

## County councillor's monthly report for October 2020

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

---

October was another full month for the Council's policy committees but most operated with rather thin agendas again. Full Council also met. [Click here](#) for my narrative of the proceedings.

### Committee meetings and other council matters

Note that all the committees are continuing to look at the Business Planning Proposals for 2021/22.

Adults: there were three key decisions relating to contract extensions. This seems to be one committee with plenty to do. This month's key decisions related to the strangely named 'early intervention and preventative PSEUDO framework', the section 75 agreement for the Integrated Community Equipment Service and Occupational Therapy, and a transformation fund application for a micro-enterprise pilot to support homecare. In regard to the PSEUDO framework the published papers are unhelpful.

Children & Young People: there were no key decisions.

Commercial & Investment: there was only one key decision but that concerned an agenda item relating to This Land and was debated in secret. However it decided to lend This Land more money. No doubt this is what triggered the article in a recent issue of Private Eye in its Rotten Boroughs column.

Environment & Sustainability: there was one key decision relating to Carbon Valuation. This was important and the committee decided to recommend that the Council implements a virtual 'internal carbon price', based on the UK Government's method of using the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) price for traded emissions (such as electricity) and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) forecast carbon value for non-traded emissions (such as those from heat or transport) and that this be used in relevant business cases.

General Purposes: a rather thin agenda with only one key decision largely related to approving the movement of monies between accounts. However during the debate regarding the Business Planning Proposals for 2021/22 and beyond a suggestion that using an increase in council tax to at least partly fund the £50million hole in the Council's budget provoked an astonishing response. [Click here](#) for my take on what happened.

Health: this committee met but there were no key decisions. In its scrutiny role it received an update report on the delivery of NHS Dental Services during Covid times.

Highways & Transport: there were no key decisions but it did approve the delivery of Ring Fort path (see below).

Communities & Partnerships: there were no key decisions but there was an 'annual review' of the Community Champions which ran to six pages including three and a half of boilerplate and another half listing the Champions. They don't add much value in return for their allowances.

The Planning committee finally met! That's its first meeting since October 2019. It considered a planning application for Colne Fen Quarry in Somersham. It must have enjoyed itself because it's met again at the beginning of November.

## County councillor's monthly report for October 2020

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

---

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive met and noted and approved most of what was on the Assembly agenda in September. There were no agenda items directly related to Histon & Impington. The Assembly did not meet.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority did not meet. There were also meetings of the Authority's committees and boards.

The Cambridgeshire Police & Crime did not meet. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority met with a light agenda.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health & Wellbeing Board Core Joint Sub-Committee did not meet.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Outbreak Board met but doesn't share much if anything beyond its agenda. However it does meet in public..

[Click here](#) for a useful overview of CCC and other related Covid information.

### Consultations relevant to this division (and elsewhere)

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

### More local matters

I worked with district and parish councillors to enable lunches to be funded and made available to FSM pupils over the half term holiday.

I attended the Highways & Transport Committee to speak in support of Ring Fort Path. The committee agreed to fund it. At last! [Click here](#) for a relevant blogpost.

I met officers from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to begin the process of securing the Infants School site for use as a medical centre. There have subsequently been two more constructive meetings with stakeholders.

**And finally** ... we're now into Lockdown 2 but since we've been there before and done that (although I've not yet seen the T-shirt much less got it) and we've got access to data which we didn't have last time we can understand what's going on. Knowing therefore that in South Cambs there are infections but that the rate doesn't seem to be rising and that it's 'only' four weeks we should be able to get through this one without the alarm, fear and uncertainty of March and April. However there is the risk that people treat it less seriously because they think it's not a problem round here. Fortunately behaviour throughout Histon & Impington seems to be exemplary. Our worry though remains Cambridge and its student population where rates are, at least nominally, high.

The County Council is providing good stats and updating them weekly. [Click here](#) for their reports. [Click here](#) for the Government's daily summary and [here](#) for what's happening across South Cambs.

The big concern, in parallel with catching Covid, is the impact of the Lockdown on mental health from the simple boredom and frustration about not being able to 'mix with your mates' to the uncertainties associated with employment as businesses are shut down for longer and redundancies are threatened. It behoves all of us to talk to our neighbours. Who knows what they're thinking?

## County councillor's monthly report for October 2020

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

---

### Diary (next public meetings)

11 Feb	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Virtual meeting
5 Nov	1000	Planning Committee	Virtual meeting
10 Nov	1000	Highways & Infrastructure	Virtual meeting
10 Nov	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Virtual meeting
12 Nov	1000	Communities & Partnership	Virtual meeting
12 Nov	1400	Adults Committee	Virtual meeting
19 Nov	1400	Health Committee	Virtual meeting
19 Nov	1000	Environment & Sustainability Committee	Virtual meeting
19 Nov	1000	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	Virtual meeting
20 Nov	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Virtual meeting
24 Nov	1000	*General Purposes Committee	Virtual meeting
25 Nov	1000	C&P Combined Authority	Virtual meeting
25 Nov	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Virtual meeting
26 Nov	1000	C&P Health & Wellbeing Board	Virtual meeting
10 Dec	1600	Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive	Virtual meeting
15 Dec	1030	Full Council	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](https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccc_live/Meetings.aspx).