

Joint District Councillors' Report October 2018

District councillors' monthly report for the communities of Histon & Impington, Orchard Park and King's Meadow.

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these - or indeed any other - matters, please do not hesitate to contact us. Councillor Steve Hunt is on 01223 455180 or Cllr.HuntS@scams.gov.uk, Councillor Martin Cahn is on 07826 748407 or Cllr.Cahn@scams.gov.uk, Councillor Pippa Heylings is on 07837 228416 or Cllr.Heylings@scams.gov.uk. You can also follow your councillors on our webpage <http://hiopcouncillors.org>, on Twitter @pippa4hiop , and on Facebook @pippaheylings4hiop

Changes to Green Bin Collections

Our refuse and recycling are collected by the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service, which performs this function on behalf of South Cambs and Cambridge City. Historically there have been differences between the services in South Cambs and the City, and an effort has been under way to harmonize these. Changes were approved by the Scrutiny & Overview Committee and decided by Cabinet during October. The main change for South Cambs residents is that starting in March there will be an annual charge to collect more than one green bin. The first green bin will remain free, and each additional green bin will be charged at £35 per annum. (In the first year of charging, this will be reduced to £20 to cover the shorter period March to October.) This policy change is expected to raise around £80,000 a year which will go towards frontline Council services.

Arrangements for black and blue bins are unchanged.

It is hoped that this will make the system fairer. Only a small proportion of households have multiple green bins, and at present other residents subsidise this through their council tax. Every other council in Cambridgeshire already operates a charging system, as do most councils nationwide. We also hope that it will encourage residents with large amounts of garden waste to look into the benefits of composting it at home.

Putting our Local Green Spaces on the Map

There was such outrage and distress at the ripping out of our trees by the A14. It touched something very deep inside so many of us. It stripped away green, dappled, wildlife-filled walking and running routes, the symbolic green gateway to our village. This act made us realise how vulnerable we are as a village unless we take action to shape our own development. We campaigned hard during the local elections on the issue of Green Spaces, and the large deficit per 1,000 residents that our village has in comparison to other villages in the district. We have been working hard on that campaign pledge. The Neighbourhood Plan gives communities the right to name and create Local Green Spaces both within and around their village and Pippa has been supporting the local group of residents, led by Robert Bensted-Smith, that has been consulting and mapping out the areas that should be there for all of us forever. Not that it's easy to get the Planning Inspector to approve them. There needs to be an evidence base proving the special characteristics that the space has, such as wildlife, special trees, view etc. There also needs to be evidence of "wide community value" of these proposed Local Green Spaces for pleasure, community connectedness, physical and mental

health - all in all, Nature's Contribution to our lives. At the moment, Histon and Impington has no Local Green Spaces created in the newly adopted Local Plan. Can you believe that? The Village Green is protected by other regulations, and we do have formal play areas such as the Rec and the school playing fields - but we have no informal, play, walking or wild areas that are protected. This is our chance to change that. This is not about stopping development. This is about shaping the kind of development we want in and around our village. That development must go hand in hand with access to open, green spaces. Of course, we need to talk about this with the landowners of the pieces of land that are proposed in the green belt – and we are doing that. Look at the map (attached at the end of this report) to see the Local Green Spaces we are proposing. You can add your support by commenting on the Neighbourhood Plan ([http://hiplan.net/from page 65 onwards](http://hiplan.net/from_page_65_onwards)) until 16th November. It's been joyous to stand outside Tesco's with others over the last three weekends and talk with many of you about your favourite places. Here are some of the wonderful things that people have been sharing with us:

"It's my Gruffalo Walk and we find footprints but we've never seen the Gruffalo. We saw the Snake's House but no snake. We saw a real fox there. There's big puddle-jumping on the walk. Please save it" (5 year old)

"We moved to Histon for the green spaces and the peacefulness it brings. It brings the community closer and creates a pleasant atmosphere"

"We moved here 18 years ago when my husband fell ill and we needed somewhere nice to walk and heal" (elderly lady).

Email to Councillors

There have been several delays and outages with councillors' SCDC email over the last few weeks. We are now in the process of being moved across to a new system, and we hope that this will result in a more reliable service. Our email addresses will remain the same. As always with I.T. changes, there may be teething troubles, so if an email bounces or appears to go astray, please re-send it or consider phoning us if it's urgent.

