

# EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

## West Area Neighbourhood Panel

Coveney • Downham villages • Haddenham • Little Thetford • Mepal  
Stretham • Sutton • Wentworth • Wilburton • Witcham and Witchford



**W**elcome to your Neighbourhood Panel Newsletter for the **West Area**. This Newsletter, produced by the East Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership, is about what partner agencies are doing to make your locality a better place to live in. Please remember, without **your** involvement we cannot start to make the improvements you need.

[Background about Neighbourhood Panels, Update on actions, Neighbourhood Profile and all other related documents can be accessed from [www.eastcambs.gov.uk/html/compages.asp?servid=53&title=Neighbourhood+Panels&hier=Community](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/html/compages.asp?servid=53&title=Neighbourhood+Panels&hier=Community) or from Alan Williams (please see details at the end of this Newsletter)

### At the meeting...

The latest West area Neighbourhood Panel meeting took place at The Glebe in Sutton on Monday, 26th October. Ste Thornley, Head of Policy and Performance at the District Council, indicated that **action had been taken to address ALL the (non-police) issues of concern** (raised at the previous meeting in July). Ste also made participants aware of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) raised at Panel meetings and drew people's attention to the information available from the FAQs page on the Neighbourhood Panel webpage (accessible via the A-Z section of the District Council's website [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk))

In particular, an Action Plan to address the Panel area's prioritised issue with **fly-tipping** had been drawn up by Dave White. Dave identified 5 strands of activity within this plan

**- Education, Promotion, Enforcement, Partnership working and improving removal arrangements.**

Full details of the Action Plan are available

from the Neighbourhood Panel webpage (please see above)

If you witness or know about a fly-tipping incident, please provide information by phone 01353 – 665555 or by e-mail to [Mark.Mehaffey@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Mehaffey@eastcambs.gov.uk)

Giles Hughes, Head of Planning and Sustainable Development Services, provided an overview presentation of the **draft Ely Masterplan** (the framework for the future development of Ely, both short/medium term, and to 2031 and beyond) and made participants aware of the exhibition and displays, which are part of the consultation that ran until 16th November.

Participants received a handout of the presentation and were able to pick up Ely Masterplan consultation documents at the meeting.

Giles' presentation is available from the **Neighbourhood Panel webpage** (accessible from the A-Z section of ECDC's website [www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk))



In the presentation, Giles Hughes emphasised the importance of the need to plan for the longer-term in a coherent way in order to identify the infrastructure needed to support further growth of the City.

The District Council is working with local communities to outline the scope to improve

**October 2009  
- January 2010**

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**Priorities  
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- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Stretham**
- **ASB in Wilburton**
- **Establish Speedwatch in the Panel area**

Please come to your next Neighbourhood Panel meeting on **25th January** to have your say and to help agree local priorities.

infrastructure and services, including more (and a wider range of) shops and boosting local employment.

The challenge in the developments is to retain the essential character of the City and surrounding area. The **10 Development Principles** will serve to guide the work in a phased way.

The first phase (2010 -2020) would include the building of 500 additional houses in North Ely and a focus on addressing current 'infrastructure deficits'.

Giles highlighted the importance of the **development of a Southern Link Road** and the **proposed improved Arts, Sport and Leisure facilities** (scheduled to replace the Paradise Centre), both of which had relevance to West Panel area residents, as well as the need to conserve and protect the natural environment surrounding the City.

In discussion the following issues were raised:

- Growth of the City (particularly by 2020) depends on the Southern Link Road;
- The Ely Masterplan links with the Local Development Framework (LDF) and is aligned to the 'core strategy', with the Masterplan being longer-term than the LDF;
- The Ely Masterplan is relevant to the (West Panel area) villages, particularly since the Infrastructure Development Plan will be linked to Masterplan, leading to improvements to access from villages and the area in general;
- Further work will be undertaken to explore a range of options for the routing of the A142 around Ely, however it is believed that the most appropriate option is the construction of a Southern Link Road (with partnership working with the County Council, Network Rail and other agencies, not least in the provision of funding)

## Neighbourhood Updates

Chief Inspector Alan Savill introduced the members of the local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) who were present, before reviewing the actions taken by the NPT to address the policing priorities for the previous 3 months (to October)

- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Stretham**
- **ASB in Haddenham**

Chief Inspector Savill referred to pp. 14/15 of the current **Neighbourhood Profile** (October 2009) document and highlighted enforcement actions and work to engage with young people, including some home visits.

Alan Savill indicated that progress is being made in combating ASB in **Stretham**, with positive working relationships being established and reported incidents reduced from 57 in the same period in 2008 (and 50 in the previous quarter) to 34 between July and October 2009.

In order to make further progress **an evening public meeting has been organised for Wednesday, 25th November 7.00 - 9.00pm in the Stretham Parish Hall** – local residents will be invited to attend.

Chief Inspector Savill gave specific details of the bag snatch/assault that had taken place in Stretham – the incident is being dealt with by members of the Serious Crime Team based at Parkside Police Station in Cambridge.

