

MINUTES of Annual Parish Meeting held on 24 April 2017 at Oakington Sports Pavilion, Queens Way, Oakington at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Mr M Oakley (Chairman of the Parish Council) was in the chair supported by 8 Parish Councillors.

In attendance: Dist Cllr Harford, Dist Cllr Edwards, Mrs Lawrence (Clerk) and 10 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES: Jenny Prince (Cubs & Scouts), Cnty Cllr Mason, Cnty Cllr Jenkins, Dist Cllr Wotherspoon, Annie McDonald (Ten Sing)

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 25 April 2016:

Copies of the minutes were distributed at the meeting and had been made available on noticeboards and on Parish Council website.

Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Presentation by Chris Tunstall, Interim City Deal Transport Director and Simon Manville, Greenways Project Manager:

Chris gave an overview of the 15 year Greater Cambridge City Deal programme. He outlined the challenges and objectives which are to invest in sustainable transport to tackle congestion and to build housing and affordable homes.

Simon defined a Greenway (off-road route for cycles, pedestrians and wheelchair users) and gave examples of twelve suggested Greenways which would link in to the City centre.

Chris then spoke about a possible network of "bus hubs" throughout South Cambs. These would be small sized car parks near main bus routes which would assist local residents in accessing buses. (Oakington has been put forward as a possible site.)

Both officers responded to questions asked by members of the public.

Full City Deal and Greenways presentations available on the Parish Council website.

<http://www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.org.uk/news>

4. Parish Council Chairman's Report:

The Chairman's report included: buses, Northstowe, A14 upgrade, Wards, Parish repairs, Recreation ground, website, Community Association, Neighbourhood Watch and Gatehouse Road

Full report – **Appendix 1**

5. County Councillors' Reports:

There were no county councillors present.

Full report – **Appendix 2**

6. District Councillors' Reports:

Dist Cllr Edwards highlighted the following from the full annual report: Leadership changes, Peer Review, Devolution, Planning, infrastructure and new developments, Housing, Finance, and Environmental Services. He sought feedback from residents on possible withdrawal of separate paper caddy collections from blue bins and a potential District lottery.

Full report – **Appendix 3**

7. Oakington Charities Report:

Mrs Grove gave a brief report on the December 2016 year end accounts. Yvonne Graves had retired as Secretary after many years in the role.

Full report – **Appendix 4**

8. Community Plan Groups Reports:

Jim Bryant - CP Steering group chair spoke about committee personnel changes and stated that the steering group had not drawn on finances over the last year.

Jim Bryant - Transport group (TAG) – group had written to PCC about Longstanton Road traffic and met with Phil Harker, HCA who had advised that the permanent road closure would be in place by the end of 2018. They had also given feedback to Heidi Allen, MP on transport issues and are willing to assist the PC with traffic monitoring.

John Terry – Environment group (EAG) – group had focussed on village grass verge/vegetation management (for which they had received a Special Award at the South Cambs Community Awards), village pond restoration and new pond railings

Flood Mitigation Group (FMG) – set up to help reduce flooding in the village. Group had met with HCA to clarify modelling and plans for attenuation ponds.

Jo Mills – Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN) – group launched in 2016 and is supported by Cambridgeshire Care Network. Work to enhance quality of life for residents of all ages. Recruited around 20 volunteers and supported approx. 10 households to date. Jo gave examples of work done and outlined various upcoming social events.

Full reports – **Appendices 5,6,7**

9. Local Groups Reports:

Reports were read out from the following groups: Ten Sing, 1st Oakington Scout group, Gardening Society and History Society.

Full reports – **Appendices 8,9,10,11**

10. Public Open Forum:

A member of the public sought clarification on the road closures during the Wings For Life run event scheduled for Sunday 7 May.

A member of the public sought information on the sewage works being undertaken by Anglian Water at Girton Bridge. Clerk to seek clarification from Girton PC and report back.

There being no further comments or questions, the meeting was declared closed at 9.50pm

APPENDIX 1

Oakington and Westwick Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 2017 Chairman's Report.

I would like to begin by thanking all my fellow councillors and of course our Clerk for their hard work and support during the last twelve months. I am pleased to report that our Clerk has recently passed the CiLCA qualification and now holds a Certificate in Local Council Administration, which will stand us in good stead in years to come.

