

**Minutes of C&E 2 Neighbourhood Council Meeting
3 November 2009**

Councillors Present: Councillor Lowndes (Chair), Councillor Kreling, Councillor Miners, Councillor Saltmarsh.

Officers Present: Cate Harding (Neighbourhood Manager), Richard Kay (Strategic Planning Manager, Amy Brown (Legal Advisor), Carol Tilley (Corporate Governance Manager).

1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ash, Collins, Goldspink, Peach and Todd.</p>
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
3.	<p>Overview of the Neighbourhood Council Model</p> <p><u>Role of the Neighbourhood Council, including Terms of Reference:</u></p> <p>The Chair referred to background information about Neighbourhood Councils that had been circulated at the start of the meeting and an overview of the role and responsibilities of Neighbourhood Councils was presented. It was noted that Neighbourhood Councils had been established to promote public involvement and that each of the seven Neighbourhood Councils would work closely with other public, private and voluntary agencies within their specific areas in order to meet the needs of their communities.</p> <p><u>Naming of the Neighbourhood Council:</u></p> <p>The Chair invited those present to submit their suggestions for the name of the Neighbourhood Council via the comment form which had been provided.</p> <p><u>Consideration of local groups to have a standing invitation:</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to local groups within the C&E 2 area that should be given a standing invitation to attend meetings.</p> <p>It was AGREED that the core group would consist of representatives of Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Police, Cross Keys Homes, PCC Children's Services, Neighbourhood Panels, PCC Neighbourhood Management team, NHS Peterborough, Church representatives and Community Safety Officers from PCC and the Police.</p>

4.	<p>Community Action Planning and Baseline Information for Park, Dogsthorpe and East</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Manager presented an overview of the community planning process and the C&E2 area which included baseline statistics in respect of population, education, health and social care and crime. She emphasised that Neighbourhood Councils provided an opportunity for members of the community to make their views known and help shape Community Actions Plans, which would in turn influence decisions in relation to each area. Ward Councillors would take views forward in order to ensure that future decisions reflected the needs and aspirations of each community. Members of the public were then invited to comment and ask questions. (Appendix A refers).</p>
5.	<p>Core Strategy</p> <p>The Council's Strategic Planning Manager presented details of the Core Strategy. He outlined proposals showing how Peterborough would grow during the next 20 years and how issues such as housing, the local economy and the environment would be affected. It was noted that the main areas for growth were Great Haddon, the City Centre, Norwood/Paston Reserve and Stanground and that more rural settlements would see limited growth.</p> <p>Members of the public were advised that the views of all Neighbourhood Councils were sought, prior to the presentation of the Core Strategy to the meeting of full Council on 2 December. The Chair then invited queries or comments on the proposals. (Appendix B refers).</p> <p>In concluding the discussion, the Chair thanked everyone for their comments. It was noted that elected Members would be made aware of the views expressed at the Neighbourhood Council meeting when the Core Strategy was considered at full Council on 2 December 2009.</p>
6.	<p>Open Session</p> <p>The Chair invited members of the public to raise any questions or comments affecting the C&E2 area and to suggest items for future meetings. (Appendix C refers).</p>
7.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>After thanking those present for attending the meeting, the Chair confirmed that meetings would be held four times per year. The next meeting would be held on Thursday 17 December at 7.00 p.m. at Christ the Carpenter Church, Dogsthorpe.</p>

Meeting closed at 8.52 p.m.

**Questions and Responses (Agenda item 4) -
Community Action Planning and Baseline Information**

1. 'Some of the statistics quoted appear to be misleading and outdated. Where were these taken from'?

In response the Neighbourhood Manager advised that the statistics in respect of population figures had been taken from the 2001 Census and accepted that they were therefore out of date. She advised that gathering more meaningful data across a range of issues was a priority and that undertaking consultation with communities would assist in obtaining this.

2. 'Crime statistics do not reflect actual levels because many crimes go unreported'.

In acknowledging this comment, the Neighbourhood Manager emphasised that the Greater Dogsthorpe Partnership had worked hard to engage with the local community and other agencies in order to develop trust and confidence and positive changes had been noted.

3. 'There is no community centre in Park Ward. Why can a place not be identified so that residents in this particular area can meet'?

The Community Action Plan will be based on input from local communities. It will evidence consultation on a variety of issues, and influence regeneration projects and growth opportunities, ensuring a meaningful plan is created for communities within each area.

4. 'There are some street lights in the Parnwell area that haven't been in working order for years. Also, roundabouts in the area are in a poor state compared with those in the city centre. What can be done?'

