

Cambridge Joint Area Committee: Minutes

Date: 18 December 2024

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:25 p.m.

Venue: Council Chamber, Guildhall, Cambridge

Present: City Councillors: Katie Thornburrow (Chair), Dave Baigent, Naomi Bennett and Richard Robertson
County Councillors: Philippa Slatter (Vice-chair) Alex Beckett, Gerri Bird, Mike Black, Alex Bulat and Neil Shailer

22. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Elisa Meschini (substituted by Councillor Bulat), Rosy Moore and Karen Young.

Councillor Beckett declared a non-statutory disclosable interest in relation to Agenda Item 6 (Resident Parking Scheme Policy Review Update and Proposed Price Increases for Permits and On-Street Parking), as the holder of a Resident Parking Scheme permit.

Councillor Baigent declared a general non-statutory disclosable interest as a member of the Cambridge Cycling Campaign (Camcycle).

23. Minutes – 18 September 2024

While discussing the minutes of the previous meeting, Members:

- Requested an update on work to identify a solution that could allow a Resident Parking Scheme (RPS) to be fully developed in Romsey, and when it would be likely to delivered (Minute 20 - Pavement Parking, Red Routes and Resident Parking Schemes Delivery Plan Update). **Action required**
- Queried whether the installation of hatched markings on double yellow lines along Mill Road had enabled a higher level of enforcement against pavement parking (Minute 20 - Pavement Parking, Red Routes and Resident Parking Schemes Delivery Plan Update). **Action required**
- Requested an update on the consideration of potential improvements to the public realm on Mill Road following the installation of a modal filter on Mill Road bridge, and clarification of the reasoning behind when enforcement would commence on the modal filter (Minute 20 - Pavement Parking, Red Routes and Resident Parking Schemes Delivery Plan Update). **Action required**
- Noted that minutes of the previous meeting were presented to the committee for approval of their accuracy, rather than to discuss the matters that they contained. It

was also clarified that matters that were not included on the agenda could not be discussed by the committee.

- Observed that the Committee’s Terms of Reference stated that they would be reviewed on an annual basis to consider whether amendments needed to be made.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18 September 2024, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

While discussing the minutes action log, Members:

- Clarified that the update report on cycling and pedestrian schemes that had been scheduled to be presented to the committee at its meeting on 18 December 2024 (Minute 21 - Cambridge Joint Area Committee Agenda Plan), would instead be presented to the committee at the meeting on 12 March 2025.
- Suggested that potential funding had been identified for improvements to the security barrier on King’s Parade, and expressed concern that such funding might not still be available by the time a report was presented to the committee in June 2025, and it was agreed for officers to investigate whether earlier progress could be made. **Action required**

The Committee noted its action log.

24. Public Questions and Petitions

No public questions or petitions were received

25. Traffic Regulation Order Objections Associated with Proposed Disabled Persons Parking Bays in Edinburgh Road and Ross Street, Cambridge

The Committee received a report which proposed the installation of disabled persons parking bays in Edinburgh Road and Ross Street.

Councillor Gerri Bird, County Councillor for the Chesterton division, was invited to address the Committee. Welcoming the proposed parking bay on Edinburgh Road, Councillor Bird highlighted that the parking bay would be available for anyone with a Blue Badge, and suggested that the applicant should be reminded of this.

Councillor Neil Shailer, County Councillor for the Romsey division, was invited to address the committee, and he indicated his support for the proposed parking bay on Ross Street.

Councillor Dave Baigent, City Councillor for the Romsey ward, was invited to address the committee, and he also indicated his support for the proposed parking bay on Ross Street.

While discussing the report, individual Members:

- Noted that the objection to the proposal suggested that a resident did not have a Blue Badge, and it was emphasised that such an issue was irrelevant to the installation of a disabled persons parking bay, which could be used by any Blue Badge holder. Notwithstanding, it was clarified that the statutory process required any objections to be considered appropriately, regardless of the nature of the objections.
- Suggested that it would be beneficial for disabled persons parking bays to be allocated to specific people if they were requested, although it was acknowledged that the current legislation did not allow this.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Recommend that the County Council's Executive Director of Place and Sustainability, in consultation with the local Member, approve the proposed disabled persons parking bay in Edinburgh Road as published; and
- b) Recommend that the County Council's Executive Director of Place and Sustainability, in consultation with the local Member, approve the proposed disabled persons parking bay in Ross Street as published.

