

Monthly report for parish and community councils March 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

There was a second in a row full council meeting. There were several motions, it was rather bad tempered at times and it went on too long. [Click here](#) for my account. I proposed a motion to get the Council to be honest about the problems with its highways spend. Sadly the Tories blocked it. Go to <https://bit.ly/2pSAssf> for my opinion of that. A resident also presented the Citi8 bus petition with a sadly inadequate Council response.

Committee meetings and other council matters

Adults: after a quiet period there were a bunch of key decisions. These relate to the 'floating support service', the 'visiting support service for older people' and the 'mental health recovery and community inclusion service'.

Children & Young People: there were no key decisions.

General Purposes: The GPC met twice. The first was a one off to approve borrowing powers for the Combined Authority. At the second there were two key decisions. The first was its regular review of finance and performance and the second related to the procurement of insurance.

Commercial & Investment: There was one key decision but sadly taken in private again. However there's enough information in the public domain to say that it resulted in the transfer of £40million worth of property to This Land without due process having been followed. [Click here](#) for my opinion.

Environment & Economy: there was one key decision viz to comment on the Wintringham Park planning application. This relates to a development east of and adjacent to St Neots and is for 2800 houses. I attended as a sub and made the point that we should factor in a sensible public transport link between St Neots and Cambridge via Cambourne etc at the same time.

Health: there was one key decision but again a rather thin agenda. The key decision related to the joint procurement (for both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) of adult drug and alcohol treatment services. There was also a disappointing presentation on NHS dentistry however it did result in the recommendation that 'the Director of Public Health to (sic) monitor the development of Section 106 agreements related to large developments including Northstowe where there is money allocated for primary health care and to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the provision of dental health facilities'. That makes a change from simply 'noting reports' which is all many committees do.

Highways & Community Infrastructure: there were two key decisions. In the first it agreed a new strategy for road safety. This highlighted 'black spots' but unfortunately ignored the risks coming from poorly maintained roads and zebra crossings and white lining not being refreshed. The second related to the Council's Highway Asset Management policy, strategy and standards. The standards document is illuminating and forecasts that less than 50% of the county's will be green rated in 2022. [Click here](#) for my thoughts on that!

At month end I met with the top officer responsible for these matters and he confirmed that at present the Council is effectively 'managing the decline' of the standard of our roads.

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The committee also reviewed and approved the recent round of Local Highways Initiative proposals. Unfortunately Histon & Impington missed out but subsequently another pot of money has been found so the second phase of the Baptist Church project can now go ahead.

Communities & Partnerships, Planning, Health & Well Being Board: did not meet

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly did not meet. In February it largely covered ground which was later covered by the Exec in March. The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Executive Board approved the Histon Road cycling and bus improvements scheme. This is broadly good news but includes the paragraph:

- **Darwin Green** - The Darwin Green junction will be delivered by the developers and has already gone through a significant planning process. Officers are continuing the dialogue with the consultants/developers to ensure that the final design fits well with and follows the general principles of the proposed Histon Road scheme.

That sounds like 'fingers crossed' we'll get that sorted otherwise we'll get something really silly.

The GCP Exec Board also considered expansions to the Girton M11/A14 junction and options for demand management in Cambridge and implications for air pollution.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met and had what you might call a full meeting. Certainly it's difficult to adequately summarise it in a couple of sentences. It agreed the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Strategic Spatial Framework, it defined its key transport 'interventions' and it made available pots of funding for affordable housing projects. It seems to be doing and spending a lot with some speed but it's a little detached from democratic challenge.

The Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel met but neither the decision summary nor minutes have been published. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority did not meet.

Consultations relevant to this division

Consultation	Purpose	Due date and link
There are no current consultations!		

More local matters

The big news is the big tree fell that took place at the A14/B1049 junction. I pulled in the A14 team (Highways England and its contractors) to a public event and to face the Parish Council and subsequently have put together a task force to address several work streams. <https://bit.ly/2pTGfxT>.

I met the Police Inspector responsible for community policing and he proposed setting up a working group to address community development in Orchard Park. This has since been signed off by the Community Council.

I met the person responsible for primary care at the Clinical Commissioning Group to explore options for a medical centre in Histon and to confirm sufficient GP capacity to serve Orchard Park.

I attended the Histon Road Local Liaison Forum and subsequently met GCP officers to review details.

I attended Orchard Park Community Council and Histon & Impington Parish Council meetings.

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And finally I missed the first of the two GPC meetings this month but I reckon I had a good excuse. At the time I was recovering from a general anaesthetic in the BUPA hospital in Impington. There's an account of my experience at <https://bit.ly/2pUJunS>. I don't often miss committee meetings and it got me thinking. What exactly is my attendance record? I'm on 4 committees including Council itself and have attended 30 out of 33 meetings during the current municipal year. There's more information about my council activity at <https://bit.ly/2IhUcMW>. Some councillors aren't on any committees and some don't turn up that often. I reckon that's not a fair return for the allowance which they get.

Diary (next public meetings)

11 Apr	1000	Economy & Environment Committee	Share Hall, Cambridge
11 Apr	1400	*Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
16 Apr	1000	Highways & Community Infrastructure	Shire Hall, Cambridge
16 Apr	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
18 Apr	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
18 Apr	1400	Adults and Wellbeing Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
25 Apr	1000	C&P Combined Authority	SCDC, Cambourne
25 Apr	1000	Communities & Partnership	Shire Hall, Cambridge
26 Apr	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
30 Apr	1000	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
14 May	1030	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
30 May	1000	Health & Wellbeing Board	Shire Hall, Cambridge
13 Jun	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Peterborough Town Hall
14 Jun	1400	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	Shire Hall, Cambridge
21 Jun	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Hinchingbrooke Park
4 Jul	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 https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccc_live/Meetings.aspx. Shaded dates are reserve.