

Joint District Councillors' Report November 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@scambs.gov.uk, Councillor Martin Cahn is on 07826 748407 or Cllr.Cahn@scambs.gov.uk, Councillor Pippa Heylings is on 07837 228416 or Cllr.Heylings@scambs.gov.uk. You can also follow your councillors on our webpage <http://hiopcouncillors.org>, on Twitter @pippa4hiop , and on Facebook @pippaheylings4hiop

Brexit

At the time of writing the Brexit deal was in the balance. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the vote for Remain in our ward was around 70% in 2016, and in Lucy Frazer's constituency it was about 54% - with recent polls suggesting it is now running around 57%. Of the fourteen South Cambridgeshire councillors representing areas in Lucy's constituency, thirteen are now Libdems. The Libdem councillors asked for an audience with Lucy before the vote on the 11th December. Following reminders in November, this took place at very short notice on 6th December by speakerphone from the County Council offices. All three of your councillors were there to press Lucy to follow up the motion passed by the District Council in September asking for a People's Vote on the deal. She indicated that despite the clear majority of local residents opposing Brexit and her support for Remain during the referendum, she would support the deal, but promised to consult us again on the next steps in what appears to be the increasingly likely event of the deal being rejected by MPs.



Email to Councillors

Further to our note last month, problems with the IT have continued. Although our email addresses will remain the same, as always with I.T. changes, these teething troubles may persist, so if an email bounces or appears to go astray, please re-send it or consider phoning us if it's urgent.

Green Energy Investment

The initial proposal for the refuse sorting building in Waterbeach has been presented and initially assessed and appears viable. It is now proceeding to the next stage of assessment with the objective of installing solar panels before the feed in tariff disappears in April 2019. We are currently investigating other possibilities in places where the District Council has an opportunity. Just a reminder, if you think of any opportunities to promote green energy on District Council property, please don't hesitate to contact Pippa or Martin.

Planning

The application to build on the site north of Impington Lane was presented to Planning Committee on November 14th, but there was considerable concern about a number of issues. Particular concern was expressed by committee members about the clustering of the affordable housing in one area, the weighting of the development towards large houses, and about the impact of the development on biodiversity, all of which are issues addressed in the recently adopted local plan. There was also concern expressed about the highways impact by your local members although the County Council, who are responsible for highways, was satisfied with the proposals. As the site has been allocated for development in the newly adopted plan, it was accepted that the development is likely to go ahead in the long term, and a decision on the application was deferred for more discussions with the developers. Officers are now in communication with the developers to see if they can find answers to the Committee's concerns.

Further discussions have been held about the development of a new town at Waterbeach and the consideration of the first planning application for that development. The supplementary planning document being prepared for that development has been to a number of workshops and scrutiny committee, and recently concern has been expressed by the cycling fraternity about the sustainability of the internal traffic layout within the new community (considerable effort has been put into developing proposals for sustainable intercommunity transport). Interesting suggestions have been made which would encourage local traffic within the community to be by foot or bicycle, and they are currently being appraised. Concepts adopted here would have implications for other new developments in the district.

As the Parish Council will be aware, the developers have put out proposals for the Victor Unwin Community Park and associated housing for consultation with local residents. With two councillors on Planning Committee, we are limited in expressing an opinion on the development, but have kept ourselves briefed on the proposals.

Reporting Highway Problems

Just a note following last month's comment on reporting highway problems, some street lights are the responsibility of the district or parish councils – especially footway lights. An issue has come up about a faulty footway light between Water Lane and Hereward Close that is not claimed by either of these or the county council and our community officer at Cambourne is following this up. Some areas in the village have district owned lights, for instance parts of Hereward Close, or privately owned lights where the road has not been adopted. The district council in particular is looking at the opportunities across the district to

replace its own stock of street and footway lights with more efficient or more effective lights (some lights, for instance, are still the monochromatic orange low pressure sodium lights).

Reporting Environmental Health Problems

As we noted last month, street cleaning is a district council responsibility. All adopted roads in built up areas should be swept quarterly. We have recently reported a number of issues that have been reported to us by residents.

At this time of year the problems with fallen leaves are ubiquitous, and if it is a problem in your area you should report it direct to the district council. They undertake to clear leaf problems rapidly if they are reported to them.

