

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

CANTERBURY AREA MEMBER PANEL

**Minutes of a meeting held on Monday, 8th March, 2010
at 7.00 pm at The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury**

Present: Councillor Flanagan (Chairman)

*Councillor Berridge
Councillor Calvert-Mindell
Councillor Dye
Councillor Eden-Green
Councillor Linfield
Councillor MacCaul
Councillor Parsons
Councillor A Perkins
Councillor Steed
Councillor Vickers

County Councillors
Mr Gibbens
**Mr Northey
Mr Vye

In attendance -

Officers: Colin Carmichael - Chief Executive
**Phillippe Esclasse - City Centre Manager
**Janice McGuinness - Head of Culture and Communications
Graham Finch - Senior Democratic Services Officer
(Executive & Council)
**David Ford - Assistant Head of Service (Cultural
Development)
**Janet Davies - Corporate Project Manager
**Charlotte Hammersley - Senior Scrutiny and Improvement Officer
Anne Charman - Community Liaison Manager (KCC)
**Christy Holden - PFI Contracts Manager (KCC)

*present for most of the meeting

**present for part of the meeting

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ellis and Pickersgill.

2 **ATTENDANCES**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Anne Charman, the County Council's Community Liaison Manager for the Panel.

3 **DECLARATION OF ANY INTERESTS**

Councillor Berridge declared a prejudicial interest in the item regarding the update on the Wincheap A2 Slip Roads and indicated that he would leave the meeting during the consideration of that item.

Councillor A Perkins declared a personal interest in the item regarding the Canterbury Community Football Hub because his son played for one of the Club's junior teams.

These declarations are recorded in the relevant Minute below.

4 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman reported that there were several public speakers for various items on the agenda for the meeting and that they would be heard immediately before the consideration of the relevant item.

5 **HENRY COURT DEVELOPMENT AT BRYMORE ROAD, CANTERBURY**

The Panel received a presentation by Christy Holden, the County Council's PFI Contract Manager, about the above development, located adjacent to the Northgate Community Centre, which formed part of a wider PFI scheme by the County Council and was managed by Housing 21.

The development comprised 7 1-bed self contained units, for people with learning difficulties together with an adjoining flat for staff. The scheme provided 24-hour support services and a sleep in service was provided by Social Services. The site included a shared and secure landscaped area.

The City Council had been involved with the development of the project and it had provided the land for the development.

Christy Holden explained how the scheme had benefited some of the tenants.

Members took the opportunity to ask Christy Holden questions about various aspects of the development and she provided further clarification on the points involved.

A Member requested information about the number of individuals with learning difficulties and Christy Holden undertook to reply to the Member.

The Chairman thanked Christy Holden for her presentation and she then left the meeting.

6 **ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PUBLIC AND ORGANISATIONS IN THE PANEL'S AREA**

The Panel received a presentation by Mr T Shaw and Mr H Pearce about the work of the City Church, which formed part of a family of churches called Newfrontiers with over 700 churches in over 60 different nations all over the world.

The presentation outlined the work of the Church with students and the community and its hopes for the future. The Church placed a strong emphasis on nurturing young people and in caring for vulnerable and older members of the community.

Members took the opportunity to ask questions about various aspects of the Church's work and the representatives provided further clarification on the points involved.

The Panel requested information about the contact details for the Church. The representatives explained that the members of the Church worshipped at Canterbury High School and its office was at 44 St Peter's Street, Canterbury. Its website is www.citychurch.org.co.uk

A Panel Member asked whether the Church is seeking a permanent base?

The representatives explained that the Church was seeking flexible space for use by a variety of different groups and to accommodate up to approximately 500 people. An area of approximately 10,000 sq ft would be suitable.

The Panel Members were pleased to learn about the variety of work undertaken by the Church for the community and the Chairman thanked the representatives for their presentation to the meeting.

7 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 11 January 2010 were agreed as a true record.

8 MATTERS ARISING

Graffiti at St George's Subway

The Panel was advised that the Street Scene Division was still waiting for authorisation from the County Council for the expenditure on the cleaning works

Serco were in the process of organising a site meeting with the chemical supplier to discuss the ideal approach to ensure the best results.

