

**COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN**  
**29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2004**

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Cambridgeshire  
District Council**

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**DECISIONS MADE BY OFFICERS**

Historic Building Grants issued under the approved delegation scheme by the Conservation Manager during September:

1. Historic Building Grant G/2/04 Primrose Farm, Primrose Farm Road, **Little Wilbraham**
2. G/4/04 Primrose Farm, Primrose Farm Road, **Little Wilbraham**
3. G/7/04 West View, 39 West Street, **Comberton**
4. G/16/04 Almond Tree Cottage, 8 Home End, **Fulbourn**
5. G/17/04 St. Andrews Church, Church Road, **Toft**
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7. G/18/03 36 The Grip, **Linton**
8. Community Development Grant **Barrington** Village Plan Steering Group

**MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the Waste Management Advisory Group 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2004
2. Decision Summary for the South Cambs E&T Area Joint Committee meeting 27<sup>th</sup> September 2004

<b>COMMITTEE MEETINGS FROM: 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2004</b>			
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 04</b>	10 am	Planning Inspections	On site
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 04</b>	10 am	Licensing Appeal	First floor meeting room
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 04</b>	10 am	Development and Conservation Control Committee	Council Chamber
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 04</b>	2.30 pm	Member Training Advisory Group	Grd floor meeting room
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 04</b>			

### **Appointment of Anti-Social Behaviour Caseworker**

Belinda Cunningham began in this new post on Monday 6th September. Her role encompasses partnership working with a variety of agencies, voluntary and statutory, to address issues surrounding anti-social behaviour. This will include taking individual referrals from partner agencies and targeting villages already identified as having anti-behaviour issues.

Contact details: 01954 713070

### **Council Tax consultation**

There is still time for local residents and parish councils to have their say on our recent Council Tax consultation, which was featured in the latest South Cambs magazine. Please encourage anyone who has not yet completed and returned the short questionnaire to do so as soon as possible (ideally by 4 October). Copies of the consultation paper and survey are available by telephoning 01954 713261 or by visiting our website [www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk)

Following the useful consultation evening for parish councils on 22 September, we would welcome considered written responses from any parish council in the district - whether or not they attended the meeting. As well as receiving views on the main questions from the Council Tax survey, we would be very interested in parish councils' suggestions on up to three District Council services that most need improving. We will be able to take account of any letters from parish councils that are received by Wednesday 13 October. Please write to Tim Wetherfield, Head of Policy and Communication, South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB3 6EA.

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at 5pm**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2004**.

*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 Committee Procedure Rules', paragraph 12.

## DECISIONS MADE BY OFFICERS

Reason	Decision
G/2/04 Primrose Farm, Primrose Farm Road, Little Wilbraham, Mrs J Alder	Additional 25% grant (£1262) towards the repair of the flint boundary wall.
G/ 4/04 Primrose Farm, Primrose Farm Road, Little Wilbraham, Mrs J Alder	Additional 25% grant (£1513) towards the repair of the stable/coach house roof.
G/7/04 West View, 39 West Street, Comberton, Mr C N Black	£1180 (10%) towards the cost of rethatching the rear slope in longstraw, repairing the front slope, reredging and rewiring.
G/16/04 Almond Tree Cottage, 8 Home End, Fulbourn, Ms. R Ronan	£1380 (40%) towards the cost of reinstating four traditional timber horizontal sliding sash windows and a timber boarded front door in the original door opening on the front elevation.
G/17/04 St. Andrews Church, Church Road, Toft - Parochial Church Council	£5000 towards the cost of repairs to the chancel roof, east wall, south porch, north aisle parapets and south aisle.
G/21/04 14 High Ditch Road, Fen Ditton, Mrs. J Potter	£1248 (10%) towards the cost of rethatching, reredging and rewiring the longstraw thatched roof.
G/18/03 36 The Grip, Linton	<u>Grant money recovered or not paid returned to the fund.</u> £1850 (grant not paid - property for sale).
Barrington Village Plan Steering Group: The Parish Plan will ensure that future projects meet the community's needs and will therefore be sustainable. Outcomes identified by the plan will also attract external funding to the village.	Award £2000 to create a Parish Plan document for the village that will maintain and improve quality of life in the village, through co-operation and consultation with the Parish Council and residents.

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the Waste Management Advisory Group held on  
Wednesday, 22 September 2004

PRESENT:           JP Chatfield                               Dr SA Harangozo  
                  Mrs CAED Murfitt                       NJ Scarr  
                  Mrs GJ Smith                            Mrs BE Waters  
                  DALG Wherrell                       Dr JR Williamson

and Councillor SGM Kindersley (Environmental Health Portfolio Holder).

