

County councillor's monthly report for September 2020

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

September was a full month for the Council's policy committees but most operated with rather thin agendas. There was no meeting of Full Council.

Committee meetings and other council matters

Adults: there were two key decisions relating to contract extensions, Homecare Car Provision and Interim Block Beds. The first is blamed on Covid, the second is to enable alignment with other related contracts.

Children & Young People: there were no key decisions

Commercial & Investment: there were no key decisions and the other two decisions on the agenda were deferred. Why did it meet?

Environment & Sustainability: there was one key decision related to the future of the Milton Road Recycling Centre. The debate of this agenda item took place in secret but according to the decision summary 'option3' was supported!

General Purposes: a rather thin agenda with only one key decision largely related to approving the movement of monies between accounts.

Health: this committee met but there were no key decisions. In its scrutiny role it received an update report on the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust's response to Covid. In its specific Covid update item it was briefed on plans to address the challenges associated with the return of students to schools, regional colleges, sixth form colleges and universities.

Highways & Transport: there was one key decision viz to approve the Winter Service Plan 2020/21. Histon & Impington is well served with Park Lane, Cottenham Road/High Street/the Green, the B1049, Impington Lane and Station Road/Cambridge Road all included in the plan. The committee also supported the tranche 2 Covid-19 temporary projects list which includes the closure of Station Road at the Baptist Church.

Communities & Partnerships: There were no key decisions and the only item on the agenda of any significance was the endorsement of further recommendations of awards made from the Communities Capital Fund

The Planning committee did not meet. It has not met since Oct 19 and its next meeting has been (again and again and again and again) pushed back to Oct 20. However as I write this report I can confirm that the October meeting did take place.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly met. There were no agenda items directly related to Histon & Impington. The Executive did not meet.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met and moved the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro forward appointing a Chair for the Special Purpose Vehicle (set up last month) at a salary of £80K/year. There were also meetings of the Authority's committees and boards.

The Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel met. Perhaps its most significant decision was to set up a task & finish group to consider its working arrangements The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority did not meet.

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The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health & Wellbeing Board Core Joint Sub-Committee met and noted and commented on a couple of reports.

Note that there is now a Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Outbreak Board which met during the month. Its roles seem to be to receive (note and comment on) the Health Protection Board (an officer board) report and to manage engagement.

[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 parish and community councillors and officers to support submissions to CCC's Local Highways Improvements program.

I have engaged with county officers regarding the future of the Infants School building and site now that a timetable for its closure has been announced.

The library is back! Thanks to the Baptist Church we now have a mobile library in action to cover the period of the School Hill site renovation.

And finally ... I've spent quite some time during the month interviewing candidates for positions in a company I work with in St Ives. At one we strayed into the subject of immigration and how best to address the challenges related to it. We managed to avoid any real political discussion but did very quickly agree, in a true quality management approach, that what's needed is to address the reason why people should wish to leave their own countries in the first place. A first step we reckoned would be to stop buying cheap clothing because doing so simply condemns those who work in the sweatshops which manufacture them to enduring poverty. Standing back and you realise that it's a part of a generic problem of those who 'have' not valuing the contribution of those who 'have not'. It starts at home of course with less well paid but essential workers like those in care homes and extends to those in the less developed world working for a pittance in the fields and factories which produce the products which we take for granted but do not value. I guess there's a need to address wealth inequalities, between people and countries, because the former are surely unacceptable in our society and the latter underpin the forces that drive migration.

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Diary (next public meetings)

1 Oct	1000	Planning Committee	Virtual meeting
1 Oct	1600	Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive	Virtual meeting
6 Oct	1000	Highways & Infrastructure	Virtual meeting
6 Oct	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Virtual meeting
8 Oct	1000	Communities & Partnership	Virtual meeting
8 Oct	1400	Adults Committee	Virtual meeting
13 Oct	1030	Full Council	Virtual meeting
15 Oct	1400	Health Committee	Virtual meeting
15 Oct	1000	Environment & Sustainability Committee	Virtual meeting
16 Oct	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Virtual meeting
20 Oct	1000	*General Purposes Committee	Virtual meeting
28 Oct	1000	C&P Combined Authority	Virtual meeting
29 Oct	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Virtual meeting
19 Nov	1000	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	Virtual meeting
25 Nov	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	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.