More generally, if you think the sweeping 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.

Noise from marquee parties

There was concern expressed about noise levels from Christmas parties in the marquee at the Holiday Inn. We spoke to the hotel manager and the event organisers and received assurances that the very loud noise on Wednesday 28th was an anomaly and that only one further event was planned (which was on Saturday 1st December). We have, nevertheless, had comments that this one was also loud, and additionally caused a traffic backlog. We spoke with SCDC officers who are meeting next week with the events manager and the people who organise the events in the tent to discuss a way forward.

Orchard Park student flats

We attended a public meeting organised by Orchard Park Community Council to discuss the planning application to build two blocks of student flats on the COM4 site off Neal Drive. There was a great deal of concern expressed by residents about the impact of the development and the lack of prior engagement with the Council. A representative of the developer was there and after a long discussion agreed that a proactive prior engagement with the community would have been desirable in relation to the application. There may be an opportunity to delay the process while that is done. We are monitoring the situation.

Ice Rink funding

SCDC is providing a loan to help fund the Ice Rink that is being built near the Newmarket Rd Park & Ride site. The developers recently approached the Council to ask for an increase in the loan, due to time and cost overruns that were caused by the discovery of unexploded ordnance buried on the site. The Scrutiny and Overview committee took a long, hard look at this request and was able to satisfy itself that the structure of the loan ensures a very low risk to the council with respect to the expected return on the loan. The application was approved

following a vote at Full Council. It is good news that funding for this much-needed facility is now secure and we look forward to seeing it open next year.

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 November 2018

Date	Meeting	Venue
1 st Nov	Extraordinary meeting HisImp PC	Impington
2 nd Nov	Visit to British Antarctic Survey offices about their plans for solar panels. (MC & PH)	Girton
6 th Nov	Budget briefing	Cambourne
7 th Nov	Climate Change and Environment Ctee (PH & MC)	Cambourne
8 th Nov	Commercialisation Masterclass	Cambourne
12 th Nov	Royal Town Planning Institute Round Table on social housing (MC).	Bury St Edmunds
13 th Nov	Planning Site Visits (MC)	Various
13 th Nov	Risk Management Workshop	Cambourne
14 th Nov	Planning Committee	Cambourne
14 th Nov	Orchard Park Parish Council	Orchard Park
16 th Nov	Brexit and the Law Workshop, Peterhouse (MC)	Cambridge

19 th Nov	Histon and Impington Parish Council	Impington
20 th Nov	Planning Briefing – Transport and Viability (MC)	Cambourne
20 th Nov	Community Park public consultation	Histon
21 st Nov	Joint Development Control Committee - Cambridge Fringes (SH)	Guildhall
22 nd Nov	Briefing Session, Waterbeach New Town (MC)	Cambourne
22 nd Nov	Briefing	Cambourne
22 nd Nov	Community Park stakeholder consultation	Histon
22 nd Nov	Scrutiny and Overview Committee (MC, SH)	Cambourne
24 th Nov	Brexit Advisory Group (MC)	Cambourne
26 th Nov	Histon Road Local Liaison Forum (SH)	Kings Meadow
27 th Nov	Briefing by Henry Hobhouse on commercialisation (MC & PH)	Cambourne
27 th Nov	Cabinet & Parish Council Liaison	Cambourne
28 th Nov	Climate & Environment Advisory Ctee (PH & MC)	Cambourne
28 th Nov	Public meeting about student rooms	Orchard Park
29 th Nov	Full Council (PH, MC & SH)	Cambourne

Forthcoming meetings

4 th Dec	Civic Affairs Committee (MC)	Cambourne
10 th Dec	Briefing on Northern Fringe plans	Cambourne
11 th Dec	Planning site visits	Various
12 th Dec	Planning Committee	Cambourne
12 th Dec	Orchard Park Community Council	Orchard Park
17 th Dec	Briefing on Design Quality	Cambourne
17 th Dec	Planning Committee - Waterbeach	Cambourne
18 th Dec	Scrutiny and Overview Committee	Cambourne
19 th Dec	Brexit Advisory Committee	Cambourne
19 th Dec	Joint Development Control Committee - Cambridge Fringes	Guildhall