26. Traffic Regulation Order Objections Associated with Proposed Waiting Restriction Amendment in De Freville Avenue, Cambridge

The Committee received a report which proposed the shortening of an existing resident permit holder parking space on De Freville Avenue to allow for dropped kerbs and a vehicular access to be installed.

Councillor Gerri Bird, County Councillor for the Chesterton division, was invited to address the Committee, and she indicated her support for the proposal.

While discussing the report, individual Members:

- Acknowledged why other residents could consider it unfair that a parking space was being removed for the private benefit of one household but argued that the area would ultimately benefit from the removal of two or even three cars from the street, reducing pressure on available spaces. It was also noted that approximately half the properties in the area already had a dropped kerb.
- Highlighted the importance of ensuring applicants for such Traffic Regulation Orders within a conservation area were aware of the need to acquire planning consent for certain types of work.
- Sought clarification on whether such schemes required the use of permeable surface materials. **Action required**

It was resolved unanimously to:

Recommend that the County Council's Executive Director of Place and Sustainability, in consultation with the local Member, approve the amendment to the waiting restrictions as published.

27. Resident Parking Scheme Policy Review Update and Proposed Price Increases for Permits and On-Street Parking

The Committee received an update report on the status of the County Council's Resident Parking Scheme (RPS) Policy review and the proposed permit and on-street parking price increase.

While discussing the report, individual Members:

- Suggested it would be beneficial for residents to be able to apply for parking permits for shorter periods of time, for example for carer or tradesperson visits. Members were informed that the current IT system did not support such permits, but the ongoing procurement of a new IT system sought to include the ability to manage permits for shorter time periods.
- Suggested it would be helpful for residents to know how many parking spaces were included within each RPS, as well as how many permits had been issued for each one, and it was agreed to publish this information on the RPS section of the Council's website. **Action required**
- Drew attention to larger vehicles that occupied the space of two or more cars and suggested that a differential rate based on size, length, width, weight or level of emissions could be fairer and serve as an incentive for the use of smaller, more sustainable vehicles. It was noted that additional technical information on each vehicle with a permit would be required for such a scheme to operate, but Members were informed that the ongoing procurement of a new IT system sought to automate that process and support the ability to implement differential rates. Notwithstanding, it was acknowledged that consideration would have to be given to families and disabled people who often required larger vehicles.
- Argued that an introduction of differential rates for RPS permits should be accompanied by a similar process for car parks and other parking areas across the city to maintain consistency, and it was suggested that the Committee could receive a future report on the wider parking considerations across both councils to encourage a holistic, joined up approach. **Action required**
- Clarified that to apply for an RPS permit it was required to prove that the vehicle was registered to a property within the RPS area. It was confirmed that this included commercial vehicles, such as vans or lorries, as long as they were registered to the property.

- Drew attention to residents that had complained about receiving penalties for slightly exceeding the designated parking area with an RPS. Members were assured that Civil Enforcement Officers were sensitive and tolerated minor overhangs whenever considered appropriate, although it was acknowledged that penalties were issued for such infringements.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the update on the Resident Parking Scheme Policy review; and
- b) Note the proposed permit price and on-street parking charges increases, which are included in the County Council's draft Business Plan.

28. Cambridge Joint Area Committee Agenda Plan

While discussing the committee's agenda plan, individual Members:

- Suggested that the committee could receive future reports on:
 - (i) Mill Road, including improvements to the public realm and the impact of the modal filter that had been installed on Mill Road bridge.
 - (ii) The development of Park and Ride sites, including how they could better support school transport and provide additional services.
 - (iii) Encouraging the use of active travel between homes and schools.
 - (iv) Vegetation clearance.

It was confirmed that the suggestions would be considered by officers, although it was emphasised that the committee could only receive reports on issues that were within its remit. **Action required**

- Suggested that committee briefings could be used to consider matters that were beyond the committee's remit.
- Confirmed that the committee meeting on 12 March 2025 would include:
 - (i) An update report on the Milton Road Resident Parking Scheme.
 - (ii) An update report on the development of future RPSs, including their current status and timelines for their development, and clarity on the roles of different organisations in their development and implementation.
- Clarified that the TRO for the proposed York RPS was scheduled to be published in January 2025, with the following consultation leading to a report expected to be presented to the committee in June 2025.

Chair
18 December 2024