

County councillor's monthly report for July 2019

For the Histon and Impington (H&I) county council division of Cambridgeshire which also includes King's Meadow and Orchard Park.

As expected: a busy month but although there were lots of meetings there wasn't much substantive business being discussed. You've got to wonder why there are so many meetings with their attendant special allowances and their drain on officer time.

Full Council meeting

[Click here](#) for my account of July's full council meeting. It wasn't a great meeting with little substantive business although I did propose a motion regarding progress towards a more rational form of local government. [Click here](#) for my thinking about it. There was a public question from an Extinction Rebellion guy about car free days in Cambridge which I thought got a rather dismissive response. [Click here](#) for my thinking which is a little more positive.

Committee meetings and other council matters

Adults: there were no key decisions. One agenda item, related to The Haven (mental health supported accommodation for older people), was discussed in secret and without access to the papers it's difficult to understand the significance of the published decision.

Children & Young People: there were no key decisions

Economy & Environment: there were no key decisions. The committee responded to a number of consultation including the one for dualling the A428 beyond Caxton Gibbett.

General Purposes: there were no key decision. There was another secret agenda item 'Commercial Property Acquisition Proposal – Property Located in Cambridge (CB5)'. The decisions statement says that the officer recommendation was agreed but of course I can't tell you what the recommendation was or whether the agreement was unanimous.

Health: there was one key decision viz to agree the novation of the contract for drug and alcohol treatment from Change Grow Live to its subsidiary Change Grow Live Services which hardly seems like the stuff of big decisions.

Highways & Infrastructure: there were no key decisions. Of all the meetings during July this one seemed to have the thinnest agenda and surely it should be merged with Economy & Environment given the overlap between the two committees respective terms of reference.

Communities & Partnerships: there were no key decisions. Note that I am a sub on this committee and attended in that role for the first time. At the meeting I declined to support a report on housing and homelessness and as a result it was sent back for a rewrite. There was also talk about yet another geographic structure aligned to primary care networks and overseen by delivery boards.

Commercial & Investment: there were two key decisions relating to utilities procurement. There was also the usual secret item, this time it related to Cambridge Outdoors and it was resolved to keep all three locations open which is good news. These centres contribute to better life chances for the people who use them and significant long term cost savings to society in general.

Planning: This committee approved the application for Buxhall Farm primary school. However because this is in the Green Belt it had to be referred to the Secretary of State who has indicated that he/she does not wish to intervene. So that's it. Histon & Impington will have its new school.

County councillor's monthly report for July 2019

For the Histon and Impington (H&I) county council division of Cambridgeshire which also includes King's Meadow and Orchard Park.

There remain some concerns about water run off towards Garden Walk and about access and I will ensure that these are addressed.

Neither the [Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive](#) nor the [Assembly](#) met.

The [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority](#) met. There was a heavy agenda with three affordable £100 million housing schemes in Peterborough (bit of a coincidence) and the shareholder agreement of the Housing Development Company, more on the Cambridge Autonomous Metro and a response to the A428 dualling consultation. There's also a 'Vision for Nature' and four recommendations from the Business Board for rubber stamping.

The [Health & Well Being Board](#) did not meet although there was a meeting in the calendar.

The [Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel](#) did not meet. However there was an extraordinary meeting of the [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority](#) met to consider its response to the judicial review of the proposed takeover of the Fire Authority by the Police & Crime Commissioner.

Consultations relevant to this division (and elsewhere)

Consultation	Purpose/object	Due date and link
There are two current consultations but have no relevance to Histon & Impington.		

More local matters

Not only do we have the path alongside the Guideway closed through the summer but we've also lost the northwest cycle/pedestrian approach to the B1049/A14 roundabout. It's been incredibly badly managed and I've engaged on site and with senior A14 management in person in Swavesey. [Click here](#) for my view of where we are.

I attended the meeting of the Histon Road local liaison forum and heard of plans for a 66 week inbound road closure. There are good reasons for accepting this but we need to ensure that safe two way cycle and pedestrian access is maintained and that the final solution includes the run up to the A14 across the Darwin Green and Kings Hedges Road junctions.

I joined Orchard Park councillors and representatives from Cambridge Regional College to review joint programs to tackle litter and unwanted parking. I attended a subsequent meeting attended by the PCSO to review measures to build community coherence.

I joined representatives of HI Trees in a very cordial meeting with A14 senior management to review plans for restoring the land between the Holiday Inn and the B1049/A14.

I met our local highways officer together with parish councillors onsite to review plans for 'resurfacing' Park Lane and to get immediate attention to a number of other issues

I met county officers to review plans for Histon Library. I attended a subsequent meeting involving parish councillors and representatives of the Histon Library Friends to plan both the new library and our transition to it.

The work to improve safety and traffic flows at the B1049 cross roads by the Green were completed just one day late. So far they seem to be working as intended but until we get into the new school term and winter traffic patterns we will not know.

County councillor's monthly report for July 2019

For the Histon and Impington (H&I) county council division of Cambridgeshire which also includes King's Meadow and Orchard Park.

And finally ... I can't imagine that other communities get quite as much road work disruption as we do in Histon & Impington. As I write this I can reflect on the completion of the works at the Rose & Crown junction, I see the work to improve the pavements in Station Road is underway and the 'resurfacing' of Park Lane and a Parish Council sponsored project to improve footpaths are about to start. Add in remedial work by Cadent on their gas main along Cambridge Road, the inevitable disruption from the A14 activity, and a small job to run a fibre optic connection underground in front of the Co-Op and its clear that we're at least getting our 'fair' share. My view is that it reflects the broad level of activity within our community, we seem to have ever increasing entropy and all this work is simply a consequence of it. We may not like it but our community would be a good deal poorer without it, or to be more precise without the causes of it.

8 Aug	1000	Communities & Partnership	Shire Hall, Cambridge
8 Aug	1400	Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
15 Aug	1000	Economy & Environment Committee	Whittlesey
5 Sep	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
10 Sep	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
10 Sep	1000	Highways & Community Infrastructure	Shire Hall, Cambridge
11 Sep	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	HDC office, Huntingdon
12 Sep	1400	Adults Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
12 Sep	1400	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	Shire Hall, Cambridge
13 Sep	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
24 Sep	1000	Health & Wellbeing Board	Shire Hall, Cambridge
25 Sep	1000	C&P Combined Authority	Council Chamber, March
26 Sep	1000	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
3 Oct	1600	Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board	SCDC offices, Cambourne
15 Oct	1030	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
7 Nov	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Hinchingbrooke Park

*committees of which I am currently a member; these may change. Note that the Council's diary is online https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccc_live/Meetings.aspx.