A county councillor indicated that the scheme had been approved by the authority, but there had been a slight delay to the work due to the volume of highway work outstanding. He indicated that he would make further enquiries to see how soon the work would be undertaken.

A Member reported that he had attended a meeting today with the Street Scene Manager and others and reported on the issues arising. He expressed concern that no official order had yet been issued for the works and, if the money was not spent this financial year, he hoped that if necessary the money would be carried forward to the year 2010/11. He also mentioned that there had been further damage to the murals partly due to the use of incorrect cleaning material. He explained that the manufacturer of the cleaning material had suggested a different and more up-to-date formula and periodic maintenance before anti-graffiti paint was applied.

A Panel Member drew attention to the report to the meeting about the City Life – Balancing the Needs of the Local Community Scrutiny Review, which had expressed concern about graffiti in Canterbury.

Minute No. 18 - Provision of a bus service for the residential developments at former Telephone House and at the Tannery, Canterbury

A Panel Member reported that he had received a report by the Senior Transport Planner about this matter. He indicated that he understood that a bus stop could not be provided along the route of Rheims Way, but asked whether the local bus service, which served Canterbury Cemetery and the city centre, could go into the above residential developments. This matter would be passed on the Senior Transport Planner for consideration.

9 NEW MARLOWE DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE

The Head of Culture and Communications reported that it was hoped that the steel framework for the development would be completed this month. A Member site visit would take place on 25 March.

There had been minor delays to the build programme due to the recent heavy rainfall, but it was hoped that this would be recovered in the later stages of the development.

The development would be made water tight in the next few weeks. Roofing works would commence in May.

Detailed work was being progressed with the contractor and designer.

There would be a special Press event at the end of March to mark the first anniversary of the closure of the Marlowe Theatre.

10 BEANEY DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE

The Head of Culture and Communications reported that the contractor for the enabling works had now moved off the site. The main contractor, Waites, work start work on site in April.

Kingsbridge Villas were expected to be demolished in April or May, subject to surveys and the completion of the archaeological excavations.

The Head of Culture and Communications updated the Panel on the archaeological excavations and findings. She also mentioned that permanent hoardings would be erected when the main contractor started work on site.

The neighbours had been kept informed of the progress and there had been no complaints from them.

11 CONSULTATION OF MUSEUM PROPOSALS

Prior to the consideration of this item, Mr D Eburne spoke to the item.

The Head of Culture and Communications reported that meetings would be held with stakeholders and the Canterbury Archaeological Trust to discuss the proposals. She also mentioned that a light touch Peer Review would be undertaken by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council that would look at various aspects of the Museums Service.

A Panel Member asked how the museums would be kept open? The Chief Executive explained the position regarding the funding for the museums service for the year 2010/11.

A Panel Member requested that an update be provided with the Agenda for each Panel meeting.

12 **CANTERBURY COMMUNITY FOOTBALL HUB**

At the commencement of the meeting Councillor A Perkins had declared a personal interest in this item because his son played for one of the Club's junior teams.

Prior to the consideration of this item, the following persons spoke to the item

1. Mr P Knight (Chairman of Canterbury Football Club)
2. Mr D Vane-Wright
3. Mr P Buckingham on behalf of Mr P Taylor-Gooby
4. Mr D Evans
5. Mr P Perkins
6. Mr G McNally (on behalf of South Canterbury Residents' Association)

The Panel considered the report of the Head of Culture and Communications, which presented the main findings from the consultant's report into the development of a Community Football Hub for Canterbury. The consultant had assessed potential sites, schedules of facilities and capital and operational costs. In addition to the findings from the consultant's study, the report also considered the planning implications on the options presented.

The Executive would be asked to consider these planning implications when considering the next steps. It was also proposed that public and other stakeholder consultation would then take place on the consultant's report.

The Assistant Head of Service (Cultural Development) explained the approach to the evaluation of the sites in question and he took the Panel through the report and issues arising. He also responded to the questions by some Members about the issues raised in the report.