For Sale signs

We have been made aware of clusters of "For Sale" signs sited away from the properties being advertised, for example at the junction of a cul-de-sac with a through road where there will be more passing traffic. These signs are regulated and there are clear rules about the permissible number of signs and their locations. If you feel that there is excessive signage in your area, or signs located where they should not be (such as on a public verge or attached to street furniture or a third-party fence), please let us know and we will take a look.

Green Energy Investment

Your councillors are active in promoting sustainable energy management in the local authority. The Climate Change and Environment Committee, on which Pippa and Martin are Chair and Vice-Chair, agreed to pursue a proactive green energy investment agenda. One of the first actions planned is to increase the generation of green energy on our own property. We have to act quickly to make the most of the government's Feed-In Tariff scheme before the government shamefully shuts it down next April 2019. Over 2000 of our council owned houses already have solar panels, but one of the most attractive proposals here is to install solar panels on the roof of the council's refuse sorting reception building at Waterbeach. The council participates in a cooperative scheme, REFIT, to upgrade the authority's existing

properties, and we are moving ahead with an expert assessment to see whether such a scheme is viable. It certainly looks as though it will be, as long as it can connect to UK Power Network's grid. In this way, the Council will save on energy bills at the recycling centre and generate income by both being paid for the energy that is generated and selling back excess energy to the grid. This money can then be re-invested by the Council on further energy projects within the district. It all makes such sense – and this really should have happened a few years ago, in order to have generated more years of income from the Council. We are also looking exploring further ambitious proposals such as covering the car park at Cambourne with solar panels, and generating the electricity for EV charging points, among other things. If you think of any opportunities to promote green energy on District Council property, please don't hesitate to contact Pippa or Martin.

Food Banks

Once again, thank you to everyone who has contributed to the food bank collection points at the One Stop and the Co-Op. With winter fast approaching, this support for overstretched families is more vital than ever. I recently dropped a batch of donations at the Trussell Trust warehouse and was so impressed with the organisation and dedication of the volunteers there. They are grateful for goods that you donate, which make a real difference.

Planning

A few people have been in touch regarding their planning applications which have been delayed or otherwise not gone as efficiently as hoped. We're happy to discuss these cases, and where appropriate take them up with the planning officers and do what we can to smooth things out. Please be aware that the planning team is currently quite over-stretched and can only do so much. We are, as a council, determined to work on improving that, but as you will appreciate, staffing up the team and streamlining its processes is a big undertaking, so please bear with us. Constructive suggestions for ways to improve the service will be passed on to the lead member for planning for consideration.

The application to build on the site north of Impington Lane was due to be decided at Planning Committee in October. Due to technicalities it was deferred, and it will now be considered on November 14th. We met with representatives of Highways, planning officers and the developer to discuss various concerns raised by Parish Council and residents.

An application has been received to develop two new residential blocks on the parcel of land known as "COM4" off Neal Drive, Orchard Park. The proposal is an alternative to the other applications that have already been made for the site. It comprises 168 student rooms and associated facilities and has the support of Cambridge Regional College. This application is currently open for consultation until **21st November**. This is a significant development with the potential to affect the community, so please do look at the plans and have your say: <http://plan.scambs.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/WPHAPPDETAIL.DisplayUrl?theApnID=S/3983/18/FL>

One of the issues that has arisen when considering the document providing guidance for the development of the Waterbeach New Town is the impact of development on air quality. You will all be aware of the action Pippa has been taking on air quality with regard to the A14 upgrade, but this has raised awareness of the issue in other new locations. The Climate

Change and Environment Committee held a session to review the Waterbeach early planning documents, the SPD. As Councillors, we raised particular concern about the fact that the first primary school in Waterbeach New Town Phase I is being proposed within 60m of the A10, which it is proposed to upgrade to a dual carriageway. It turns out that County Council's Environment Committee has approved the proposal, despite concern raised by our County Councillor. This makes things more difficult for our campaign to change the location because the developer can now say that County has raised no objections. However, we are now working together with our Councillor, David Jenkins, at County Level, and ourselves at District Level to fight against this decision. This is an example of how we are making good on our decision to make air quality a priority in policy and decision-making, a particularly significant issue for school children who are amongst the most vulnerable. While we are obviously continuing the fight to improve the situation on the A14, hopefully the lessons learned here will enable future new developments in the district to eliminate air quality problems at the design and planning stage.