Buses

We continue to monitor the reliability of the Citi 6 bus service, which has been better this year though there are still too many hiccups and bus failures. There are discussions about connecting the Citi 6 to the Guided Busway in Oakington, and possibly extending the route at peak times to Cottenham. It may be possible to provide a small transport hub at the Busway under the City Deal, but there are no further details of these measures at present.

A14 upgrade

The A14 upgrade work is now well under way, as is easy to see along Dry Drayton road and elsewhere. There will shortly be traffic lights to control heavy vehicles crossing Dry Drayton Road carrying gravel to the Bar Hill junction, to be extracted from a number of large pits in the fields near the A14 between Dry Drayton Road and Girton. There are also signs of the start of work on the Local Roads alongside the A14, though these will not progress far until the gravel extraction is complete.

Highways England are producing a series of information newsletters which can be found on both their website and the Parish Council website. They also have a mobile exhibition van which can visit by request to bring local residents up to date – this may be present at Village Day.

We continue to press for better non-motorised connections to the A14 and its local road.

Northstowe

Northstowe continues to progress, with houses now being built, the primary school ready, and the first occupations due soon. Work on the Southern Access road, which crosses Longstanton Road on the edge of Oakington Village boundary, will begin this year and is expected to stop the illegal traffic that so regularly uses that road.

We expect to begin discussions soon with the Homes and Communities Agency about the parts of Northstowe in Phase 3, which is the section nearest to Oakington. We will try and arrange for the HCA to hold one or more sessions in the area to explain their plans and get our feedback.

We have had discussions with the HCA about their proposals to install flood attenuation ponds alongside Oakington Brook, as they have done for Longstanton Brook, but there has not been a lot of progress recently.

The Northstowe Community Forums that take place every 3 months, currently in Longstanton, are worth a visit as you will find out the latest news and have a chance to ask questions, and see what issues are concerning other people in the surrounding villages. The next meeting is on Wednesday 26 April at 7:00 pm at the Pathfinder Primary School in Northstowe (just off the B1050).

Wards

Both the County and District Councils have been through a process of rearranging their Council Wards in the area. Oakington and Westwick lose our association with Histon and Cottenham, and will be in new wards with Longstanton and Northstowe. Our County Councillors will change in the Elections this May, and District Councillors in the Elections in 2018. It is a shame to lose people who have generally looked after us well,

and I have some concerns that being bundled with Northstowe will lead to the likelihood of us getting less attention and support in the future. My thanks go to our current County Councillors for all they have done for us.

Repairs in the parish

We have continued with some success in getting the various bodies that are responsible for road maintenance, grass verge cutting and drainage, for instance, to actually do something for the parish. Our new Local Highways Officer is very approachable to us and is doing his best for us. We are still aware of many reported faults to the roads and footpaths, though fewer than a year ago. Can I remind you that Residents can report issues themselves via the Highways department web site (see our web site for details). I strongly encourage this as the more people report the faults to them the more likely it is they will respond.

We have joined a scheme introduced by Highways that gives local volunteer groups the chance to get involved in roadside maintenance themselves for the benefit of all, and the Community Plan's Environment Action Group has been busy with a number of activities in this area. This scheme extends only to areas normally on the Highways Maintenance list – land owned by the District or Parish Council or private landowners cannot be covered by the scheme.

I am sure many of you will have noticed that the railings by the pond on Longstanton Road have been replaced due to work funded jointly by the Parish Council, Highways and local residents. Thanks to all concerned. The pond itself is due for refurbishment, and the EAG has plans developing well for this.

The Parish Council took over the phone box in Longstanton Road when it was due to close, and it is now running as a very successful library. Thanks to the users and a volunteer librarian for making this a popular success.

And finally we have managed to get one extra dog bin on Longstanton Road, but discussions for other locations continue. Dogs (or their owners) continue to be a problem taking dogs to places they should not be and failing to clean up after them. The Recreation Ground has been improved in several ways, with a path and trees on the entrance to the Pavilion, and by clearing much of the undergrowth round the borders of the field. We are concerned that many of the trees on the edge of the Rec might have become too large and unstable, and the clearance is the first step towards having these inspected and if necessary reduced in size or otherwise made safer. Similar work was undertaken at the end of last year in the Cemetery, and on the trees by the car park.

The MUGA has been resurfaced and a programme of regular maintenance instated to extend the life of the current surface, though it will eventually have to be replaced. We continue to get problems from youths climbing over the fences to use the MUGA, which is causing damage to the fences as well as risking their own health and safety. Further measures may be needed to put a stop to this.