Having considered the report, the Panel recommended to the **Executive**

- (a) that more work be undertaken regarding the assessment of the site at the Sturry Road Community Park;
- (b) that the Officers establish the facilities that could be provided in the development of a Community Football Hub at Ridlands Farm, Canterbury;
- (c) that the option of progressing the development through the Local Development Framework be rejected.

(During the consideration of this item –

Councillor Linfield declared a personal interest because of her membership of the Open Space Society.

Mr Gibbens declared a personal interest as a member of the County Council's Executive because the County Council had provided funding towards the Sturry Road Community Park. He abstained from voting on the above recommendations).

13 **CITY LIFE - BALANCING THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY SCRUTINY REVIEW**

Prior to the consideration of this item, Mr D Eburne spoke to the item.

Councillor A Perkins, as Chairman of the Scrutiny Review Panel, presented the report of the Head of Policy and Improvement regarding the final report of City Life - Balancing the Needs of the Local Community Scrutiny Review Panel.

The Panel had examined how the council and its partners currently operated in the city centre and gave guidance and made recommendations on the strategic approach for the future management and development of the city centre.

Members of the Area Member Panel commented on some of the issues involved. The main points related to the following

- The Panel Members agreed with the concerns of the Scrutiny Review Panel regarding the appearance and condition of the land adjoining the Odeon Cinema, south of St George's Place, Canterbury, which it was pointed out is used as a toilet.
- The Panel had concerns about the accuracy of some of the details in the report. For example, there was concern about the omission in the map in Section 10 (Safer City) of other main pedestrian routes, including those from south Canterbury and the pedestrian routes to Christ Church University via Love Lane, Monastery Street and Havelock Street
- The pedestrian route shown along St Margaret's Street did not connect with the High Street.
- Ideally the location of a 24-hour toilet facility should be at the Bus Station.
- There is no reference in the report to the need to provide benches along the whole of length of the pedestrianised area in the city centre for use by the elderly and people with disabilities.
- A commitment was needed from the Police at a senior level. The Chairman of the Review Panel pointed out that the report included a reference to the Night Time Economy Group, which had been established to improve the co-ordination of community safety issues. Key partners represented on the group included the Police.

Conclusion and recommendation of the Area Member Panel

Subject to the report of the Scrutiny Review Panel being amended to address the concerns on the above issues, the Area Member Panel supported the report.

14 **PROGRESS REPORT BY THE CITY CENTRE MANAGER**

The Panel noted the report of the City Centre Manager, which provided an update on the following issues -

Bohemia

It had not been possible to achieve the effective operational management of the event in its original form and location. As a result, the decision was taken to stop Bohemia on the King's Mile. This decision was discussed at a meeting with the King's Mile Traders Association, which had understood and accepted the reasons behind the termination of the event.

Bohemia, as a concept would remain and it was being adopted by the Cultural and Communication services with a project led by the Arts Development Officer. Bohemia would be reshaped into a regular Arts and Crafts market to be located in St George's Street in Canterbury, but would also tour the District and would be offered to both Herne Bay and Whitstable.

The CCP would be working with the King's Mile Traders Association in order to devise a new strategy to maintain their district on the City map as one of the key local independent specialist retail areas.

Canterbury College/CCP Employment Scheme

Over the last six months this unique and close co-operation between the retail and hospitality job brokerage service at the College and the CCP had produced good visible results. Over fifty students had now found full or part-time jobs within the city, some of them with excellent career prospects. The CCP had undertaken a facilitating role and the initiative had been well received.

Traffic management issues (morning deliveries in the High Street)

For the last few years, the CCP were concerned that the lack of traffic regulation and on the ground management between the early hours of the morning until 10.30am had generated an unacceptable level of disruption to life in the city and often created a potentially dangerous environment for city users.

KCC Highways had advised that no complaints had been received and no serious accidents had been recorded since the pedestrianisation of the High Street and, therefore, in their view, there was no cause for concern. The CCP had, however, decided to investigate further the matter and, to that effect, were commissioning two independent surveys:

The results of these two surveys would be presented and discussed with KCC Highways as part of the Canterbury City Centre Action Group.

