

County councillor's monthly report for July 2020

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

The trend has continued: regular meetings of all committees with little of substance on the agendas but at least we had a meeting of Full Council. [Click here](#) for my account.

Committee meetings and other council matters

All committees met but some didn't discuss anything substantive.

Adults: there was a thin agenda with just one (key) decision relating to housing related support services but even this was just about requesting a contract extension. This is dependant on a major piece of work relating to a remodelling of the service and works has been interrupted by Covid.

Children & Young People: another thin agenda and the same key decision as the one made by Adults (see above).

General Purposes: there was a thin agenda with just one key decision of interest viz an extension to the Connecting Cambridgeshire superfast broadband contract.

Highways & Transport: the committee met and it was quite a full meeting. In key decision the committee agreed to award management contract related to the King's Dyke crossing and to authorise the start of compulsory purchase orders for land related to the Wisbech access strategy (the paper for this is a mass of acronyms and a challenge for the reader unfamiliar with the subject; it's good however to see prominence given to reopening the railway line). It also changed the council's tree replacement policy to one of two for one and spent an inordinate amount of time talking about roundabouts and other junction improvement projects.

Communities & Partnerships: this committee met, of course it did it always meets, but there were no key decisions. It did have one useful agenda item on reopening libraries but Histon was not mentioned.

Commercial & Investment: there was one key decision whereby it was agreed to acquire land for the Cambridge south west travel hub. This was a paper exercise because the Greater Cambridge Partnership decided to buy it and will fund it but needs the county council to actually buy it. It also appointed a managing fund for its multi-class credit investment after a lengthy process at the end of which it realised that only one candidate on the short list met its ESG (ethical, social and governance) criterion. It also, thankfully, did the right thing and approved the lease of Hinchbrook Country Park to Huntingdonshire District Council for 99 years at a peppercorn rent.

Environment & Sustainability: there were no key decisions. This committee is now responsible for energy projects so it addressed the St Ives P&R smart energy grid connection, a solar car port projects at the new civic hub and the community consultation regarding the Swaffham Prior community heat project.

Health: just about the thinnest agenda of the lot with no decisions, key or otherwise. However to its credit the Public Health directorate does not produce a useful weekly update on what's happening Covid-wise locally. This provides the source material for a brief note I added to recent HICovid19 weekly digests (this goes out weekly within the community):

And finally: just to remind ourselves that (a) we live in a blessed low infection part of the country but that (b) it's not quite over yet check out the stats below from Public Health. We've had a mini-spike

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in South Cambs. Fingers crossed it is just that but in the meantime let's remember to wear face coverings, to wash our hands and to socially distance. [Click here](#) for a map to show that most infections in South Cambs seem to be in the Papworth, Caxton & Fen Drayton ward

	Week ending								
South Cambs total	1 Jun	8 Jun	15	22	29	6 Jul	13 Jul	20 Jul	27 Jul
Confirmed positive cases	12	2	0	0	4	9	12	5	5
Covid related deaths	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0

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

Neither the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive nor the Assembly met.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority did not meet. However there was quite a full set up committee and board meetings: Skills, Transport & Infrastructure, Business (twice), Overview & Scrutiny and Audit & Governance..

Neither the Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel nor the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority. However the former did hold its AGM and has at last published its forward meetings plan.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health & Wellbeing Board did not meet.

Consultations relevant to this division (and elsewhere)

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

More local matters

I have had a quiet month in terms of meetings. However I have continued to pester officers regarding the B1049/A14 junction (there is some progress), I am involved by virtue of my role at the Morris Education Trust in helping to get the Cavendish School through its planning challenges, and I have been talking to the local highways officer about issues in Spring Close, the Boot car park, Cambridge Road and elsewhere.

And finally ... I am of an age and Mr Sunak has taking over where Messrs Osborne, Hammond and Javid left off in sending me a pleasant sum of money every 4 weeks. That should mean that otherwise my life is quiet with few responsibilities. Sadly it doesn't seem to be the case and in addition to a little paid work and my roles on the county and parish councils I've also got 'sucked in' to a couple of pretty important community initiatives. The first of these has been the local Covid response which has now largely wound down. Thankfully we've experienced few infections locally and our High Street has come back to life remarkably. I continue to publish the HICovid weekly digest. The second is Abbey Farm Future which is working out ways to safeguard Long Meadow, the Croft Close set aside and the various rights of way across Abbey Farm now that this property is up for sale. There's more information about this at www.abbeyfarm.online.

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Diary (next public meetings)

5 Aug	1000	C&P Combined Authority	Virtual meeting
6 Aug	1000	Communities & Partnership	Virtual meeting
6 Aug	1400	Health Committee	Virtual meeting
3 Sep	1000	Planning Committee	Virtual meeting
10 Sep	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Virtual meeting
10 Sep	1400	Adults Committee	Virtual meeting
10 Sep	1000	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	Virtual meeting
11 Sep	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Virtual meeting
15 Sep	1000	Highways & Infrastructure	Virtual meeting
15 Sep	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Virtual meeting
17 Sep	1000	Environment & Sustainability Committee	Virtual meeting
22 Sep	1000	*General Purposes Committee	Virtual meeting
1 Oct	1600	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Virtual meeting
13 Oct	1030	Full Council	Virtual meeting
29 Oct	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Virtual meeting
26 Nov	1000	C&P Health & Wellbeing Board	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.