Councillor RT Summerfield was in attendance, by invitation. Also in attendance was Mr Jean-Pierre Luc Giovanni from RSM Robson Rhodes.

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

On the nomination of Councillor Mrs CAED Murfitt, seconded by Councillor Mrs GJ Smith, and there being no other nominations, it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor DALG Wherrell be re-elected Chairman of the Waste Management Advisory Group for the coming year.

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

On the nomination of Councillor DALG Wherrell, seconded by Councillor Mrs BE Waters, and there being no other nominations, it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor NJ Scarr be re-appointed Vice-Chairman of the Waste Management Advisory Group for the coming year.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2004 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **5. MATTERS ARISING**

#### **5 (a) Plastics Recycling Banks**

Councillor JP Chatfield noted that he continued to receive letters from residents who felt that Histon and Impington was a large enough centre to merit a plastics recycling bank. He acknowledged that the Council had only the twenty banks at present and did not wish to deprive another village of a bank, but requested that consideration be given to provision of a bank in Histon and Impington. The Chief Environmental Health Officer agreed to review additional bank provision against the budget for the next financial year.

Members remarked that problems with plastics banks arose when residents did not flatten plastic bottles before recycling them. Another bank had been located in such a manner that only one out of four accesses could be used. The Environmental Services Manager agreed to investigate collections at some problem spots. Members noted that the plastics recycling scheme was still in its infancy and that residents would benefit from additional notices at the recycling point reminding them to compress their plastics.

#### **5 (b) Household Bulky Items**

The Chief Environmental Health Officer explained that the recycling of computer items would fall under the forthcoming Waste Electronics and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) directive and would be the primary responsibility of producers. Members acknowledged the limited resale value of used computer items and the Environmental Services Manager agreed to search the County Council website for details of local charities which accepted computers.

#### **5 (c) Media and Wheeled Bins**

Councillor NJ Scarr noted that, despite predictions, wheeled bins had not been a major issue during the latest elections.

The Environmental Health Portfolio Holder, commenting on recent cases in the news and Cambridge City Council's consideration of a similar recycling and refuse collection scheme, emphasised the importance of promoting how successful the South Cambs scheme had proven to be, and to continue educating residents on ways to improve their recycling. He explained the need to encourage residents to take personal responsibility for the amount of waste they were generating, as a huge amount of taxpayer money was being spent in terms of officer time to assist and advise a small number of households who were reluctant to recycle.

#### **5 (d) Evaluation of Scheme**

The Chief Environmental Health Officer explained that an evaluation of the recycling and refuse collection scheme had been included in the Forward Plan for presentation to the Scrutiny and Overview in December 2004 or January 2005, and that data and statistics were already being collected. The evaluation had been delayed slightly to allow the new kitchen waste collection arrangements to begin. Bostock Marketing Group (BMG), the Council's consultants, were finalising telephone surveys and focus groups, the results of which were expected in November.

It was confirmed that the evaluation would be done in an objective a manner as possible: members of the public would be contacted by BMG, but not otherwise be able to volunteer to participate, as self-selecting participants would introduce an artificial bias. Comment forms received at the height of the introduction of the new scheme also would be reviewed during the evaluation to see if concerns raised had in fact come to pass. Members were encouraged to bring forward residents' comments and concerns to officers and the Environmental Health Portfolio Holder welcomed any suggestions for improvements to the existing scheme, copied to the Advisory Group Chairman.

#### **5 (e) Green Boxes and Bins Left on Verges**

It was confirmed that people waiting for boxes were informed of the reasons for the delay and the likely date of delivery.

Members reported that some bins were still being left on the verge or on the roadside and the General Works Manager agreed to follow this up with staff. The Chief Environmental Health Officer expressed sympathy for the crews, who were under pressure to get the rounds finished on a tight schedule, and complimented the work they had been doing.

#### **6. WASTE MANAGEMENT PROCUREMENT STRATEGY: FEASIBILITY STUDY (PHASE 1)**

Mr Giovanni, PFI/PPP manager for RSM Robson Rhodes, presented his company's feasibility study of the Waste Management Procurement Strategy, for which the Council had asked him

to review the opportunity for SCDC to “opt in” or “opt out” from the County Private Finance Initiative (PFI). He outlined the considerations and basis for the decision, noting significant risk issues which had not previously been highlighted, and weighed the political and economical issues for opting in or out of the PFI. RSM Robson Rhodes had concluded that the Council was better off “opting out” of the PFI contract and designing its own procurement strategy and assessing the viability of its environmental services.

