

# EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

## Soham and East Area Neighbourhood Panel



Welcome to your **seventh** Neighbourhood Panel Newsletter for the **Soham and East** 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.

### At the meeting...

The 7th Soham and East Neighbourhood Panel meeting, chaired by Cllr Derrick Beckett, took place on Wednesday, 2nd April at the Village College (Beechurst site) and was attended by 57 representatives from local organisations, and residents from the surrounding area.

Charlotte Driver, from 'Your Say' Soham Youth Council, and Rev Mike Banyard, Rector of the 3 Rivers group of parishes, were co-opted on to the Panel.

Claire Braybrook from the District Council's Environmental Services team outlined

how local people could make nuisance complaints (details from Parish Councils)



Mike Warner, Emergency Management Team Manager at the County Council, gave an illustrated presentation which showed that Cambridgeshire has a whole series of serious potential hazards and risks within its boundaries. Mike outlined how the various

agencies work together in Emergency Scene Management and stressed that 'preparation is everything'. A 'Package for Parishes' has been produced and will be distributed soon.

### Neighbourhood Update and Issues

Inspector Alan Savill, using the most recent South Neighbourhood Profile\*, outlined the actions which the Neighbourhood Policing team had taken to combat Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and crime in Soham and vehicle crime in the whole area.

There has been some effective joint-agency working which has led to a decline in ASB in Soham, but Alan Savill cautioned that with the light nights there was still a need for vigilance.



Thefts from vehicles have decreased, whereas thefts of vehicles have increased. Inspector Savill welcomed the opening of the Soham Police Office in the Budgens store (Wednesdays and Thursdays 9 -10am and 1-2, and on Fridays 2-3 and 6-7pm) and encouraged local residents to make informal contact with the policing team.

Alan Savill gave a short presentation about the Speedwatch scheme (which is being piloted in the Soham area until July) Trained volunteers from the area will use the Speedwatch equipment to identify locations and times when speeding is an issue in their locality. This will enable the police to use their resources to best effect in their enforcement campaigns. Parishes were encouraged to club together to be able to purchase the equipment and identify volunteers to help operate the scheme.

Liz Knox, Head of Environmental Services and Housing at the District Council, plans to arrange for further bin(s) and other appropriate measures will be taken to reduce dog fouling in Fordham and Kennett.

**April - July 2008**

**Contents**  
**At the meeting**

**Neighbourhood update and issues**

**Priorities for action**

**'Background' about the Neighbourhood Panel**

**Getting in touch and for more information**

**Priorities for Action**

- **Report back from the Speedwatch pilot**
- **Anti-Social Behaviour in Soham and in Kennett**
- **Burglaries from homes of elderly residents in Fordham, Kennett and Chippenham**

To have your say, why not attend your next Neighbourhood Panel meeting on July 2nd to help agree local priorities?

## Dates for your diary.....

Your next  
Neighbourhood  
Panel meeting  
on Wednesday,  
2nd July at  
7pm at  
Soham Village  
College

Following one  
is on  
Wednesday,  
8th October  
at 7pm also at  
Soham Village  
College  
(Beechurst site)

## Useful contacts East Cambs Strategic Partnership

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Speeding and other traffic-related issues were identified as problems in several parishes. In addition, the following 'issues of concern' were identified:

**Chippenham, Fordham and Kennett** – targeting of a vulnerable people;

**Fordham** – theft of lead;

**Isleham** – HCVs, dog fouling, inconsiderate parking;

**Kennett** – ASB in The Close and Station Road, inconsiderate parking;

**Snailwell** – noise from EMR, fly-tipping;

**Soham** – ASB and criminal damage has increased in other areas of the town, often associated with under-age drinking; concerns about need for dog bins, recycling arrangements and roadside gulleys;

**Wicken** – horses on footpath (issue with the National Trust).

## Priorities for Action

Report back from the Speedwatch pilot  
– more volunteers are needed by  
Cllr Joe Pattison

The policing priorities were agreed as being

- Anti-Social Behaviour in Soham: High Street, Clay Street, Fountain Lane,

Ten Bell Lane, Recreation Ground and by Weatherall's and in Kennett

- Burglaries from homes of elderly residents in Fordham, Kennett and Chippenham

Cllr Beckett confirmed that all other 'issues of concern' would receive attention.

## 'Background' about the Neighbourhood Panel

The Soham and East area Neighbourhood Panel, one of 5 Panels in East Cambridgeshire, covers the parishes of Chippenham, Fordham, Isleham, Kennett, Snailwell, Soham and Wicken.

The Panel comprises Parish, District and County Councillors along with community representatives, working together with local people.

At Panel meetings there is discussion about local concerns such as crime, health, housing and children and young people's issues. Decisions are made about which issues are most important to focus efforts on in the next 3 months. Each Panel also agrees what actions need to be completed between meetings and who will be responsible.

The Local Strategic Partnership, which includes important service providers in our area, is working to ensure that the community can have a say in how services are delivered. There is still much work to be done – this is a completely new way

of working – but the Council hopes that Neighbourhood Panels will become, and continue to be, a valuable part of community life in the district.

So, it's all about local action, and improvement for your area!

We hope that you will be able to come to the next meeting on Wednesday 2nd July at Soham Village College Beechurst site (Sand St., CB7 5AA)

If you are unable to attend, and 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 South Neighbourhood Profile\* use the A-Z section of the East Cambridgeshire District Council website:

[www.eastcambs.gov.uk](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)