A temporary container has been installed behind the MUGA for storage of football club equipment. Sadly this is now only for the junior footballers as the senior team has disbanded. We are looking at plans for a possible extension to the Pavilion to provide permanent storage for sports equipment when it is not in use and better facilities for players.

The Connections Bus still visits regularly on Monday evenings during term times, and remains fairly popular. It is a fairly expensive resource for us, so we have looked at alternate ways of providing some services for our younger residents, but so far discussions have not led to better or more economic proposals.

Website

Our website remains a useful resource for the village, we post information about events and activities in the village, so I encourage you to check it regularly. Note that we are always happy to receive and publish reports from residents of activities that happen or are planned in the village and this will improve the visibility of groups who supply these. For the adventurous, we are happy to give you your own section of the website that you can maintain yourselves.

We also run the village email list that is maintained and managed through the website. You can sign up to receive emails of general interest to residents, and submit items you would like to see distributed.

The Community Association

There has been progress in discussing the future of the Community Association, and a separate meeting to look at this issue takes place on April 25th. My thanks particularly to those who agreed to take temporary officer posts in the Association to progress this work, which I hope reaches a successful conclusion tomorrow.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Neighbourhood Watch remains fairly dormant. I keep an eye on it for the moment jointly with another of the co-ordinators, and we hope to arrange a get together of the remaining co-ordinators at some point to see if there is still an interest in this. If anyone is interested in getting involved in this I would be delighted to hear from them.

Gatehouse Road

Finally, we have had an enquiry from Histon as to whether we would object to renaming what most of us know as Gatehouse Road officially as Gatehouse Road. On maps it is shown as New Road, which is confusing to emergency authorities having to attend the area – there is another New Road in Histon/Impington. We do not know of any reason not to do this.

Mike Oakley
April 24 2017

APPENDIX 2

Annual report for parish and community councils: 2016/17

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

The themes of last year have continued. Again. The Council has continued to work with the committee system and, as I noted in my last monthly report, the Leader of the Council, perhaps begrudgingly, agreed that it had been successful and had not resulted in the Council grinding to a standstill of ineffective decision making. I have worked on four committees, I've chaired one of them, and they all work pretty well. Perhaps the least effective has been the General Purposes Committee which has appeared partisan at times and especially when budgetary matters are on the agenda.

There has been continuing cost cutting, more on that below, and a continuing focus on making money out of the Council's assets which has had an unfortunate impact in Cottenham. We've also seen continuing, but rather ineffectual and unaccountable, activity within the City Deal Executive. This is being joined by the Combined Authority as another not directly elected body with powers over spending tax payers' money. It can't be altogether good.

To start with some good news: there's not much but let's start positive ...

Local schools are looking good

Both Orchard Park primary and Histon infants' schools were tested by OfStEd and rated good. Congratulations to their students and their families and their staff.

The Council has approved a major investment (£16 million) to build a new primary school at the top of Mill Lane in Histon and to convert the current junior school to a straight through primary. The Infants' school will close.

On the academy front the trust running IVC became the Morris Education Trust (MET). It has been given permission by the DfE to build a new special school, the Cavendish School, on site. Witchford Village College has joined MET which is now a MAT (a multi-academy trust).

Cottenham VC is already a multi-academy trust but has made no announcements yet about its future

Transport schemes delivered ... and not

After a disappointing Local Highways Initiative round for 2016/17 local councils were a little more successful this year with bids from Histon & Impington and Orchard Park being accepted.

There was good news regarding the 2016/17 schemes. More money became available and the Histon & Impington Baptist Church junction scheme made the revised cut. But there has been bad news as the Rampton traffic calming scheme has run into some public backlash and is being reconsidered. All concerned agree that the Parish Council did the right thing. It's just that nobody realised that the scheme as implemented would have such adverse consequences.

As a part of the City Deal there has been a proposal to put a bus lane (actually just a quarter of one) and better cycle lanes along Histon Road. The consensus has then been to reject the bus lane but to support the cycle lanes. For some reason these seem to have been kicked into the long grass (unnecessarily delayed).

Flavour of the month: sustainable high streets

The Council voted unanimously to support a motion requiring it to support sustainable high streets.

The Council is engaging

It ran a major event for parish councils last year and has set up a fund to help such councils implement schemes which might improve services and/or save CCC money. And consistent with this spirit of collaboration several meetings have taken place between CCC and H&I Parish Council to look at opportunities to integrate CCC adult social care with voluntary sector activity locally.

