

## Monthly report for parish and community councils Apr 2016

For the Cottenham, Histon and Impington (CH&I) county council division of Cambridgeshire which also includes King's Meadow, Oakington & Westwick, Orchard Park and Rampton.

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### Full Council meeting

There was no county council meeting during April. And of course because it's been the month leading up to local council elections it's been a relatively quiet month all round.

### Committee meetings and other council matters

There were no meetings of the General Purposes, Adults, Children & Young People, Health and Highways & Community Infrastructure committees.

A government report has indicated that CCC's adoption service is one of the best in the country (<http://bit.ly/1TCbjtf>). Cambridgeshire is one of only four local authorities across the country to have met the threshold for timescales in key performance indicators.

Cambridgeshire will get more money to fill potholes. The government has set up a £250 million five-year Pothole Action Fund to improve local roads and deliver better journeys. Cambridgeshire will be getting £973K as part of £50 million released this year which is about 30% of its current spend.

Economy & Environment: the committee used its reserve date for a short meeting. There was one key decision viz to approve the use of the competitive process within the Eastern Highways Framework Contract for the detailed design and construction of the King's Dyke bridge.

Health: the committee did not meet but held a number of stakeholder meetings as a part of its NHS scrutiny role. These are regarded as 'informal' or 'low level' scrutiny and take place with the stakeholders' CEOs at their premises. In April it met Addenbrookes, Hinchingsbrooke, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

There was again no meeting of the Northstowe JDCC. All scheduled meetings to the middle of this year continue to be shown as CANCELLED on the South Cambs web-site (<http://bit.ly/1TyKzNj>).

The Planning Committee met but there were no items on the agenda of direct relevance to CH&I.

The April meeting of the Greater Cambridge City Deal Executive Board was cancelled.

### Consultations relevant to this division

The satisfaction survey relating to Cambridgeshire's children's centres continues and will run until 29 Jul. It aims to find out how satisfied parents, carers, childminders and other service users are with services being provided by them.

Every month there's a surprise consultation. This month's is the disability related expenditure (DRE) consultation (<http://bit.ly/1SRIM4a>) which started 1 Apr 16 and closes 1 May 16. Given that it is proposing to reduce the DRE which will work to the disadvantage of people receiving it you've got to be suspicious.

There's a new consultation about the service provided by Special Educational Needs Specialist Service (SENDSS) teams (<http://bit.ly/1SBx51k>). This one started 7 Apr and runs until 31 May.

Finally there's an audit of governing body effectiveness (<http://bit.ly/1r6eCiV>) which has just started and runs until 31 Aug. The aim of the audit is to aid governing bodies in evaluating their practice and to provide county wide information on governance.

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### More local matters

I attended a second 'Community Connectors' training. I don't see that it provides any value.

I met officers to move the proposed Adult Social Care joint working between Histon & Impington Parish Council and CCC project along. We finally have a date!

I met officers to understand options to exercise more control over parking in our villages.

I have worked with officers to ensure that the imminent consultation regarding primary school capacity in Histon & Impington is open and not overly prescriptive and that it does not confuse the need for more capacity with the Council's desire to provide it on its own land. There's a narrative and some context at <http://bit.ly/1YYibTk>.

I clarified the Council's position regarding its objections to South Cambs Local Plan as reported in the Cambridge News. There's an explanation at <http://bit.ly/1Tc0paJ>.

### Diary (next public meetings)

12 May	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
10 May	1030	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
12 May	1400	*Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
17 May	1400	Adults and Wellbeing Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
17 May	1000	Highways & Community Infrastructure	Share Hall, Cambridge
24 May	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
24 May	1000	*Economy & Environment Committee	Share Hall, Cambridge
31 May	1400	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
9 Jun	1430	Greater Cambridge City Deal Executive Board	Meadows Community Centre
2 Jun	1000	Greater Cambridge City Deal Assembly	South Cambs, Cambourne
29 Jun	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Peterborough Town Hall

\*committees of which I am a member; note these may change. I am Chair of the Health Com.

And finally ... I tend to wear by European heart on my sleeve and I guess this dates back to the beginning of the 80s when I held European management jobs based, ironically, in Switzerland. It was a smaller EU in those days of course, there were still multiple currencies and I remember a sterling crisis being almost an annual event. I travelled a lot and was regularly in Italy and often this involved a very pleasant train journey through the Alps to Milan. Then it was an Italy with 2000 lire to the pound, a communist mayor in Naples, burdensome and petty bureaucracy and a general air of dilapidation. Those who lived in the north talked of the 3<sup>rd</sup> world beginning in Rome. It's all very different now of course. And it's not just the north that's smartened up. I've just come back from a week's holiday down in the deep south-east and the fabric of the country is in good shape. In every community there's a town hall or similar and three flags fly: the local one, the Italian one and the one of Europe. There's no embarrassment to being in the EU, I suspect many people recognise how much benefit it's brought, but I can't see any loss of national identity. Italy is still very Italian. I feel that our problem has always been that we've never really committed, we've never taken from the EU as much as Italy has for example, and we've never exerted enough influence over its development.

There's post from my holiday at <http://bit.ly/1TBLR7b> and photos at <https://flic.kr/s/aHskxRBfPh>.