

Monthly report for parish and community councils January 2018

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 January. However because it met early in February (6 Feb 18) and as this was the important budget meeting this report also covers that meeting. [Click here](#) for my account. It was a disappointing meeting notable largely for the Tories agreeing to raise council tax by the 2.99% allowed. However we did have the bonus of prayers from Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury and now Master of Magdalene.

Committee meetings and other council matters

Adults: there were no key decisions. However it did consider the consultation (see below) on 'proposed changes to the fairer contributions policy'. There's some concern that the proposed changes themselves are not that 'fair'.

Children & Young People: there were two key decisions. In its first the committee seemed to endorse a 'have your cake and eat it' approach to retendering the home to school transport contracts. In its second it considered the draft business case for improving outcomes for children in care while reducing overall costs. The driver for this transformation would be significant recruitments of new foster parents.

Commercial & Investment: there were no key decisions. The committee started to consider 'outcome focused reviews' which are a quality management approach to 'business' performance.

Environment & Economy: there was one key decision in which it delegated the award of a new 5-year contract for Busway grounds maintenance to the Executive Director.

Communities & Partnerships: this committee did not meet. However it appears that this committee is starting to run 'workshops' in alternate months at which policy seems to be 'developed'. Sounds like the Policy Development Groups of old and their association with 'secret meetings'.

General Purposes Committee: there was one key decision relating to the Integrated Resources & Performance Report which was largely procedural. However item 6 Business Plan 2018-19 to 2022-2023 was, inter alia, about making the recommendation for council tax increase for next year. Remarkably the Tories seem to have cottoned on to the notion that the money's running out and have now agreed to raise council tax for 2018/19 by the allowed amount viz 2.99%. This was supported by all parties. The 2.99% will plug the gap identified by officers and the Tories decided to put the balance, some £3.7million into reserves. By contrast the Lib Dems and Labour proposed using it to repair the damage to services done by previous year's cuts.

Health: there were no key decisions. In its scrutiny role it reviewed the recent Ombudsman's report into a tragic eating disorder fatality some years ago. The father of the person who died was present and spoke movingly about a tragedy which simply should not have happened.

Highways & Community Infrastructure: there was just one key decision in which the committee delegated responsibility for awarding a new clinical waste disposal contract to the Executive Director.

Planning and Health & Well Being Board: these committees did not meet.

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The Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly met and considered the Ely to Cambridge A10 Transport Study. It supported its recommendations which now go to the Board and then, at least in part, onto the GCP. The scope of this study includes feeder and parallel roads to the A10. These include Butt Lane and the B1049 respectively so we need to watch it. Worryingly there's also talk of an alternative option connecting the M11 with the A47 and it's difficult to see how that might be routed. The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Executive Board did not meet.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met. Rather bizarrely it considered, as a key decision, 'Mass Rapid Transport –Strategic Options Assessment' the papers for which were not issued in a timely fashion despite them being leaked earlier in the month. It's a bit of a pet project of the Mayor and recommends the development of a transport system based on 'trams on wheels' with tunnels, the CAM or Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro.

The Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel met and agreed to raise its precept by £1/month equivalent to about 6%. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority did not meet.

Consultations relevant to this division

Consultation	Purpose	Due date and link
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

More local matters

I met County Officers at the Boot in Histon to understand how the new development might or might not impact on local drainage.

I met Parish Councillors and officers to review options for a Local Highways Improvements bid.

I participated in another meeting relating to the 'leakages' at the Station Road service station. This time it was on site and all parties attended a meeting to agree next steps.

I joined local campaigners in a meeting with County officers responsible for car share initiatives.

I met Parish Councillors and County officers to look at opportunities to improve cycle routes within Histon & Impington. In a similar meeting we looked at options to improve traffic flows and safety at the B1049 cross roads by the Green.

I met Parish Councillors and Stagecoach management at the Guided Bus to look at access issues during the morning rush hour.

I met local campaigners to discuss a petition related to the Citi8 bus service

And finally we had a little light early morning chaos on Histon High Street during the month as the gas board had to set up traffic controls to enable it to connect the new Boot kitchens. Monday was dreadful with queues down Park Lane, unfortunate driver behaviour at the crossing by the Green and lots of grumbles in HI People. But during the week it sorted itself out. The people running the lights got a bit smarter, drivers learnt how to behave and parents recognised that when the lights are green it's worth letting the cars through. By Friday you'd almost think the traffic controls were a good thing! Which they were of course because this weekend the new Boot opened, on time and to seemingly universal approval.

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Diary (next public meetings)

5 Dec	1000	Highways & Community Infrastructure	Shire Hall, Cambridge
8 Jan	1000	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
10 Jan	1400	Adults and Wellbeing Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
10 Jan	1000	Economy & Environment Committee	Share Hall, Cambridge
1 Feb	1000	Health & Wellbeing Board	Shire Hall, Cambridge
5 Feb	1030	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
7 Feb	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Hinchingbrooke Park
8 Feb	1400	*Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
8 Feb	1600	Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board	SCDC offices, Cambourne
13 Feb	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
14 Feb	1000	C&P Combined Authority	Shire Hall, Cambridge
15 Feb	1000	Communities & Partnership	Shire Hall, Cambridge
22 Feb	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
23 Feb	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
27 Feb	1000	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
28 Feb	1400	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	Shire Hall, Cambridge
14 Mar	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Peterborough Town Hall

*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.