Reasons for the recommendation from RSM Robson Rhodes included:

- Discrepancies within the original financial calculations made in the financial model to support the PFI outline business case (OBC).
- The OBC financial model assumptions regarding capital expenditure on wheeled bin / green box provision had been based on property growth only and did not make allowance for replacement of damaged / stolen containers;
- A high number of PFI projects were being submitted to DEFRA each year, with a low level of successful bids;
- Slowdown of the PFI market;
- This Council and the other local Waste Collection Authorities (WCA) could bear the technical, financial and political costs linked to construction of waste management facilities;
- The Opt out option provides a more acceptable management of risks than those associated within the PFI contract.
- SCDC would lose its recycling credits and could find itself paying for the inefficiency of partner authorities in terms of recycling and composting; and
- The annual financial difference to the Council between joining and not joining was equivalent to £317,000 at Net Present Values representing a 17% difference in costs

Members thanked Mr Giovanni for his presentation and explanation.

## **7. PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI) BID FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

The Chief Environmental Health Officer explained that other local Councils had conducted similar reviews of joining the County Private Finance Initiative (PFI): all but one had made a decision against joining, and that one authority was still undecided. The consequences in relation to the Outline Business Case (OBC), Statement of Understanding and wider partnership, of the Peterborough City Council decision were explained. It was clear not all the aims of the partnership would be realised solely through the PFI and that this Council was in a good position to make a decision.

Clarification was sought and given:

- The aims and objectives of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) would continue and only the fully integrated single PFI contract model would not be progressed: Cambridgeshire County Council would still have a viable PFI bid / contract but would have to resubmit its business case;
- There would not be an impact on the taxpayer as the Cambridgeshire County Council running alone could achieve its aims without the PFI credits;
- The PFI joint contract now appeared more expensive after discrepancies had been identified in the original PFI OBC financial model;
- The OBC financial model had not considered the cost of running all other Environmental services through the Council's own budgets in addition to the cost of the PFI;
- RSM Robson Rhodes had been asked to consider only opting in or opting out of the PFI, not whether changes to the JMWMS could improve the PFI approach;
- It was important to encourage other authorities whose recycling rates were not as high as South Cambridgeshire's, and also to keep raising the Council's own recycling rates

- as gate fees and landfill rates for waste disposal were going to increase;
- As most Waste Collection Authorities had already withdrawn from the PFI, the waste collection element would be removed from the OBC and final specification;
- It was important that the Council help influence the specification of the contract and the partnership agreement, as not participating could result in the County Council providing services and directing the District Council as to which services they would have to use;
- The Council would not likely incur greater costs by opting out of the PFI in fact the results of RSM Robson Rhodes report demonstrated the opposite;
- Plastics in the waste stream remained a big issue, but it was most important to keep educating residents about what could already be collected and encouraging the re-use of other items such as textiles, shoes and timber;
- The Statement of Understanding was not legally binding but would be included with the Invitation to Tender to confirm to contractors the involvement of the District Council. The Statement of Understanding was the first step towards a full partnering agreement, which would be legally binding, but which could not be signed until the PFI contract was signed;
- The Waste Management Best Value Review was considering the longer term service procurement options for SCDC outside of the PFI joint contract, i.e., phase two of the work with RSM Robson Rhodes.

In response to a question from Councillor Mrs GJ Smith, the Chief Environmental Health Officer explained that a Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF) was only one component of the PFI reference project, but was not dependent upon a successful PFI bid: the Council could develop its own procurement strategy for a MRF. The MRF would be a more robust system than the current green box scheme, but the County partnership would be looking at the need for, and the cost-benefit balance of, providing a MRF. The Chief Environmental Health Officer cautioned that the movement of costs and the benefits to be gained needed to be carefully assessed before a MRF was specifically requested within the PFI contract.

The Waste Management Advisory Group **RECOMMENDED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PORTFOLIO HOLDER AND TO CABINET** to:

- (a) confirm that the Council does not participate as a PFI partner in a joint procurement exercise with Cambridgeshire County Council and other Waste Collection Authorities to provide an integrated waste collection and disposal service under one contract;
- (b) authorise the signing of the Statement of Understanding (as amended to reflect the decision of Peterborough City Council) by the Environmental Health Portfolio Holder; and
- (c) agree in principle only to the Partnering Agreement option and to authorise the Environmental Health Portfolio Holder and the Chief Environmental Health Officer to continue to work with the County Council and other Partners in negotiating appropriate Heads of Terms.