Public transport moves forward

Chesterton Station seems to be on track to open in May. Timetables have now been published.

Furthermore Stagecoach has announced extra guided bus services including ones which will go direct to the new station.

The other side of the guided bus story is of course the state of the guideway and it's clear that big repairs will be needed. What will be done and how much it will cost is currently confidential.

BT seems to have become customer sensitive

After much complaining a letter written to the right person seems to have done the trick and BT Openreach has (1) installed more fibre capacity in Orchard Park, and (2) agreed to sort out an anomaly for several subscribers in Histon. Well done BT!

And now for the rest ...

The division will change

Finally the Boundaries Commission made its mind up and has split the division into three parts. Histon & Impington and Orchard Park will be a new single member division, Cottenham and Rampton will join with Willingham for another, and Oakington & Westwick will join with Over and Longstanton for a third which will also include the first houses at Northstowe.

CCC still doesn't tap dance very well

Despite a number of meetings both formal and informal the Council has still not understood what it needs to do in order to move ahead with any plans for development on its land in Cottenham. And although it did meet with Histon & Impington Parish Council it has said nothing regarding its land at Bypass and Buxhall Farms. The latter is of course the site for one of the new primary schools.

Healthcare gets better but there are worries about the future

The good news is that our hospitals are now all rated 'good' and it's probably good that Hinchingbrooke will be taken over by Peterborough & Stamford.

The worries stem from the Sustainability & Transformation Plan which all clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are obliged to develop to show that they can survive with less funding than they would like and still deliver quality healthcare. We are fortunate in Cambridgeshire that all the players in the health economy are working together constructively but there's still a big ask.

As it looks at ways to cut costs and to become more efficient it's inevitable that rumours run wild and any suggestion that a service might be under threat triggers an immediate outcry. The most recent example of this has been the proposal to relocate South Cambs Out of Hours service from Chesterton to Addenbrooke's

On the plus side the CCG is willing to talk about enhancements to primary care services in Cottenham and Histon & Impington.

Outside of Cambridgeshire the Council has taken the lead in getting the Local Government Association policy changed. It presented a motion in favour of increased funding for Public Health as the only way to address the ever-increasing cost of the NHS. Note also that as 'devo 2' goes ahead, we're currently implementing 'devo 1', it's intended that this includes a strong focus on addressing inequalities because these adversely affect economic growth potential. It's accepted that the root of much of this inequality is public health related so this will be a cornerstone of the devo 2 bid.

There have been a couple of council u-turns

It reversed two cost saving measures. The first to switch off lights overnight in response to public protest and the second to reduce gritting because it wouldn't save any money anyway.

In a related move the E&ECom rejected an officer recommendation that funding for bikeability training be cut.

Political alert: the following two items relate to Council activity which I have strong feelings about and these might come through in this report.

Council tax frozen

This is unchanged from what I said last year.

This year the Council could raise council tax by up to 2% and take a further optional 2% for adult social care charges arising from implementation of the National Living Wage. After a shorter session than last year, some of the Indies broke ranks and voted with the Tories, a vote in favour of a 0% council tax increase and taking the 2% adult social care option was successful. This deprives the Council of £5million for 2017/18 and for every subsequent year. At a time when its grant from central government has been slashed I think that was very wrong outcome.

I regard this as irresponsible at a time when our roads and pavements are showing increasing signs of disrepair and adult social care costs are continuing to rise.

Devolution goes ahead but we've got to have a mayor

After the Council dug its heels in the Government accepted that a rational geography for a devolution deal would be just Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. However it insisted on a directly elected mayor and there was a majority at the Council willing to accept this. Those against felt that it was not necessary and would result in significant extra costs. Business is said to be in favour of a mayor because it can 'make decisions quickly'. I guess this is the same business which simply hikes high street rents without regard to long term sustainability.

End of political alert.

And finally ...

That's twelve years as your councillor and I am standing again but only this time for Histon & Impington. In the meantime thanks again to Mike Mason who does sterling work and has been terrier like in his follow up of the flooding and drainage issues around the division, has done excellent work supporting Cottenham Parish Council's opposition to the unwanted planning applications which it faces and has been ever vigilant where guided bus issues are concerned. Although we have different political affiliations we find it easy to work together and, coincidentally, have complementary skills. Thanks also to all the parish councillors and the clerks who have communicated well and supported me. I trust that I have done the same.