Alleyway off St Margaret's Street / Slatters site

There were concerns about illegal and anti-social activities in this alleyway Previous attempts to clean up the area had also failed. However, the CCP was progressing in bringing all users together in an attempt to find a solution to the problem. A recent site meeting with interested parties had generated some positive goodwill among traders and the City Centre Manager hoped that we could move forward to try and resolve the problems identified.

The report also drew attention to the concerns about the appearance of Slatters Hotel and its impact on the surrounding area in St Margaret's Street.

The CCP wished to look into ways of creating a more attractive fascia for the site.

The Panel recommended to the **Executive** that the council serve a Notice under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 seeking an improvement in the appearance of Slatters Hotel and the adjoining Ha Ha Bar premises.

CCP Surveys

The database had been updated for all the local store and restaurant managers and, when applicable, their area managers. CCP would utilise this 'refreshed' data as part of its strategy to increase membership for the Partnership. The strategy itself was being prepared and details would be presented in the near future.

The survey of empty commercial premises in the city centre had been completed and the findings were being analysed.

Shopping map and Canterbury eating out guide

A shopping map was being finalised and this should be published very shortly. It would show a fresh and innovative approach to present the commercial offer within the city centre.

The update and reprint of the very successful eating out guide was being discussed and it should be ready in time for the summer.

Hotelier Association

The City Centre Partnership had been instrumental in encouraging the creation of a Hotelier Association in the City, chaired by David Otteson, Manager of the Chaucer Hotel.

This new Association would be an integral part of the ongoing destination marketing and development activity of the CCC tourism department.

Other issues arising from the report

A Panel Member reported that the Wincheap PACT had not operated for a year and without this PACT there was no longer a link to the Police.

The Member also expressed concern about the lack of a link between the City Centre Partnership and residents of the city.

15 ANNUAL PARKING REGULATION REVIEW

The report of the Head of Transportation and Engineering advised that there would be public consultation on proposed changes to the Traffic Regulation Orders. Any objections would be considered by the Joint Transportation Board in due course. Where no objections are received the proposals would be implemented without a further report to the Board.

This was noted by the Panel.

16 **WINCHEAP A2 SLIPS - UPDATE**

Councillor Berridge had declared a prejudicial interest in this item at the commencement of the meeting and he left the meeting for the consideration of this item and also the remaining business for the meeting.

The Head of Transportation and Engineering reported on the current position regarding this scheme.

The report drew attention to the concern regarding the provision of a parking facility for some residents at Thanington Road. A number of options had been explored and additional measures had been included in the project.

The construction works for the project were programmed to commence in July with a 6-month completion period.

17 **GRAFFITI / SUBWAYS**

This issue had been dealt with earlier in the meeting under the item regarding matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

18 **FORTHCOMING DECISION LIST (CCC)**

A Panel Member referred to the item regarding the Canterbury Community Football Hub which indicated that the Executive would make a decision on the matter at its meeting to be held on 15 April 2010. The Member asked whether the decision could be made at a later date. The Chief Executive advised that the Executive would consider any recommendations of the Panel on the matter.

The Panel noted the Forthcoming Decision List, which had been published by the City Council for the period 1 March to 30 June 2010.

19 **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS (KCC)**

At the present time there were no relevant decisions on Kent County Council's Forward Plan that would affect the Canterbury Area Member Panel.

20 **ITEMS AND REPORTS FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PANEL (PROVISIONAL DATE 24 MAY 2010)**

Prior to the consideration of this item, Mr G Harrison spoke on the item. Following the request at the last meeting for a report to this meeting on the matter, he asked the Panel to consider the provision of a bus service to serve the residential developments at the former Telephone House and at The Tannery, Canterbury.

The Chairman requested that a short report on the matter be made to the next meeting of the Panel.

A Panel Member indicated that there should be some engagement by the City Council with Stagecoach and the County Council to discuss the changing patterns of residential developments and the transport routes to serve them.

A Panel Member requested a report to the next meeting about the new legislation affecting Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) including the consultation by the

Department for Communities and Local Government, as it was expected that the new measures would come into force on 1 April 2010. The Chief Executive indicated that he was happy to give a written response to the Member.

Another Panel Member requested a report to the next meeting on the matter and this was supported by the Panel.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.26 pm