Members asked that the broken door in the corridor be repaired.

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**The Meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.**

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**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
ENVIRONMENT AND  
TRANSPORT AREA JOINT  
COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 27th September 2004  
2.30 p.m.**

**Council Chamber  
South Cambridgeshire Hall,  
Cambourne Business Park  
CAMBOURNE**



**South Cambridgeshire  
District Council**

**DECISION SUMMARY**

**ACTION BY**

**1. MINUTES – (a) 28TH JUNE 2004 & (b) 10TH SEPTEMBER 2004**

**Michelle  
Rowe  
(01223)  
717293  
michelle.rowe  
@cambridges  
hire.gov.uk**

Agreed:

- to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 28th June and 10th September 2004 subject to the following amendments to the minutes of the 28th June:

Minute No. 142, Page 4 – Elsworth, last sentence, first paragraph

Delete “District Members” and add “the former District Councillor for Elsworth Buntly Waters”.

Minute No. 143, Page 6, first paragraph, penultimate sentence

Add “church” between “iron crossroads”.

Minute No. 145. Page 8, first paragraph, third sentence

Delete “there was little public support to reduce the dual carriageway to a single lane from the start of the dual carriageway to the Dale Head Foods factory entrance”

and replace with “People were against the reduction of the dual carriageway at Dalehead Foods if this measure was proposed without consideration of the effect on other parts of the A1307”.

**2. PETITIONS**

**Michelle  
Rowe  
(01223)  
717293  
michelle.rowe  
@cambridges  
hire.gov.uk**

- (a) Improvements in Road Safety in Landbeach & Waterbeach
  - received a 846-signature petition requesting improvements in road safety in Waterbeach and Landbeach.
- (b) Extension of Speed Limit to cover Wimpole Road, Barton
  - received a 65-signature petition requesting an extension of the village speed limit to cover Wimpole Road, Barton.



**3. PETITIONS UPDATE - LANDBEACH AND WATERBEACH; NORTH END, BASSINGBOURN; AND WIMPOLE ROAD, BARTON**

**David Lines  
01223  
833717**

Agreed to:

david.lines@c  
ambridgeshire  
.gov.uk

- i) note the concerns of petitioners regarding Landbeach and Waterbeach, North End, Bassingbourn, and Wimpole Road, Barton;
- ii) note the works already undertaken in Landbeach and Waterbeach, the possible scheme at Denny End, the planned works in Landbeach, the potential Jointly Funded Minor Highway Improvement bids and the maintenance scoring process and priorities;
- iii) extend the 30 mph speed limit on North End, Bassingbourn;
- iv) support the extension of the speed limits on Wimpole Road, Barton; and
- v) inform the petitioners accordingly.

(Recommendations iii) and iv) will be referred for determination to Cambridgeshire County Council's Cabinet as they conflict with the agreed policy of the County Council)

**4. A14 VILLAGE TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECT – PROGRESS REPORT**

**David Brace  
(01480)  
375663  
david.brace@  
cambridgeshir  
e.gov.uk**

Agreed:

- i) to note the progress made;
- ii) to determine the objections to the proposed raised areas in Histon and Impington without holding a public inquiry;
- iii) to approve the construction of the raised areas in Phase 1 of the traffic calming scheme in Histon and Impington;
- iv) to inform the objectors accordingly, and
- v) to approve the construction of all of the Phase 1 traffic calming measures in Histon and Impington identified in Table A to this report.

**5. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY SCHEMES PROGRAMME 2005/2006**

**Russell de  
Ville  
(01223)  
717749  
russell.deville  
@cambridges  
hire.gov.uk**

Agreed:

- i) to note the programme of minor road safety schemes;
- ii) to note the programme of major safety schemes; and
- iii) to support the schemes listed in Appendix C as bids for funding from the 2005/2006 countywide programme of Traffic Management and Safety Schemes.

6. AREA JOINT COMMITTEE – AGENDA PLAN

Michelle  
Rowe  
(01223)  
717293

Agreed:

- to note the Agenda Plan for the South Cambridgeshire Environment and Transport Area Joint Committee.

michelle.rowe  
@cambridges  
hire.gov.uk

***Members of the Committee:***

County Councillors:

J E Coston, S F Johnstone, A Milton (substituting for T J Bear) and J Reynolds

District Councillors:

Dr D Bard, J D Batchelor, S G M Kindersley, D S K Spink and R Summerfield

CALC Councillors:

G Everson and M Williamson