

# Monthly report for parish and community councils June 2017

For the Histon and Impington (H&I) county council division of Cambridgeshire which also includes King's Meadow and Orchard Park.

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We've had another month of the new council and a trend has been established. It's a Tory run council, I have no problem with that because they have the most seats, but it seems that all the decisions are now being taken in private in meetings between officers and the chairs and deputy chairs of meetings and then being rubber stamped with block votes in committees. To some extent it's worse than what went before when we had an executive cabinet. At least that met in public and non-members could speak

## Full Council meeting

There was no meeting during June.

## Committee meetings and other council matters

It's been a continuation of the slow start to the municipal year with a limited set of substantive committee business. There were no meetings of the Adults, Highways & Community Infrastructure and Communities & Partnerships committees. It does look like July will be better but then there's complete committee shutdown in August.

In the meantime there's been good news for the libraries with a £694,980 grant for the next four years to fund arts events and activities in libraries. Go to <http://bit.ly/2tR2SpU> for more information.

General Purposes Committee: there were no key decisions. It agreed to extend the current Virgin Business Media contract for the provision of the Cambridge Public Service Network by 18 months to allow an orderly transition should a new provider be appointed.

Commercial & Investment Committee: There were no key decisions but it did approve a 'process' for delivering opportunities to the Cambridgeshire Housing & Investment Company. Go to <http://wp.me/p7tuu7-1Cf> for my take on the meeting. It is in danger of becoming fixated on financial outcomes without addressing the council's over-arching priorities.

The Environment & Economy Committee had just met (1 Jun 17) as last month's report was published. It considered the NPIF (National Productivity Investment Fund) bid which had been addressed by H&CI earlier in May and it confirmed three parts of the County (Cambridge City, March and Huntingdon) as flood risk areas.

Later in the month CCC announced the result of a deal to enable it to retain additional growth (over forecast) in business rates. In its first year it is worth about £450K

Children & Young People's Committee: There was one key decision viz to agree to reprocur several framework and fixed term contracts. There was also an agenda item to note applications to open 'free schools' one of which was the Morris Educations Trust's application for the Cavendish special school at Impington Village College There were 8 such applications and just 5 (including the Cavendish) addressed a basic need. The others presumably add unneeded capacity with a consequent impact on the sustainability of existing schools.

And away from the committee the creeping merger of CCC with Peterborough City Council continues with a whole raft of combined appointments. There's more information at <http://bit.ly/2tVONJk>.

Health Committee: there were no key decisions and no scrutiny of note.

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Planning Committee: there were no items related to Histon & Impington.

There were no meetings of the Greater Cambridge City Deal Joint Executive Board and the Greater Cambridge City Deal Assembly. However it's all change at the City Deal with it being 'rebranded' as the 'Greater Cambridge Partnership'. There's a big meeting this coming Thursday at which I'm sure we'll hear lots of exciting stuff about the future but no mention of the dreadful results of the past. There's more information at [bit.ly/2tJ25rq](http://bit.ly/2tJ25rq).

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met and made key decisions. It agreed to continue to support plans to establish Peterborough University and to support the evaluation of several strategic transport infrastructure schemes including a mass transit for Cambridge.

The Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel met but the minutes of its meeting are not yet online. The minutes of its March meeting are not yet on line either.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority met but did not seem to make any substantive decisions. However it did discuss its potential take-over by the Police Authority. This will be the subject of a consultation over the summer. There will be a briefing for county councillors next week. Note that this authority does video its meetings and the video of the last meeting is available online

### Consultations relevant to this division

Consultation	Purpose	Due date and link
Early Years National Funding Formula - SEN Inclusion Fund	To inform the council's future services in relation to the new SEN Inclusion Fund process	9 Jul 17 <a href="http://bit.ly/2tNiXNH">http://bit.ly/2tNiXNH</a>
Specialist Clinicians Service Questionnaire	To find out the impact the Specialist Clinician service is perceived to have so that its impact might be assessed	31 Dec 17 <a href="http://bit.ly/2td33uu">http://bit.ly/2td33uu</a>

### More local matters

I have continued to meet parish councillors et al to move the Histon & Impington High Street project forward.

I met parish councillors to assist in the understanding of Histon & Impington Junior School's plans for its development as an all though primary

I attended the police panel meeting at Longstanton.

I met officers from the CCG to talk about options to improve primary care in Histon & Impington

**And finally** ... it seems like lots of water's gone under the bridge since last month's report. We had Mrs May's election of course only it didn't turn out in quite the way she expected. It seems like even politics is subject to the laws of thermodynamics and we've seen entropy increase which is surely a more satisfactory position than drifting into the cast-iron certainty of an increasingly right-wing government. And btw I'd be similarly concerned about such certainty from the left wing and by a pendulum which stuck in the middle. It's change which keeps us all on our toes and without it we get ourselves locked into futures which only please a minority and which inhibit challenge and alternative thinking. Go to <http://wp.me/p7tuu7-1BX> for my view of the election result.

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Diary (next public meetings)

18 Jul	1330	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
6 Jul	1000	Health & Wellbeing Board	SCDC offices, Cambourne
6 Jul	1000	Communities & Partnership	Shire Hall, Cambridge
11 Jul	1000	Highways & Community Infrastructure	Shire Hall, Cambridge
11 Jul	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
13 Jul	1000	Economy & Environment Committee	Share Hall, Cambridge
13 Jul	1400	Adults and Wellbeing Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
18 Jul	1330	County Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
19 Jul	1400	Greater Cambridge City Deal Assembly	SCDC offices, Cambourne
20 Jul	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
20 Jul	1400	*Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
25 Jul	1400	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
26 Jul	1000	C&P Combined Authority	ECDC offices, Ely
26 Jul	1600	Greater Cambridge City Deal Executive Board	Guildhall, Cambridge
28 Jul	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
6 Sep	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Peterborough Town Hall
26 Oct	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Hinchingbrooke Park

\*committees of which I am currently a member; these may change. Note that the Council's diary is now online at [https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccc\\_live/Meetings.aspx](https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccc_live/Meetings.aspx).