

FeCRA – The Federation of Cambridge Residents' Associations



From: **Wendy Blythe** <wendy.blythe.fecra@gmail.com>

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Subject: Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee Monday, 8th February, 2021 5.00

To: Sarah Steed <Sarah.Steed@cambridge.gov.uk>

My question below for the Cambridge City Council Scrutiny Committee tonight

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/documents/g3799/Public%20reports%20pack%2008th-Feb-2021%2017.00%20Strategy%20and%20Resources%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

I am the Chair of the Federation of Cambridge Residents and like many residents I am also a Friend of Cambridge Market.

BSR **S4759** proposes cutting the graziers' pinder out of hours emergency service, although the graziers say Cambridge City Council receive all the agricultural subsidy payments for the common land, so they have additional income from the grazing.

The BSR 114754 refers to creating new business opportunities on Cambridge's Parks and Open Spaces. Many residents are concerned that 'riverscape' opportunities may make some spaces honeypot destinations and increase footfall on unique green spaces that are already very fragile. Last year with more people outdoors on the commons CamCattle say they had 4 cattle in the river. A young heifer died after swallowing a plastic bag.

Last year the Council granted planning permission for a trail of plastic cows on the city's parks and open spaces, which trail organisers describe as being 'inspired by the rare Red Poll cattle breed, which in the warmer months you can find grazing on Midsummer Common'. The cows are scheduled to be on the city's parks and open spaces from April to June. Concrete plinths have already been installed on Queen's Green on the Backs. The Council is one of the cow trail sponsors.

<https://cowsaboutcambridge.co.uk/>

<https://cowsaboutcambridge.co.uk/sponsors/>

<https://www.cambridgenetwork.co.uk/news/cowmoonocations-art-paying-it-forward-cowfintive-moo-crew>

In 2018 in an article that was widely syndicated, the *New York Times* highlighted that Cambridge's famous 'rus in urbe style' of cows grazing on Cambridge Commons is admired all over the world.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/15/world/europe/cambridge-england-cows.html>

Residents are asking why are the council and businesses sponsoring **plastic** cows on the city's Backs and Commons inspired by the red poll cattle at the same time as they are cutting financial support for Cambridge's **real** cows?

Traders, residents and shoppers, reiterated concerns at the recent Environmental Scrutiny Committee that there appears to be little knowledge about the operational running of a traditional market and the need for business continuity. Over 7, 330 people signed the petition to keep the market open so that locally produced foods can safely be sold outside at Cambridge market.

The *Cambridge Independent* has reported that established market traders such as CamCattle, whose red poll cattle famously graze on Midsummer Common and Grantchester Meadows, are begging for support . Over 80 % of CamCattle sales are at the market.

<https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/traders-plead-with-city-council-to-reopen-cambridge-market-91471>

Has there been any assessment of environmental capacity and the impacts that a) increased visitor numbers and b) income generating activities would have on the cows and wildlife on Cambridge's parks and commons?

Wendy Blythe
Chair, FeCRA for the FeCRA Committee