

# Monthly report for parish and community councils Sep 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 council meeting in September.

## Committee meetings and other council matters

As expected there was a full set of committee meetings during September.

General Purposes: there were two key decisions. One related to an investment in 'assistive technology' which enables less able/older people to remain independent for longer. This is a part of the Council's transformation strategy whereby funding is made available to secure substantial long term savings or revenue. The second was about CCC's contract waste PFI with AmeyCespa and authorised its renegotiation.

Adults, Economy & Environment, Highways & Community Infrastructure: no key decisions.

Children & Young People: there were no key decisions. However the Committee did agree to the Council's participation in the regional transfer scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. It was also attended by Tim Coulson, Regional School's Commissioner, to explain his role and answer questions. His take on the Darwin Green secondary school decision is interesting.

Assets & Investments: there was one key decision viz to go ahead with the Smart Energy Grid Demonstrator Project at the St Ives Park & Ride. Although the project is barely break even there are multiple other reasons to go ahead. The committee excluded the press and public for its last agenda item when it discussed options for development on County Farms sites in Cottenham and Histon.

Health: there were no key decisions. However with its scrutiny hat on it agreed an urgent review of the process whereby the Clinical Commissioning Group is reviewing urgent and emergency care services in Fenland and East Cambs, and to engage in joint scrutiny with Peterborough City Council of the planned Peterborough and Hinchbrook hospitals merger.

During the month as chair of the Health Committee I had meetings with the Chief Exec of Public Health England, and the Leader and Chief Exec of CCC which are leading up to a Public Health led 'devo 2' agreement for health and social care.

Planning: there were no items on the agenda relating to Cottenham, Histon & Impington

The City Deal Joint Assembly met to select a catchment area for detailed scheme development in connection with A428 Cambourne to Cambridge better bus journeys. Fundamental to the selection is an off road bus route and a 'super cycleway'. The former will be contentious.

(Note the 1 Sep 16 City Deal Executive Board meeting was reported in last month's report.)

## Consultations relevant to this division

There's the continuing consultation on the City Deal proposals regarding peak-time congestion in Cambridge. These include the Histon Road proposals and much else besides. It runs until 10 Oct 16. (<http://bit.ly/2aAp4tt>)

The annual survey to schools for them to share information with their governing bodies or management to ensure statutory duties regarding safeguarding and child protection are being

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fulfilled (<http://bit.ly/2apM4fs>), and the consultation on the healthy weight strategy to address the high level of unhealthy weight in our population (<http://bit.ly/2bPB2AE>) both run until 14 Oct 16.

New consultations on the prohibition of driving during periods of flood (<http://bit.ly/2cKeTpC>), and the budget 'Have your say on Council Tax' (<http://bit.ly/2cKgAmD>) also run until 14 Oct 16.

### More local matters

I have spoken to the chair of Assets & Commissioning about the confidential part of its September meeting. He assured me that a meeting would be proposed in order to seek common ground. I have not yet seen any evidence that this has been actioned.

I have seen a first draft of a letter to parents and other stakeholders about plans for new primary school capacity in Histon & Impington. I have suggested ways in which it might be improved. It will be published in October.

There is a proposed strategy for secondary education in Cambridge. Strangely there's no mention of IVC even though it takes many students from south of the A14. I have asked for some clarification.

I met with Histon & Impington parish councillors and County officers to continue to explore ways to work together to improve adult social care provision at an overall lower cost.

### Diary (next public meetings)

6 Oct	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
6 Oct	1400	*Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
11 Oct	1000	Highways & Community Infrastructure	Share Hall, Cambridge
11 Oct	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
13 Oct	1000	*Economy & Environment Committee	Share Hall, Cambridge
13 Oct	1430	Greater Cambridge City Deal Executive Board	Meadows Community Centre
13 Oct	1400	Adults and Wellbeing Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
18 Oct	1030	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
21 Oct	1000	*Assets & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
25 Oct	1400	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
1 Nov	1000	Greater Cambridge City Deal Assembly	South Cambs, Cambourne
9 Nov	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Peterborough Town Hall
17 Nov	1000	*Health & Wellbeing Board	Pathfinder House, Huntingdon

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

And finally ... I went along to the Cambridge Literary Festival event with Richard Harris (author of Fatherland, Enigma, Pompeii etc). He writes a good yarn but he's also got strong political opinions. One thing he said in this respect is that it's dangerous to mix political systems. He pointed out that our system is parliamentary. Such systems don't sit well with referenda. Furthermore our local government is based on councils not mayors and our systems of checks and balances and accountability relate to this. Why would we mix them? People complain that decisions don't get taken quickly in a council and they may be right but a decision taken quickly is not necessarily a good one. It's reported that 'business' is in favour of a mayor as a part of our devolution deal because he/she would make quick decisions. But since when did business decide our civic priorities?