Engagement process with Highways England and the A14 works

Progress is slow and sometimes it seems as if we are not moving forward at all, especially with regards to the breach in planning conditions with regards to air quality monitoring. The Air Quality monitors that were supposed to be up and running for 6 months prior to the works starting are still not in place, connected and fully functioning despite many pledges to get this happening. Having received assurances that the Lolworth monitor was finally up and running, it was the sharp and vigilant eyes of resident and air quality campaigner, Irina Szmelskyj, active member of the Action Group, who spotted that it had been moved, the cable cut and neatly coiled up. Using this photographic evidence, Pippa made a formal complaint and followed this up with all involved at South Cambs. For the first time, this has led to enforcement officers being sent out. We await feedback and actions.

An innovative approach to raising awareness of SCDC environmental health officers and Cabinet members was undertaken at a local resident's house one evening this month, where we were all treated to a noise simulation evening, which involved us imagining trying to get a good night's rest whilst the A14 nightworks noise was played to us just as it would have been heard by residents closest to the A14. This evening was organized by noise expert and local resident, Mike Stigwood with support from his company. It was based on real-life recordings that he had made and then calibrated to the surroundings of the house that we all were sitting in. We were also shown what exactly the levels of noise could be if they were permitted to get to the levels that Highways England is requesting for the next set of nightworks. I have been told that the evening did indeed create the desired reaction in the environmental officer. Once again, we now await feedback and actions.

Meanwhile, at the Steering Group meeting on 19th October, it was agreed that the Landscaping working group would get going. At Milton on 1st Nov the first meeting was held involving the District Council, Highways England, a representative of the Holiday Inn and the Action Group (Robert Bensted-Smith and Pene Nudds plus David Jenkins and Pippa Heylings). The Council and HE sent the right people with the relevant technical knowledge and position in their organisations and the discussions were detailed, frank and productive, with a good spirit of collaboration. The meeting put firmly on the table the multiple benefits of landscaping in terms of visual screening, noise and air pollution mitigation, biodiversity, and the green gateway into our village, all of which contribute to the well-being of the wider community and visitors. We looked at each sector: east and west of the roundabout and

Orchard Park, and considered in each case the community's key objectives, how we might modify current HE plans, the preferred mix of species, constraints such as location of utilities and so on. The feasibility of an earth bund on the west (Lone Tree Ave) side, as part of the landscaping, was discussed and HE have taken away some homework to do on that, as it is a tight fit between gas pipelines, ditches and such like. In general, the landscaping experts of HE and the Council were very constructive and open to changes, recognising that we are aiming to do something more ambitious than was originally planned. We did not, in this first meeting, discuss financing and fund-raising, as we first need to agree what we want to do. Watch this space.

Bin Lorry Safety Campaign - #ConsiderTheImpact

You may see publicity in the local press and on South Cambs social media channels about a campaign to remind motorists of their responsibility to drive safely and considerately when bin lorries are making collections. We know that it can occasionally feel a bit frustrating to be behind a lorry, especially if you are running late, but there is no excuse for a very small minority of drivers taking actions that are dangerous and illegal - endangering the crew, pedestrians, cyclists and themselves. Some hair-raising examples have been captured on CCTV, including a car driving entirely on the pavement to get around a bin lorry, narrowly missing a refuse worker. Our collection team do a tough job and perform a vital service to the community; they deserve to be treated with respect and patience.

Find out more about the campaign here: <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/cctv-footage-released-to-bin-bad-driving/>

Reporting Highway Problems

A reminder that most problems to do with roads, signs, footpaths, potholes etc are the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council, and although we are happy to be informed about them, we can essentially only pass them on to County for action. (One exception to this is street name plates, which are the District Council's responsibility).

Cambridgeshire County Council has a very good online mapping tool for reporting these types of issue yourself, and it works particularly well if you use it on your smartphone while standing near to the problem, as it can use the GPS on your phone to pinpoint the spot.

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

Note that this tool should not be used for matters requiring urgent attention, for example if you think the problem represents a danger to the public – call the police on 101 instead.

