitute) to work with the Conservation Portfolio Holder on the Officer Steering Group leading the project; and
- (2) to agree, with the Portfolio Holder, a press release to be issued in April 2003 to promote the Design Guide project as the first stage of the consultation process.

10. DESIGNATION OF EVERS DEN AND WIMPOLE WOODS AS A SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI) AND PROPOSAL TO REDESIGNATE THE WOODS AS A SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

The Advisory Group considered a report on the redesignation of Eversden and Wimpole woods as an amended and extended Site of Special Scientific Interest and proposal to place an additional designation on the woods, that of a Special Area of Conservation. A major issue was the consequences for the barbestelle bat – a protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the EC Habitats Directive.

In response to a question from Councillor Dr JA Heap, the Ecology Officer said that the management of SSSIs and SACs was a responsibility of English Nature and the National Trust (the believed landowner), while South Cambridgeshire District Council would simply abide by the designations in terms of their impacts upon the planning systems for the designated sites.

Councillor RF Bryant (local Member) welcomed the proposal in principle, adding that the Parish Council was also supportive. His only reservation was the possibility that designation as an SAC might further restrict public access to the woods. The Ecology Officer admitted that public access might be restricted if, for example, such access were seen to have an adverse impact on the bat population.

Councillor Dr JA Heap argued that Members were unable to make a judgement on this matter until they had been given an opportunity to consider a Management Plan for the woods. The Portfolio Holder added that footpaths through the woods must remain accessible by members of the public.

The Conservation Advisory Group **NOTED** the report and was minded to recommend to the Portfolio Holder Options 2 and 3 contained therein. However, Members took the view that they needed more information, and instructed the Ecology Officer to invite a representative of English Nature to attend the next meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group, at which time a formal recommendation could be made to the Portfolio Holder.

11. PRESERVING AND ENHANCING OUR HERITAGE RESOURCES: A CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The Conservation Advisory Group received a report on, and the proposed contents page of, the Council's Conservation Strategy.

The Chairman announced that the strategy document would be circulated to all members of the Advisory Group prior to the next meeting, when the matter would be discussed fully, and appropriate recommendations would be made.

12. CHURCH OF ST. DENIS, EAST HATLEY

The Conservation Manager gave a verbal update, and undertook to present a formal report to the next meeting of the Conservation Advisory Group.

13. DATES OF MEETINGS

Members received a list of dates for meetings of the Conservation Advisory Group up to, and including, 21st April 2004.

The meeting closed at 5.00pm

DECISIONS MADE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Decisions Made By Portfolio Holder For Community Development

Subject	Decision	Reason
Caxton Playing Fields	Awarding of a £7,875 Village Facility Grant to Caxton Parish Council	To erect play equipment on Caxton Playing Fields.

Decision Made By Portfolio Holder For Housing

Subject	Decision	Reason
Rollover request	To rollover £7,345.02 from 2002-03 for temporary staff to 2003-04.	£12,000 was set aside in 2002-03 for additional temporary staff and expenses to complete review of the waiting list. Due to unavoidable delay in starting the review, it is ongoing, and the sum rolled over represents the balance of the original £12,000.

GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

Grants Agreed by Community Development Partnerships Manager

Applicant	Description	Reason
Weston Colville Reading Room	The awarding of a £1,150 Village Facility Grant (VF47) to install safety lighting and noise sensors in Weston Colville Reading Room.	The noise sensors will be of benefit to nearby residents and the lighting will make the hall safer at night therefore increasing the usage levels.

NOTES AND MINUTES NOW AVAILABLE

On 22nd November 2002, a meeting took place between the Council's Cabinet and the District's two Members of Parliament – Andrew Lansley M.P. and James Paice M.P. Copies of the notes of that meeting are now available (by e-mail or in hard copy). Should you need a copy, please contact Ian Senior in the Committee Section on Cambridge 01223 443028 or by e-mailing ian.senior@scambs.gov.uk

On 10th March 2003, there was a meeting of the Needingworth Quarry Liaison Committee. The Minutes of that meeting can be inspected in the Council library (Room 107) at South Cambs' Hall.

Cambridgeshire County Council Minutes of the meetings held on 25th March and 1st April 2003 have now been published on the Web. Please click on the links below to access:

<http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/db/reprack.nsf/e0c624b01b2e9ade80256b14004eb73b/9151293bb69e413680256ce9003e08cf?OpenDocument>

<http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/db/reprack.nsf/e0c624b01b2e9ade80256b14004eb73b/402f575e0f8a779780256cf00039e594?OpenDocument>

CALL-IN ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee or any five other Councillors may call in any executive decision recorded in this bulletin for review. The Committee Manager must be notified of any call in by **4.30pm Friday 25th April 2003**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Monday 28th April 2003**.

Any member considering calling in a decision made by Cabinet is requested to contact the Committee 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 Committee Procedure Rules', paragraph 12.

