

Monthly report for parish and community councils November 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

Full Council did not meet in November.

Committee meetings and other council matters

Adults: there were no key decisions. However it did consider 'changes to the fairer contributions policy' and has resolved to consult on a set of changes which will increase the Council's income. It also 'noted' the recent deterioration in Delayed Transfer of Care for which it is responsible.

Children & Young People: there were no key decisions. The committee supported two trusts for new primary schools.

Commercial & Investment: there was one key decision whereby it supported the establishment of a Limited Company to enable ESPO (the Eastern Shire's Purchasing Organisation) to continue to be successful. However this support is conditional on the submission of an appropriate business plan. Not that too often papers are coming to this committee, which is supposed to bring a business like approach to the Council's decisions, without a proper business case.

Note also that following the CREATE (Centre for Research and Engagement in Arts, Technology and Education) decision earlier I have had several meetings with County officers about it, how it was made and the role of this committee versus others. I met the Chief Exec to work out how to take this forward and will present a motion at December's meeting of Full Council.

Environment & Economy and Communities & Partnerships: did not meet.

General Purposes Committee: there was only one key decision which related to transformation fund projects. However there was one other decision which deserves note viz the one relating to the cost overrun on the Agresso project at LGSS (Local Government Shared Services). LGSS officers, including the Chief Exec, presented the report without reference to the details of a highly critical consultants report and no clear action plan as to how they would contain the overrun.

Health: there was a key decision about retendering the Healthy Schools Support Service. However although it was agreed to set up a Members Task Force to reconsider its content this was not reflected in the decision summary although it is in the action log. The decision to convene an air quality conference was similarly treated.

Highways & Community Infrastructure: there were two key decisions. The first was taken in private and related to the award of the new Real Time Passenger Information contract. The second covered a range of parking charges issues including the removal of the £1 charge for parking at P&R sites. This was an ineptly introduced policy and has been counter-productive. Remarkably the cost of this change will be 50% met by the Greater Cambridge Partnership. This is hardly what this money is intended to be used for ...

Planning: there was nothing on the agenda relating to this division. Note that the proposed redevelopment of Histon Junior School will not be on the December agenda because it will be handled by officers under delegated powers. The good news is that there will be measures included to improve footways along Station Road.

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Health & Well Being Board: this committee ran a workshop (a stakeholder event) on the county's health and well-being strategy. Cast of thousands. It will be interesting to see the output.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly and the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Executive Board both met and 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 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met. Its one key decision was to undertake a bus review to help it to develop a bus strategy. However it's perhaps good to note more public airing of the idea of light rail and trams and of a limited underground scheme for Cambridge.

The Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority both met. There do not appear to have been any significant decisions.

Consultations relevant to this division

Consultation	Purpose	Due date and link
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 http://bit.ly/2zxTLO3
Spending on your services 2018/19	To seek views to help Members plan the budget next year and to understand more about the quality of life in the County	15 Dec 17 http://bit.ly/2jD3uck
Parent and Carer views of Autism support	To gather the views of parents and carers of children and young people with Autism	31 Dec 17 http://bit.ly/2A5AGzE
Fairer contributions policy (see above under Adults)	The Council is holding a consultation on four proposed changes to the Fairer Contributions Policy	23 Feb 18 http://bit.ly/2BQgPoz

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 attended a meeting of Histon Road Local Liaison Forum. This group has been successful in securing support for improving safety for cyclists and others along the road.

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 participated (and chaired) several meetings relating to the 'leakages' at the Station Road service station.

I met officers to review plans for the reshaping of children's services in Histon & Impington before they get fixed. It's good news. Check out <https://wp.me/p7tuu7-1Kp>.

I met officers to review Busway issues in Orchard Park. Check out <https://wp.me/p7tuu7-1Ll>. Sadly the common sense outcome doesn't seem possible because of national regulations.

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And finally I've been 'back home' twice since my last month's report. That's home as in Flintshire. I grew up in a town called Connah's Quay which had some pride in those days but sadly what had been a vibrant if polluted high street now features several boarded-up pubs and shops. There were grand buildings housing banks and other businesses supporting what had been a thriving port but the banks have now moved on and the businesses which have replaced them have, let's say, less substance. I went to school in Hawarden, to the grammar school, in the days of course of selective education and only 10% of us going on to university. Hawarden's faring better than Connah's Quay, the school is still there, but although its centre still sports Gladstone's Library and two excellent pubs a third is being converted into flats and it has the feel of a community being 'hollowed out'. Lots of housing on the perimeter but slow decline in the centre.

Diary (next public meetings)

5 Dec	1000	Highways & Community Infrastructure	Shire Hall, Cambridge
5 Dec	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
7 Dec	1400	Adults and Wellbeing Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
7 Dec	1000	Economy & Environment Committee	Share Hall, Cambridge
12 Dec	1330	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
14 Dec	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
14 Dec	1400	*Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
15 Dec	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
19 Dec	1400	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
20 Dec	1000	C&P Combined Authority	Guildhall, Cambridge
21 Dec	1000	Communities & Partnership	Shire Hall, Cambridge
18 Jan	1400	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	Shire Hall, Cambridge
31 Jan	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Peterborough Town Hall
1 Feb	1000	Health & Wellbeing Board	Shire Hall, Cambridge
7 Feb	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Hinchingbrooke Park
8 Feb	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.