

# Monthly report for parish and community councils Sept 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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## Full Council meeting

There was no meeting of Full Council in September.

## Committee meetings and other council matters

It's been a full month for committee meetings.

Adults: there were no key decisions. In other items it reviewed plans to reduce DTOCs where CCC is a key player in enabling people to leave hospital. Strangely it also 'approved' the Better Care Fund plan even though it was meeting some days after the plan was already submitted (see also H&WBB comments below).

Children & Young People: there were no key decisions. In fact there appeared to be little of substance on the agenda. The committee received several 'monitoring' reports.

Commercial & Investment: there were three key decisions. The first related to a proposal to package the Council's existing cleaning, grounds maintenance and arboriculture services for a forthcoming tender. During discussion it became clear that this would only be one option, companies could continue to bid for just one service. That necessitated a change to the recommendation which had implied only a single outcome. The other two set the precedent for the transfer of properties with planning permission to Cambridgeshire Housing & Investment Company for development. That's perfectly in order but it did raise the question as to when the projects themselves were approved by councillors. Later I attempted to get a public debate going about the Cottenham project which has just been rejected by South Cambs planning. My request to do that was denied so I am not able to say what CCC is going to do next. Go to <http://wp.me/p7tuu7-1HC> for my take on this.

Environment & Economy: there were no key decisions.

General Purposes Committee: there was only one key decision relating to the integrated resources and performance report. Two expected key decisions, one relating to the use of assistive technology in the care of older people and the other about the renegotiation of the Council's waste PFI contract did not feature. A transformation project to reduce the number of people with learning disabilities being cared for out of county was approved.

Communities & Partnerships: has not met and will not meet in September

Health: there was one key decision viz the approval of the Healthy Weight Strategy. It's perfectly good but it's a little weak regarding 'what exactly will we do?'. There was also an excellent update on the Council's Suicide Prevention Strategy later in the meeting.

Highways & Community Infrastructure: there were no key decisions and another very thin agenda.

Note that there is an ongoing exercise to develop ideas for the future of CCC libraries. It's not a formal consultation but there are public workshops. I have attended one. There's to be another at StAC, Tue 26 Sep at 1830

Planning: there was nothing on the agenda relating to this division however it was reported that the provision of additional temporary classrooms at Histon Junior School had been approved by Officers using delegated powers.

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The Health & Well Being Board met just for the purpose of approving the Better Care Fund plan. I attended as a substitute but I abstained on the vote because there was insufficient information in the papers to enable me to take an informed decision. Needless to say everyone else voted in favour. This is disappointingly a common occurrence with Councillors often voting on party lines even though they really don't have sufficient information upon which to take an informed position.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly and the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Executive Board both met. It is still in talking shop mode and although it's pressing ahead to look at busway options for Cambridge to Cambourne you've got to suspect that it's being overtaken by other options and other players.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met twice. At its first meeting it rejected its scrutiny committee's criticism of the Mayor's allowance and the cost of the Mayor's administration. At its second meeting it agreed to go ahead with the Cambridge Northern Fringe East bid which will attract funding to support the building of 7600 new homes.

I attended the open meeting this week (Tue 5 Sep 17) at the Cambridge Rugby Club where the Mayor spoke. He was remarkably bullish about light rail. Of the other speakers only Edward Leigh of Smarter Cambridge talked practical sense.

The Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel met with quite a meaty agenda and has, perhaps as a result of my prompting, published its decision summary. It decided to slap the wrist of the Police & Crime Commissioner for pursuing the idea of taking over the Fire Authority with undue haste. It recommended the establishment of a focus group of key players in order to work out the best way forward.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority did not meet.

### 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 <a href="http://bit.ly/2tbZBhp">http://bit.ly/2tbZBhp</a>
Adult drug and alcohol treatment service	To explore new and innovative models of treatment provision to meet current need	9 Oct 17 <a href="http://bit.ly/2wXCY4A">http://bit.ly/2wXCY4A</a>

There is also, strangely, an on-line survey about Real Time Passenger Information for buses at <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/RTPIsurvey/>. It closes 18 Sep 17.

### More local matters

I attended the Children's Centre drop-in session at the Early Years Centre. I was outnumbered by officers who assured me that nothing has been decided yet ...

I joined the chairs of H&I and Cottenham parish councils and the county councillor for Cottenham to review options to address bus services and congestion issues along the B1049

I met Officers to move the H&I projects to improve traffic flows at the Green forward

I've established a good line of communication to ensure that Greater Cambridge Partnership developments do not proceed to the disadvantage of Histon & Impington and Orchard Park

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**And finally** .... I'm just back from three weeks in Australia. You can't pick and choose of course but there are so many good features to life down under that I'm not surprised that people should want to live there. This time I was impressed by the integration of rail and bus transport, by the way that new developments get utilities and adopted roads before housing starts being built, by the generous funding of the arts and learning and by the high quality of the facilities provided for the public at their national parks. There are negatives too of course and I couldn't help but notice that it's still a car led society and that housing developments don't provide much in terms of private open space.

Australia also has a well-funded police force as well which is why my son lives there and as he drove us to the airport to return home we saw it in action when two cars were in collision at a road junction in front of us. One sped off but my son followed him to get his car number. This was reported to the officers who attended the accident and we've heard since that they arrested the driver who they found to be well over the drink driving limit. I guess that's what you'd call a result!

### Diary (next public meetings)

5 Oct	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
10 Oct	1000	Highways & Community Infrastructure	Shire Hall, Cambridge
10 Oct	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
12 Oct	1000	Economy & Environment Committee	Share Hall, Cambridge
12 Oct	1400	Adults and Wellbeing Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
17 Oct	1330	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
19 Oct	1400	*Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
20 Oct	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
24 Oct	1400	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
25 Oct	1000	C&P Combined Authority	Guildhall, Cambridge
26 Oct	1000	Communities & Partnership	Shire Hall, Cambridge
26 Oct	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Hinchingbrooke Park
15 Nov	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Peterborough Town Hall
15 Nov	1400	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	Shire Hall, Cambridge
22 Nov	1600	Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board	SCDC offices, Cambourne
23 Nov	1000	Health & Wellbeing Board	Shire Hall, Cambridge

\*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).