

# Monthly report for parish and community councils October 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 a full agenda for this month's meeting and the highlight was the multiple public questions, a petition and the resulting debate all related to plans to restructure the way that the Council delivers children's services. The Council's plan is ambitious but is being presented with no regard to what it's likely to deliver, the related consultation has been superficial and no consideration has been given to alternatives. The plan was approved (Tories for, everyone else against). I blogged about the proposed change early in the summer (<https://wp.me/p7tuu7-1Ec>). There were also four motions including one from Labour asking for a commitment not to reduce spending on children's services which was unsurprisingly defeated (Tories against, everyone else for). Go to <https://wp.me/p7tuu7-1IA> for my narrative of the day as it happened.

## Committee meetings and other council matters

Adults: did not meet. Note that at its November meeting it will be looking to increase the charges for services under its Fairer Contributions Policy.

Children & Young People: there was one key decision relating to an education strategy for St Neots which is Cambridge's fastest growing town. It also reviewed current free school applications one of which is the Cavendish Special School at IVC. Note that this is being brought forward by the Morris Education Trust. I am a trustee with specific responsibility for overseeing the its development.

Commercial & Investment: there was one key decision relating to the sale of the Milton Road library site to the Cambridgeshire Housing & Investment Company (CHIC) which will develop it. There was one rather unsatisfactory decision relating to the Centre for Research and Engagement in Arts, Technology and Education (CREATE) project whereby the committee basically reversed a decision made by the Children's committee. I reckon it acted *ultra vires* and am perusing an investigation. Check out <https://wp.me/p7tuu7-1IZ>. It could also be argued that this should have been a key decision and highlighted as such on the agenda. The committee did however get one thing right: it agreed that the agenda item regarding the project programme should be addressed in public! I'll take some credit for that, check out <https://wp.me/p7tuu7-1IU>. That meant that its deliberations regarding the Cottenham project would no longer take place in private. I proposed that the project be paused. My motion was defeated with the Tories voting en masse against it.

Environment & Economy: there was one key decision related to the County's Transport Investment Plan. This includes the planned works to improve Histon Road, a footpath across the NIAB land connecting Villa Road to Girton and Darwin Green, the junction improvements on the B1049 by Histon Green, bus priority measures at the New Road/B1049 junction and an umbrella project to improve walking and cycling routes to IVC.

General Purposes Committee: there was only one key decision relating to the integrated resources and performance report. It removed a previously planned future agenda item relating to CREATE despite its previous commitment to set up a councillor task force to work with officers to support the project. Note that I shall be meeting the Chief Exec to bottom this early in November.

Communities & Partnerships: there were no key decisions. There was an agenda item 'ORAL UPDATES FROM AREA CHAMPIONS'. The Area Champion for South Cambs did not report.

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Health: there were no key decisions.

Highways & Community Infrastructure: there were no key decisions and another very thin agenda. Note that at its meeting this month it will be looking to cancel parking charges at the P&R sites and to introduce residents' parking schemes in Cambridge (see the consultation below).

Planning: there was nothing on the agenda relating to this division. Note that the proposed redevelopment of Histon Junior School will be on the December agenda.

Health & Well Being Board: did not meet.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly did not meet. However the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Executive Board met and has agreed to support further development of a 'modified do max' project as recommended by the Local Liaison Forum (LLF) for Histon Road. It also agreed to extend its scope to include the run down from the A14 and the King's Hedges Road junction. The LLF will meet this Monday (6 Nov 17) to move this project forward. I shall be attending.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met and agreed its priority transport schemes. None of these relate to this division; there does seem to be a bias towards the north of the county. It also considered current problems at the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership and seems keen to absorb it within its own remit. I'm not sure that's such a good idea.

The Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority did not meet.

## Consultations relevant to this division

Consultation	Purpose	Due date and link
Residents' parking schemes in Cambridge	To explore attitudes to resident's parking schemes in four parts of Cambridge	4 Dec 17 <a href="http://bit.ly/2gzZaIY">http://bit.ly/2gzZaIY</a>
Annual consultation of Admission Arrangements for admission in 2019/20	To consult on the Council's plans regarding proposed changes to school admission arrangements.	15 Dec 17 <a href="http://bit.ly/2zxTLO3">http://bit.ly/2zxTLO3</a>

There's also a continuing consultation at <http://bit.ly/2zkDdbr> regarding national constituency boundaries. The proposals don't do us any good. We remain locked with Ely and much of East Cambs and split from the rest of South Cambs. The map is strange. The consultation closes 11 Dec 17.

## More local matters

I joined County and Parish officers and councillors to review proposals to improve traffic flows and safety at the B1049 junction by Histon Green.

I met an Orchard Park resident with his carer to look at civic pride issues along King's Hedges Road and the Busway.

I met County officers to review plans for Histon library in the light of the new landlord's plans. Both the landlord and the officers are committed to supporting the library in its present location.

I have agreed with officers to review plans for the reshaping of children's services in Histon & Impington before they get fixed. They have confirmed that there are currently no plans to move services to south of the A14.

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**And finally** .... There's a trend which troubles me. It's the one that sees people taking the position that if they are in the minority then they don't need to worry about the views of the minority. It's no limited to the County Council although it's seen there but it's what's driven all this Brexit trouble, it seems to be behind the polarisation of politics in the US and now most recently it's seen in Catalonia where there doesn't seem to be any desire for the Catalan separatists to engage with those who prefer to remain a part of Spain or for them to even discuss some sort of consensus with the national government. When I went on my parish council chairs training I was 'told' that a good chair (1) looks to forge consensus; and (2) doesn't vote him/herself. It's what I did when I was chair of the Health Com and it's what I remember happening at the County Council before we had our period of 'enlightened' committee behaviour. It troubles me because it means we're not exploring the best options and we're making decisions on purely political grounds with insufficient regard for what's good for the County and its residents.

### Diary (next public meetings)

2 Nov	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
14 Nov	1000	Highways & Community Infrastructure	Shire Hall, Cambridge
14 Nov	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
15 Nov	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Hinchingbrooke Park
15 Nov	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Peterborough Town Hall
16 Nov	1400	*Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
17 Nov	1400	Adults and Wellbeing Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
22 Nov	1400	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	Shire Hall, Cambridge
23 Nov	1000	Health & Wellbeing Board	Shire Hall, Cambridge
24 Nov	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
28 Nov	1400	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
29 Nov	1000	C&P Combined Authority	Guildhall, Cambridge
30 Nov	1000	Communities & Partnership	Shire Hall, Cambridge
7 Dec	1000	Economy & Environment Committee	Share Hall, Cambridge
12 Dec	1330	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
18 Jan	1600	Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board	SCDC offices, Cambourne

\*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).