Thanks especially to those people in Cottenham, Oakington & Westwick, and Rampton who've supported me. I trust that I've been able to respond directly when it's been needed. If I am re-elected I will continue to support your new councillors outside Histon & Impington and to be active on your behalf in the committees of which I am a member.

And allow me please to repeat one final point about the future. So-called upper tier councils will have less money. That's a fact. There's an opportunity for parish and community councils to do more but it needs to be done in a manner that delivers better value for money. So can I urge you all:

- Be active in talking to Cambridgeshire County Council about how you might share responsibility for some services and thereby perhaps make limited money go further by being smarter. This might include activity which could reduce demand for those services; and
- Work together. I'm sure that there are savings to be made by parish and community councils clustering and sharing contractors for example and even back office services. Just a thought.
- Take the lead in orchestrating work locally. There are multiple agencies but they are not always visible, they don't all know each other and they could be more effective as a group.

A collection of my 'and finally' items from my monthly reports of the last 12 months is available at <http://bit.ly/2oer7Jk>

David Jenkins

APPENDIX 3

Annual Report to Parish Councils about South Cambridgeshire District Council

The District Council continues to regard parish councils as very important to the success of the area, and holds regular update meetings with parish councils throughout the year. Last year extra seminars were arranged to explain and discuss devolution proposals, as well as sessions covering planning, housing, refuse collection and the City Deal.

1. All change

New Leader Peter Topping took over from Ray Manning, who called time at the beginning of May 2016 after ten years.

Jean Hunter, our Chief Executive for the past six years, left us on 23 October. She had inspired a “one council” mindset which has focused all our staff in a united sense of purpose. Alex Colyer, among other things our Finance Director, acted as interim chief executive as we arranged for her succession. Among other options was sharing a chief executive with one or more other local authorities. In the end we recruited our own new chief executive, Beverly Agass from South Kesteven District Council, who brings significant customer service experience from the public and private sector.

Jo Mills left us after six years as Planning and New Communities Director, and we welcomed Stephen Kelly as Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

The City Deal has recruited an interim chief executive and its own transport director, which ought to take some of the strain off county council officers.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England completed its review of South Cambridgeshire’s electoral arrangements. Currently there are 57 district councillors. Their number will reduce to 45 and elections will take place for the new wards in May 2018 and every four years after. Locally Oakington will join with Longstanton to form a new ward represented by two councillors. Cottenham and Rampton will return to being represented by two councillors, as they were before 2004.

2. Peer Review

The District Council asked for a “peer review” to assess its performance. This was carried out in November 2016 by an independent team from other district councils. They gave a very positive assessment, concluding: “SCDC has been on a strong journey of improvement since 2007 and has established itself as a well-respected and strong performing organisation, with good ties to its communities, partners and government. It has clear strategic direction set out in its corporate plan, has identified its future needs and is seen as a great place to work. Relations with officers and members are strong and effective.”

3. Devolution

All district councils in Cambridgeshire, as well as the county council and Peterborough City Council, have signed up for the most generous devolution deal in the country. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will set up a combined authority, enabling the councils to work together ever more efficiently. The Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council has been given the Housing Portfolio in the shadow combined authority that has been rehearsing for the past few months. The leaders of the councils and the Local Enterprise Partnership are meeting regularly so that they will be ready to work with their new chairman, the mayor, who will be elected on the same day as the county council elections this May. The role has already attracted a lot of interest!

A new £20m annual fund over the next 30 years (£600m in total) will support economic growth, infrastructure and jobs. Road improvements will include things like dualling the A10. Rail investment will unblock Ely North Junction, provide new rolling stock, and strengthen the case for a new station at Addenbrooke's.

Cambridge City Council will get a specific £70m housing grant. Another £100m for "affordable housing", homes for rent and part-ownership provided by the council and housing associations, will be targeted in South Cambridgeshire. We think we can make close to 2,000 of these houses available over the coming five years. These are not extra houses to those in the Local Plan, but we will be bringing them forward earlier than otherwise and within reach of more people.

Local control of the skills and apprenticeship budget will offer opportunities for our young people. The next stages in the handover of powers from Whitehall to town hall will extend to community safety (including police and fire services) and integrating local health and social care.

4. Planning, infrastructure and new developments

2016 saw several milestones passed at Northstowe: widening the B1050, excavating balancing ponds to reduce flood risk to Longstanton, constructing pumps at Webb's Hole to reduce flood risk to Mare Fen, opening the first primary school, constructing the first houses, and ending with completion of the legal agreement for phase 2. Over 2,000 houses will be offered at prices and/or rents below market rates.