Referring to the perceived problem of ASB in **Haddenham**, Chief Inspector Savill indicated that local businesses and residents had not perceived there to be a significant problem (with the figures bearing this out 49 reported incidents in the same period in 2008, and, further to some enforcement and engagement work by the NPT, 22 incidents between July and October, 2009).

There was still an issue of inconsiderate riding of motorcycles to be dealt with in Haddenham.

**Total crime in the Panel area is down** compared to the same 3-month period in 2008 (from 194 to 150), and is now below 2007/8 levels.

Similarly, reported **ASB incidents have also shown a decrease** (from 167 in 2008 to 116 between July and October, 2009)

Alan Savill then outlined emerging crime and ASB **trends** in the 4 wards in the Panel area –full detail can be seen on pp.16/17 of the current Neighbourhood Profile document (accessible from the Neighbourhood Panel webpage).



In discussion the following issues were raised:

- There had been limited **Speedwatch** activity in the Panel area –need to establish [and use **more volunteers** (from Wilburton and Mepal)] To find out more and volunteer your help please contact **Brian.tully@cambs.pnn.police.uk**.
- The **Policing Plan** (to 2012) is available via the Constabulary's website [www.cambs-police.org.uk](http://www.cambs-police.org.uk) –feedback is required from local residents, including the identification of a '**people's priority**';
- The perception of ASB needs to be publicised.

## Neighbourhood Issues

John Fuller, the Constabulary's Neighbourhood Engagement Officer, asked members of the audience, in the first instance, and Panel members by parish to identify issues of concern in their locality:

- Coveney –** Speeding in Main Street (30 mph limit);  
**Haddenham –** Inconsiderate parking on pavements in Station Road and Hop Row;  
Concern that A1123 had been identified as an 'advisory route' for HCVs;  
Motorcycles being ridden in an inconsiderate way;
- Little Downham –** Dangerous parking in Main Street in evenings;  
Environment Agency flood protection standards are being proposed for change (several villages in the Panel area could be affected)
- Little Thetford –** Need to know local PCSO (after several changes during the past year) and 'surgeries' need to be at varied times (inc. evening) rather than just around 3pm; off-road motorcycling causing disturbance behind Palisade Court;
- Mepal –** no issues identified  
**Pymoor –** telegraph poles too close to the road ? (some have been hit and are dangerous); lack of maintenance of and damage to the droves, some clarification of ownership also needed; gating problem on the droves, and signage issue (to be re-visited ?)
- Stretham –** combating ASB a priority; 'atmosphere' unpleasant – improved recently ?  
**Sutton -** Inconsiderate parking in Windmill Walk (inc photographs);  
Clarification of permissible areas for children to cycle (in village and by The Brook);  
Inconsiderate (and inadequate) parking by the garage by The Brook (difficult for pushchairs and wheelchair users);
- Wardy Hill -** Inappropriate signage by gates to droves  
**Wentworth -** Increase in thefts (perception of police response being slow);  
Security light shot at (danger to owners and neighbours);  
Youth 'deprivation area' – play area/park opened in week of 19th October , will require monitoring;
- Wilburton -** illegal parties on playing field (broken glass, toilets smashed, metal gates erected, fence round skate/BMX park being taken down); HCVs speeding;  
Twenty Pence Road breaking up on both tracks;  
Hereward asked to report re. ditch on Broadway.
- Witcham -** 'set aside' land now closed (loss of amenity for dog walkers)  
– any alternative venue ?
- Witchford -** proposed concrete crusher, with likely noise and dust pollution

## Dates for your diary.....

Next Panel meeting is on Monday, 25th January 2010 at Little Thetford Village Hall at 7pm

The following one is on Monday, 19th April at Witcham Village Hall at 7pm

## Useful contacts East Cambs Strategic Partnership

Julie Cornwell  
01353 616352  
lsp2@eastcambs.gov.uk

Alan Williams  
01353 616349  
alan.williams  
@eastcambs.gov.uk

## Priorities for Action

It was agreed by the Panel that the following should be the priority for policing :

- Anti-Social Behaviour(ASB) in Stretham
- ASB around the playing field in Wilburton

Non-police priorities (for the next 3 months) will be

- Effective establishment of the Panel area Speedwatch team
- Progressing the provision of a footpath/cycle way alongside the A142

## 'Background' about the Neighbourhood Panel

The West area Neighbourhood Panel, one of 5 Panels in East Cambridgeshire, has established a professional and action-focused approach to issues of concern raised by local residents.

The Panel comprises Parish, District and County Councillors along with community representatives, working (increasingly well !) together with local people.

We hope that you will be able to come to the meeting on **25th January**.

**If you are unable to attend**, but would like to raise an issue of concern, please contact your local Panel representative or contact Alan Williams, Neighbourhood Panel Coordinator, on 01353 – 616349.

For information on the East Cambs Strategic Partnership, Neighbourhood Panels and the current Northern area Neighbourhood Profile use the A-Z section of the East Cambridgeshire District Council website:  
[www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)

