

Monthly report for parish and community councils Feb 2017

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.

Full Council meeting

The Council met in February mainly to set the budget. [Click here](#) for my account of the meeting. I found the outcome disappointing and I'm especially concerned that the Tory amendment, which was essentially along the lines of 'jam tomorrow, maybe', was approved.

Committee meetings and other council matters

General Purposes, Adults, and Health: these committee did not meet.

Assets & Investments: there were no key decisions but it did review the results of an audit of mistakes made regarding the Ely Archives Centre project.

I joined the panel to interview two candidates for Chief Executive of CHIC (Cambridge Housing and Investment Company). The preferred candidate was offered the job and has accepted.

Economy & Environment: there was supposed to be a key decision but it was nothing of the sort. It related to the funding of the Cambridge P&R sites and the committee simply noted various options and agreed to keep them under review.

Children & Young People: there was a key decision relating to secondary school provision in Cambridge. The committee agreed to support the expansion of Chesterton Community College.

The City Deal Joint Executive Board did not meet. It will meet in March. However the Assembly has met (1 Mar 17) and it appears that it will postpone any work on Histon Road until 2018. [Click here](#) for my take on that. I am meeting officers to better understand this.

Highways & Community Infrastructure: there was one key decision relating to the award of the new Highways Service Contract. It was resolved to 'approve the award of the Highway Services Contract 2017 to the preferred bidder'. The committee also approved the Transport Delivery Plan which is unfortunately lean on projects for CH&I in 2017/18. However it does include work on the Park Lane culvert (2018/19) and on the two traffic light controlled junctions on the B1049 (2019/20 although I had understood that these were already funded; I am surprised about the timing. I am checking). It also approved the Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan which makes interesting reading. It's a comprehensive document which provides an inventory of assets and forecasts of their expected condition and sets out service levels for ongoing inspection. Should be essential reading for all parish councils.

Planning: there were no items on the agenda relating to Cottenham, Histon & Impington. However, and notably, it gave planning permission for the new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the Cam at Ditton Meadows.

The Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel met 1 Feb 17 and was reported last month. It agreed a balanced budget and no increase in precept. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority met and approved a 1.9% precept increase.

The Shadow Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met for another largely procedural meeting. It's essentially establishing the governance framework within which the mayor will operate.

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Consultations relevant to this division

Consultation	Purpose	Due date and link
SEND specialist services Parent/Carer Feedback Survey	This is for the parents and carers of children and young people whose SEND Specialist Services have been terminated	14 Apr 17 http://bit.ly/2lc7Fv2

More local matters

I met officers to discuss outstanding issues following the Histon & Impington primary schools decision. Subsequently I chaired an open meeting to enable parish councillors and residents to better understand how and why the preferred option was chosen.

I met officers to talk about bus services to the new station. The extra rush hour guideway buses will go to the new station. There will also be a new service starting at Longstanton which will add much needed capacity.

I met officers to review broadband problems in Histon and in Orchard Park. Subsequently we've been given promises by BT re the former and been told that they are 'looking into' the latter.

I have visited residents in Rampton who are concerned about the impacts of the new traffic calming on their living conditions. The parish council is now following up.

I met officers to check progress with respect to drainage projects in Histon & Impington. A pleasantly pragmatic approach is being taken. Note the planned culvert work in Park Lane reported above.

Together with parish councillors I met officers to progress plans to better integrate CCC social care activity with initiatives in Histon & Impington

Together with parish councillors I met representatives of the Firs House Surgery to talk about options for it to use the soon to be vacated Infants' School site.

I attended the South Cambs Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership meeting. I am the CCC rep.

Diary (next public meetings)

8 Mar	1430	Greater Cambridge City Deal Executive Board	Guildhall, Cambridge
9 Mar	1000	*Economy & Environment Committee	Share Hall, Cambridge
9 Mar	1400	Adults and Wellbeing Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
14 Mar	1000	Highways & Community Infrastructure	Shire Hall, Cambridge
14 Mar	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
15 Mar	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Peterborough Town Hall
16 Mar	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
16 Mar	1400	*Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
20 Mar	1000	Shadow C&P Combined Authority	Pathfinder House, Huntingdon
21 Mar	1400	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
28 Mar	1330	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
30 Mar	1000	*Health & Wellbeing Board	SCDC offices, Cambourne
31 Mar	1000	*Assets & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
7 Jun	1000	Greater Cambridge City Deal Assembly	SCDC offices, Cambourne
15 Jun	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Hinchingbrooke Park

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

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And finally ... I reaped the benefit of my multiple (well twofold) cultural connections this month. We've just been through Chinese New Year so I joined my wife's Tai Chi club's annual Chinese New Year dinner. This year it was at the Peking in Homerton Street. It's been around since the 1980s but it used to be in Burleigh Street and I suspect that it's too much off the beaten track now. It's not cheap so it won't get the student clientele but it is very good. And then just this week I went along to a St David's Day dinner at Jesus College. That was also an excellent meal with fine Welsh lamb and a super selection of Welsh cheeses at the end. Fortunately the wines were from Chile and France so very drinkable and put us in just the right spirit to at least pretend we were joining in a rendition of 'Hen Wlad fy Nhadau' before we went home.