The Neighbourhood Manager undertook to investigate the matter concerning street lighting with the relevant department. With regard to the condition of roundabouts, she advised that the Community Action Plan would include a number of categories and issues such as this may be included at the relevant time if considered appropriate. In the meantime, such concerns should be raised through the Neighbourhood Panel meetings.

5. 'The Millfield area should not be overlooked when it comes to spending money in the ' area - it has lost out in the past when monies were spent on Dogsthorpe'.

The Neighbourhood Manager advised that Dogsthorpe had benefited from specific funding, but this had been received from central Government and not PCC.

6. 'In light of the response to the previous question, does this mean that funding is a postcode lottery'?

In response, the Neighbourhood Manager emphasised that it would be important to evidence need and draw on as much information as possible in order to put forward a case for each area as appropriate.

APPENDIX B

Questions and Responses – (Agenda item 5 - Core Strategy)

1. 'Will more facilities be provided in this area and will central government help with provision for the additional people'?

The Strategic Planning Manager advised that developers would be expected to make a contribution to any new facilities and that central Government would also contribute.

2. 'With the city's Environment Capital aspirations in mind, what efforts will be made to improve shops and supermarkets in the area and return vacant shops to use'?

The Strategic Planning Manager responded by stating that the focus in respect of retail would be in the city centre.

3. 'What plans will be made for the increase in numbers of people of retirement age'?

The Strategic Planning Manager explained that provision of adaptable 'lifetime homes' was a nationwide issue and one which was currently on the national agenda. Developers were also required to include 30% affordable homes within new developments, which the Council considered a viable target.

4. 'Will the road infrastructure be improved to avoid adding to traffic congestion'?

The Strategic Planning Manager advised that if this matter comes through in the individual Neighbourhood Plan, evidence will be gathered with a view to seeking improvements.

5. 'There is an Ikea distribution centre in the city but no retail outlet. Why can the Council not stipulate that distribution centres such as this are also accompanied by a retail outlet'?

The Strategic Planning Manager emphasised that Neighbourhood Councils had been established to engage with local communities and address exactly such issues.

- 6) Councillor Miners requested that full consideration be given to ensuring that the Bluebell allotment site, which was currently earmarked for disposal, was retained as allotment land and not sold as planned.

The Strategic Planning Manager confirmed that this matter would be considered at a future meeting (possibly March 2010) when site specific documents were available.

7. 'What plans will be made to cater for young people and to deal with incidents of anti-social behaviour'?

It was explained that these matters would be considered as part of the whole Strategy and input from other agencies and services would be sought.

Residents were reminded that they were able to make their views known on plans for new development via the planning application process.

8. 'How will rural areas be affected by the Strategy and why does it not include plans to develop the Castor area which already has an appropriate road infrastructure in place? Also, as people often live close to their place of work, will there be enough jobs for people moving to the area'?

The Strategic Planning Manager stated that developers were required to provide basic facilities and amenities when developing in rural areas. With regard to Castor, it was felt that Great Haddon was a more appropriate area to focus upon at present. With regard to jobs, as a rule officers work on the basis that for every one house created one job will be needed and it is hoped that the majority of people moving into the area will also work locally.

9. 'What assurances can be given that future developments will be planned to 'design out' crime and vandalism'?

The Strategic Planning Manager advised that there were a number of ways of addressing such concerns, including planting, avoiding the creation of 'blind alleys, etc.

**Questions and Responses (Agenda item 6) –
Open Session**

1. 'Will we be told when decisions are made and the reasons behind them, especially as there seem to be conflicting demands from the differing areas within C&E2?

The Chairman advised that if a request is made that the Council is unable to fulfil, it will explain why.

2. 'There is a car park in Millfield that used to be for public use but this has now been designated for use by the doctor's surgery. This was a popular facility and now it does not seem well used. Why were residents not consulted on the changes'?

The Chairman explained that ward Councillors were not consulted on this matter but that she hoped that the Neighbourhood Council would, in future, be able to make a difference in respect of issues such as this.

3. 'Are there going to be any improvements in transport systems'?

The Strategic Planning Manager emphasised that things have improved in terms of moving towards more sustainable means of transport. A long term Transport Plan was being prepared alongside the Core Strategy and these issues will be taken into account.

4. 'Can the Neighbourhood Council use its influence to address contradictions between growth aspirations and the City's environmental capital aspirations'?

In response, the Strategic Planning Manager advised that the Council would need to set out clearly what it is seeking to achieve and what is needed.

5. 'Graffiti is a problem, particularly on private houses and is very difficult to get removed. What powers had the Council got to force owners to remove graffiti from their buildings'?

The Council's Legal Advisor agreed to investigate and provide information to the Chair relating to the Council's powers in respect of private property.