

Monthly report for parish and community councils August 2017

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

Full Council meeting

There was no meeting of Full Council in August.

Committee meetings and other council matters

It was a quiet month for committee meetings. Normally there are none but rather surprisingly there were two.

Environment & Economy Committee: there were three (!) key decisions. The first one related to the award of the Design & Construction Contract for the King's Dyke level crossing. The second was about the deregistration of a number of Whippet bus services. The committee decided to put its collective hand in its pocket and to pay for them to continue until replacement operators are appointed. The third was simply to agree to go ahead and update the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals & Waste Plan. That's a statutory responsibility so why was that a key decision?

There was one other item of interest on the agenda viz the findings of a recent member-led review of cycling Infrastructure. One interesting recommendation is 'Cycleways should be regularly cleared of weeds/plants and hedges trimmed, to ensure that their full width can be used safely. The surface structure should also be inspected regularly'. I will follow this one through.

Communities & partnerships: the committee met again. That's twice in two months. There were no key decisions but then given its remit it's difficult to imagine it every having to make one. It did however agree to appoint the 'area champions'. These are councillors, one for each district council and of the political colour of the majority party on the relevant council, who get an allowance of £5000/year to 'enhance the representation and community leadership aspect of the role of individual Members, paying particular attention to areas of interests for the Committee in the 5 Cambridgeshire Districts'. The champion for South Cambs is Lina Joseph, newly elected councillor for Hardwick.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Executive Board and the Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly did not meet. Their meetings in September will be looking, inter alia, at ideas for a bus route and Park & Ride to serve Cambourne. There is much opposition!

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority did not meet but its scrutiny committee did meet to consider the Mayor's budget and told him to reconsider it. It is on the agenda for a hastily rearranged meeting this week at which it's expected to say that it has reconsidered but that there's to be no change.

Note that there is an open meeting this week (Tue 5 Sep 17) at the Cambridge Rugby Club where the Mayor will speak along with Cambridge and South Cambs politicians and representatives of residents groups, Smarter Cambridge Transport and Cambridge Connect.

The Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority did not meet. Note that the consultation about the proposed merger of the two services closes tomorrow (Mon 4 Sep 17)

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Consultations relevant to this division

Consultation	Purpose	Due date and link
Children's Centres*	To ensure that the money spent has the greatest positive impact on young children's development before re-tendering contracts.	22 Sep 17 http://bit.ly/2tbZBhp
Proposed merger of police and fire	To make the case for the Police & Crime Commissioner taking on responsibility for Fire & Rescue	4 Sep 17 http://bit.ly/2ubtXRP

*note that there will be a drop-in session for parents, carers and other residents to find out more about this consultation at the Early Years Centre, Tue 12 Sep 17 at 1700.

More local matters

I attended a library workshop. There's a program of these and although there's no talk yet about cuts it's nonetheless worrying. There's talk about using libraries to earn more money and about novel ways to deliver services, that usually means more volunteers. I have no reason to believe that Histon Library is under any sort of threat but we do need to be vigilant. There's another workshop locally at StAC, Tue 26 Sep at 1830.

I joined H&I parish councillors and officers and county officers to review plans for repairing footpaths within H&I using funding from the latest Local Highways Initiative bid.

I met local residents in King's Meadow to look at parking issues outside the Community Centre.

I participated in a meeting with H&I parish councillors and officers, Orchard Park community council officers and county offices to address cyclical road maintenance issues. There's been a problem especially with respect to the spraying of weeds in gutters in Orchard Park and King's Meadow.

And finally ... I've spent quite a bit of time recently working on the Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Plan with colleagues from the Parish Council and in the community. It's a challenge. It's important because it enables the community to get some control over its future because what's in the plan will be a material consideration when planning applications are considered. Our 'problem' in H&I is that it is a good place to live and although we all grumble there are no big visible threats today. That results in a desire to have a plan that simply defends the status quo. That's an untenable position to take because we all know how Cambridge is developing and the impact that this has on housing etc. If we don't plan to accommodate that then we'll find ourselves vulnerable. Our challenge has been therefore to come up with a plan which enables development whilst protecting what we have. The first draft will be public later this month and there will be an open workshop to review it at the Rec, Tuesday 12 Sep 17 at 1930.

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Diary (next public meetings)

4 Sep	1000	C&P Combined Authority	Guildhall, Cambridge
6 Sep	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Peterborough Town Hall
7 Sep	1400	*Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
7 Sep	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
8 Sep	1000	Health & Wellbeing Board	Shire Hall, Cambridge
12 Sep	1000	Highways & Community Infrastructure	Shire Hall, Cambridge
12 Sep	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
13 Sep	1000	Communities & Partnership	Shire Hall, Cambridge
13 Sep	1400	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	Shire Hall, Cambridge
14 Sep	1000	Economy & Environment Committee	Share Hall, Cambridge
14 Sep	1400	Adults and Wellbeing Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
15 Sep	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
19 Sep	1400	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
20 Sep	1600	Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board	SCDC offices, Cambourne
17 Oct	1330	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
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.