Reporting Environmental Health Problems

The Kingsmeadow Liaison Committee met last month, and issues of fly-tipping and vandalism of litter bins were raised again. We can report these things for you, but it will be quicker to do it yourself on the SCDC environmental services website.

<https://scambs-framework.egovhub.net/ENVIROCRIMEREPORTINGFORM/launch>

Another highways issue raised there, and which is a district council issue is street cleaning. All adopted roads in built up areas should be swept quarterly. If you think this is not

sufficient, or has not actually been carried out, it is worthwhile reporting this to the local authority on the contact number: **03450 450 063**. They also deal with collections from public litter bins, dog waste, etc. As always, if you feel that your complaint is not dealt with swiftly, please do let us know so we can chase it up.

Council Office Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Please note the following office closures and reduced working hours over the festive season. The Cambourne office is open except for the statutory Bank Holidays, although naturally some staff members will be taking annual leave around this time. Emergency cover is arranged throughout the festive period through the normal out of hours service.

Date	Office (Staff)	Contact Centre & Reception
Monday 24 December – Christmas Eve	8am – 4.30pm	8am – 4.00pm
Tuesday 25 December – Christmas Day	Closed (Bank Holiday)	Closed (Bank Holiday)
Wednesday 26 December – Boxing Day	Closed (Bank Holiday)	Closed (Bank Holiday)
Thursday 27 December	(Normal Working Hours)	8.30am – 4.30pm
Friday 28 December	(Normal Working Hours)	8.30am – 4.30pm
Monday 31 December 2018 – New Years Eve	8am – 4.30pm	8am – 4.00pm
Tuesday 1 January New Years Day	Closed (Bank Holiday)	Closed (Bank Holiday)
Wednesday 2 January	(Normal Working Hours)	8am – 5.30pm
Thursday 3 January	(Normal Working Hours)	8am – 5.30pm
Friday 4 January	(Normal Working Hours)	8am – 5.30pm

Meetings held in October 2018

Date	Meeting	Venue
4 th Oct	SCDC Staff Workshop (MC)	Cambourne
8 th Oct	SCDC Staff Workshop (SH)	Cambourne
9 th Oct	Site Visits	Various
10 th Oct	Planning Committee meeting	Cambourne
10 th Oct	Kings Meadow Working Party	Kingsmeadow
10 th Oct	Orchard Park Community Council	Orchard Park
11 th Oct	Greater Cambridge Partnership Briefing	Cambourne
15 th Oct	Histon & Impington PC	Impington
16 th Oct	Briefing- Comb. Authority –Healthy towns	Cambourne
17 th Oct	Meeting with Highways Officers	Cambourne
17 th Oct	Licensing Committee	Cambourne
18 th Oct	Climate & Environment Advisory Group	Cambourne
18 th Oct	Scrutiny and Overview Committee	Cambourne

24 th Oct	Brexit Advisory Group and small business workshop	Cambourne
25 th Oct	Meeting to discuss Impington Lane development.	Cambourne
26 th Oct	Meeting with OP Liaison Group	Orchard Park

Forthcoming meetings

1 st Nov	Extraordinary H & I PC meeting	Impington
2 nd Nov	Information visit to site of Solar Parking	Girton
6 th Nov	Budget briefing	Cambourne
8 th Nov	Commercialisation Masterclass	Cambourne
13 th Nov	Risk Management Workshop	Cambourne
13 th Nov	Planning site visits	Various
14 th Nov	Planning Committee	Cambourne
14 th Nov	Orchard Park Community Council	Orchard Park
19 th Nov	H&I Parish Council	Impington
20 th Nov	Community Park public consultation	Histon
21 st Nov	Joint Development Control Committee - Cambridge Fringes	Guildhall
22 nd Nov	Community Park stakeholder consultation	Histon
22 nd Nov	Scrutiny and Overview Committee	Cambourne
27 th Nov	Cabinet & Parish Council Liason	Cambourne
27 th Nov	Briefing on Commercialisation	Cambourne
28 th Nov	Climate & Environment Advisory Committee	Cambourne
28 th Nov	Brexit Advisory Committee	Cambourne
29 th Nov	Scrutiny and Overview Committee extraordinary meeting (Waterbeach SPD)	Cambourne
29 th Nov	Full Council	Cambourne

Histon & Impington Local Green Space

