

County councillor's monthly report for June 2020

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

If anything the Council is settling into a rhythm with monthly meetings of all committees but with limited agendas because of the perceived need keep themselves up to date with regard to Covid-19. It makes for a lot of repetition and not a small amount of boredom. There was no meeting of Full Council during June.

Committee meetings and other council matters

Most committees met but some didn't discuss anything substantive and just met to get their respective Covid updates. Such Committees were the Health, Adults and Children & Young People.

General Purposes: there was a thin agenda but the excitement of a secret item about the Guided Bus. That's a story that goes on and on.

Highways & Transport: the committee met and made the decisions to commence improvements to the A10/A142 roundabout (on the Ely bypass) and to halt work on the St Neots northern foot and cycle bridge because it is no longer perceived to deliver value for money.

Communities & Partnerships: this committee met and approved further funding from the Communities Capital Fund.

Commercial & Investment: there was a little refreshing democratic fresh air in addition to the regular secret session. Regarding the former it was proposed by the Chair that the member attending This Land board meetings be selected by rotation within the committee. It was further agreed regarding the secret item related to the acquisition of the St Ives industrial unit to support the relocation of the Library Service that the committee should address financial matters only and that the suitability of the site was for the Communities & Partnership Committee to sort out. I can't of course report on what was discussed at the secret session but I can report that the software failed again and so the meeting had to be adjourned to resume some days later. [Click here](#) for my summary.

Environment & Sustainability: there was one key decision regarding the management of the Council's Renewable Heating Fund. The committee also set up an internal advisory group for 'green project investments' which mercifully is to be cross party.

The Planning committee did not meet. It has not met since Oct 19 and its next meeting has been (again and again) pushed back to Jul 20.

Both the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive and the Assembly met. The former decided in favour of several investments to support the Cambridge South East Transport Scheme, it choose the option to be implemented for the Madingly Road walking and cycling project, endorsed the preferred site for the Foxton travel hub and approved several 'greenways' investments. Most important though it was noted that the Government had announced that the GCP had passed its Gateway Review and would receive up to a further £400m in funding.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met and, inter alia, agreed to go ahead with a 'heavy rail' connection to Wisbech and to surrender the lease of the Alconbury site and to approve the payment of £151K in respect of the cost of the surrender. So that's what happens to our public money. Its Overview & Scrutiny and Housing & Communities Committees also met.

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The [Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel](#) met with a single item agenda regarding 'monitoring the delivery of the acting Police & Crime Commissioner's response to Covid-19 crisis (sic)'. Note that it has resumed its habit of not posting the date of its next meeting.

The [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority](#) met with a largely administrative agenda.

The [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health & Wellbeing Board](#) met with a single item agenda viz the PCC CCC local outbreak control plan. It's a comprehensive and well-presented document. Go to <https://bit.ly/2NZggZ0> to access a copy.

Consultations relevant to this division (and elsewhere)

Consultation	Purpose/object	Due date and link
There are no currently active consultations		

More local matters

I met officers on-site to inspect road works on Histon Road and to observe a spring in Spring Close (the clue is in the name).

I spent several fruitless hours trying to get some action to resolve deficiencies in the provision for cyclists and pedestrians at the B1049/A14 junction. [Click here](#) for my opinion.

And finally ... I guess we've all got into different habits to use up our enforced free time at home during lockdown and it's easy to get sucked into tasks which all of a sudden take longer because there's time available or to spend time on peripheral stuff which isn't what you intended to do in the first place. I've been using my extra time for two purposes. Firstly I've been developing a little more expertise in Photoshop. It's incredibly powerful software and you can use it to transform photographs. I try to limit my use of it to correcting my shortcomings in framing the shot and setting the exposure and to compensating for the inability of the camera itself to expose simultaneously for shadows and highlights. [Click here](#) for a relevant post.

And secondly I've been doing a little light archiving. I've got maybe 15 years of digital photography with limited archiving and I'm slowly trying to knock it into shape. It's a slow process but I'm getting there and it's good to be reminded of what I've been up to during this time.

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Diary (next public meetings)

2 Jul	1400	Adults Committee	Virtual meeting
2 Jul	1000	Communities & Partnership	Virtual meeting
7 Jul	1000	Highways & Transport	Virtual meeting
7 Jul	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Virtual meeting
9 Jul	1400	Health Committee	Virtual meeting
9 Jul	1000	Environment & Sustainability Committee	Virtual meeting
10 Jul	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Virtual meeting
14 Jul	1000	*General Purposes Committee	Virtual meeting
21 Jul	1030	Full Council	Virtual meeting
30 Jul	1000	Planning Committee	Virtual meeting
5 Aug	1000	C&P Combined Authority	Virtual meeting
10 Sep	1000	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	Virtual meeting
1 Oct	1600	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Virtual meeting
29 Oct	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Virtual meeting
26 Nov	1000	C&P Health & Wellbeing Board	Virtual meeting
TBA	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Virtual meeting

*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.