

Monthly report for parish and community councils Mar 2017

For the Cottenham, Histon and Impington (CH&I) county council division of Cambridgeshire which also includes King's Meadow, Oakington & Westwick, Orchard Park and Rampton.

Full Council meeting

The Council met in March. There was little formal council business but there were four motions. I moved the fourth on the matter of 'sustainable high streets'. It was overwhelmingly supported. Go to <http://wp.me/p7tuu7-1sF> for my narrative of the day.

Committee meetings and other council matters

General Purposes: there were several key decisions. One related to CREATE, an investment for a centre for Cambridgeshire Music in Cambridge, which was endorsed subject to a subsequent OK from the A&I Com (see below)

Adults: there were no key decisions. However it has agreed to proceed with its Neighbourhood Cares Pilot based on the Buurtzorg model of community care.

Health: there was one key decision relating to the award of the Stop Smoking contract. It was otherwise a mammoth meeting with scrutiny of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group's proposal to relocate the southern base for its Out of House service from Chesterton to Addenbrooke's, an agreed response to the same body's proposal regarding IVF and a review of the impacts of pollution on public health. Go to <http://wp.me/p7tuu7-1rj> for more info.

Assets & Investments: there were no key decisions but it addressed the CREATE project which it agreed to support subject to confirmation that it would be the best use of this asset. It also updated the Council's policy regarding the siting of mobile phone masts on council property.

I joined meetings with three potential marketing partners for Cambridgeshire Housing & Investment Company. One is to be selected this month and it looks like it will be the one which I favour.

Economy & Environment: there were apparently no key decisions although I would have thought that the one relating to the Council's telecommunications strategy should have been one. It was endorsed but during the debate it was noted that the county's infrastructure is sub-standard and hardly compatible with its role as an 'economic driver' within the UK. I also noted that there were claims that it has been widely consulted upon despite evidence that this had been patchy. Another decision would have resulted in the withdrawal of funding for 'bikeability' cycling training for primary schools. I led a revolt against this and the proposal was withdrawn to allow alternative funding streams to be explored. Go to <http://wp.me/p7tuu7-1q3> for more on that story.

Children & Young People: there were no key decisions.

Highways & Community Infrastructure: there was one key decision relating to the Council's Resident Parking Policy. The Policy itself is just that, a policy, the devil is in its implementation and the Committee kicked that into the long grass until the City Deal has completed its deliberations on residents' parking schemes. We will need to watch that very carefully because the City Deal has a habit of ignoring King's Meadow and Orchard Park.

The City Deal Joint Executive Board met and agreed to the 'implementation of residents' parking schemes within Cambridge City' with a spend of £1million over the next 3 years. As noted above this needs to be watched carefully.

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Planning: there were no items on the agenda relating to Cottenham, Histon & Impington. However note that the planning permission for the new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the Cam at Ditton Meadows granted last month is now the subject of judicial review.

The Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel met 15 Mar 17 but its decisions have not yet been reported. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority did not meet.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met for the first time (it's no longer 'shadow'). It was (yet) another largely procedural meeting.

Consultations relevant to this division

Consultation	Purpose	Due date and link
SEND specialist services Parent/Carer Feedback Survey	This is for the parents and carers of children and young people whose SEND Specialist Services have been terminated	14 Apr 17 http://bit.ly/2lc7Fv2

There are also three new consultations regarding TFF which run until the year end. There's no explanation as to what TFF means ...

More local matters

I met officers and parish councillors to move Histon & Impington's 2016/17 Local Highways Initiative bid for improvements at the Baptist Church junction forward.

I met officers to better understand the City Deal timetable especially regarding the Histon Road proposals and city wide residents' parking controls.

I joined Histon & Impington parish councillors and county officers to move forward ideas regarding access to assistive technology within the community

I attended the Kick Ash 2017 launch event at the Central Library. It featured artwork by Cottenham Village College students along with work from other secondary schools.

I attended the Operation Hunter event in Orchard Park.

I joined our PCSOs in an exercise to improve take-up of measures to reduce cycle theft.

I attended the exhibition of early stage plans for the 'new' all through primary school on the current Junior School site.

Diary (next public meetings)

26 Apr	1000	C&P Combined Authority	Pathfinder House, Huntingdon
23 May	1330	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
26 May	1000	*Assets & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
30 May	1000	Highways & Community Infrastructure	Shire Hall, Cambridge
1 Jun	1000	*Economy & Environment Committee	Share Hall, Cambridge
1 Jun	1400	Adults and Wellbeing Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
1 Jun	1000	*Health & Wellbeing Board	SCDC offices, Cambourne
6 Jun	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
6 Jun	1400	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
7 Jun	1000	Greater Cambridge City Deal Assembly	SCDC offices, Cambourne

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8 Jun	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
8 Jun	1400	*Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
14 Jun	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	Peterborough Town Hall
15 Jun	1430	Greater Cambridge City Deal Executive Board	Guildhall, Cambridge
15 Jun	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Hinchingbrooke Park

*committees of which I am a member; note these may change. I am Chair of the Health Com.

And finally ... we're coming to the end of another municipal year and another council as we march into the election season. At last week's council meeting I reflected on the council's experience of operating 'in committee mode' for the last three years. The doom-mongers suggested that the council would grind to a halt and that the council would become a laughing stock. That's clearly not been the case and it's also clear that there has been more consensus politics and that's got to be good. There's also been much more engagement with all councillors involved in at least one decision making committee. I asked the Leader of the Council if he agreed with me. I think he said yes! We agreed however that it could still be better and fingers crossed we can work on that together in the new council.