

# Monthly report for parish and community councils May 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

The Council held its annual meeting during May. Go to <http://bit.ly/1sk7jF6> for a narrative of the day. There were three motions of interest: one about selling off Shire Hall, one urging the Council to co-operate with other councils and one calling for improvements to the A10.

## Committee meetings and other council matters

Adults: the committee met but there were no key decisions. However it did agree to reduce the standard rate of Disability Related Expenditure from £26 per week to £20 per week (see last month's report regarding a surprise consultation). Seems a bit tough to me.

Assets and Investments: this committee met for the first time and the meeting was largely procedural. However it was noted that CCC's 'pre-app' regarding its proposed development in Cottenham had been received 'constructively'.

Children & Young People: the committee met and there was one key decision. It agreed to modify its policy regarding new schools to accommodate DfE 'advice' regarding the role of free schools. This seems to mean that sponsors of free schools have pre-emptive rights.

Economy & Environment: the committee met. There were three key decisions on the agenda. The first related to allocation of the Integrated Transport Block grant. It's not a big grant but hidden in the proposals was an extra £200K for Minor Highways Improvements. The second one concerning concessionary fares on community transport was withdrawn. Number three was about CCC's Energy Investment Strategy which prompted a request that Council reconsider its position on wind turbines.

General Purposes: the committee met .... And there were three key decisions on the agenda. The first related to finance and the need to increase prudential borrowing to cover a short-term cash flow issue. The second was about a proposal to set up an in house or CCC owned agency worker operation. My feeling is that the idea is flawed but there's to be a business case at the July meeting. Number three was withdrawn. It concerns Cambridgeshire Future Transport which is held up because of an issue related to Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT).

Health: The committee met and in its scrutiny role it conducted a 'final' review of the collapse of the UnitingCare contract. There's a full account at <http://bit.ly/25ueDzY>. There were no key decisions but the committee commended the Annual Public Health and the Annual Health Protection reports.

Highways & Community Infrastructure: the committee met and there was one key decision viz a complementary decision to that taken at Economy & Environment regarding the ITB. However the Committee did confirm that the new money received for potholes would be additional to the pothole money already in the budget. Go to <http://bit.ly/25regma> for more information.

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

## 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.

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There's a new consultation about a proposed change of age range of Cambridgeshire maintained nursery schools (<http://bit.ly/1U5xpSI>). It closes on 19 Jun 16. There's also a new consultation regarding the new phase of cycleway development on Huntingdon Road (<http://bit.ly/1TQGGCf>) running until 27 Jun 16.

The consultation about the service provided by Special Educational Needs Specialist Service (SENDSS) teams (<http://bit.ly/1SBx51k>) closed on 31 May.

Finally the audit of governing body effectiveness (<http://bit.ly/1r6eCiV>) continues 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.

### More local matters

I joined a meeting of County officers and Histon & Impington parish councillors and officers to begin to explore opportunities to integrate services for older people across the councils.

I attended the consultation about options for extra primary school capacity in Histon & Impington. I have subsequently been briefed on secondary school capacity issues north of the Cam.

I attended a briefing on the proposals for the City Deal which are going to the assembly and executive in June. The headline is no congestion charge but lots of other changes including improvements to Histon Road for buses and cyclists. There's a narrative at <http://bit.ly/1XGVW5M>.

I joined a meeting with County officers and Histon & Impington parish councillors to find ways of moving forward with the community's surface water management plan.

I have enabled progress with respect to long overdue Traffic Regulation Orders in Cottenham.

### Diary (next public meetings)

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

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

And finally ... I've gained a little useful experience this month. It's always said you develop empathy by 'walking in someone's shoes' and I did so because I fell off my bike (!) and went for a week or so with significant back pain and bad sleeping. It's largely cleared up now but it did make me think. Back pain is said to be debilitating and I can believe it. Every move is made with caution and getting into a comfortable position to sleep is just impossible.