The application for development of up to 1300 houses at "Wing" got resolution to grant from the Fringes Joint Development Control Committee towards the end of April 2016, and permission was issued November 2016.

Cambourne West (which lies mostly in Caxton parish) received resolution to grant for 2,350 houses from our Planning Committee in January.

The A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme started – expected to finish 2020.

Major progress was made over Christmas at the site of the new Cambridge North station, which was 80% complete by the turn of the year, to get it ready for its opening in May. Work took place over the festive period to build platforms, install tracks for a new bay platform and to fit overhead wires. The footbridge, lift shafts, stairwells and main station building were all built over the course of last year. The new station, which is expected to handle 3,000 passenger journeys a day, will alleviate the pressure on the existing Cambridge station, where people currently leave the train in order to travel by other means to the science and business parks. An interchange between the northern leg of the Busway and the King's Cross to King's Lynn railway line has enormous potential, which is just as well because there is huge pressure growing on the A10 North corridor.

Urban&Civic plc is the development manager appointed by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (the government agency charged with disposal of surplus MoD land) for Waterbeach Barracks and Airfield. South Cambs supports the principle of development of this large area of publicly-owned previously-developed land. A new town north of Waterbeach village is included in the Local Plan still going through examination. Opportunities for broadening the range of new housing are welcomed, as well as innovative approaches to construction. The outline planning application for 6,500 houses, however, raises many questions relating to comprehensive delivery of a whole new settlement, in particular integration with the land held by the other promoters (RLW Estates). It is on their land that a new railway station could be built. We also need to be clear how transport improvements, especially the A10, will go hand-in-hand with occupation of more houses. These issues are fundamental to understand fully before any decision is made.

The county council, City, South Cambs, East Cambs, and private sector interests north and south of the A14 junction have commissioned a study from transport consultants examining options for a major upgrade of the A10, as well as the contribution that other modes of travel can make to easing congestion.

Cambridge finds itself the centre of attention from all four cardinal points of the compass. From the south we have the London Stansted Cambridge Consortium, which has set itself the goal of joining the ranks of the top five global knowledge-intensive business clusters. From the east, a newly formed Cambridge-Norwich Tech Corridor seems keen to further the agri-tech and clean-tech interests we have in common. To the north, Peterborough is enlisting our support for the establishment of a university there. And the National Infrastructure Commission is very keen to facilitate links with the other place and points in between. East-West Rail is working out how to bring back a rail link between Bedford and Cambridge, and the next stage of the Oxford to Cambridge expressway is the dualling of the A428 from the Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet, scheduled to start in spring 2020.

Planning performance: Over the last nine months, decisions have been issued on 94% of major applications and 87% of non-major applications within 13 and eight weeks respectively – putting South Cambridgeshire District Council among the top performers in the country. This follows determined efforts to improve performance.

The **Local Plan** continues to be examined by the Inspector, a process now in its third year. Although the District Council recognises that the inspector needs to test every element of the plan for its soundness, nevertheless this is a very long time for a local plan to be considered. The council believes that its policy of building large communities such as Waterbeach and Northstowe helps to protect the Green Belt, which otherwise would see Cambridge simply extend and envelope more of South Cambridgeshire's separate and distinct pattern of villages. The Local Plan should be concluded by the end of 2017.

The council has also promoted the development of **Neighbourhood Plans** to enable villages to put forward their own views on where development would be suitable and where it would not, for their own locality. The Planning Portfolio Holder has set up a Neighbourhood Plan Task and Finish Group, of district and parish councillors. They will oversee the development of a number of documents including a revised agreement for use between the council and any parish council preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Local development management issues: Smithy Fen has seen a lot of unauthorised activity the past few months, necessitating engagement of a multi-agency task force. Cottenham also faces the prospect of 600 additional houses. The Endurance 50, off Oakington Road, already have planning permission. The Gladman 200 obtained resolution to grant in controversial circumstances at the end of March, and a public inquiry hearing an appeal into what became in effect the same application was adjourned to allow the parish council to be fully represented.

5. Housing

The Council currently owns, manages and maintains a stock of 5,500 homes. This year the Council was shortlisted for the Chartered Institute of Housing "Exceptional Landlord of the Year" Award after industry judges were impressed by the authority's innovative approach in delivering efficient services and outstanding homes.

Some key initiatives that the Council has led the way on nationally include the setting up of a property company – Ermine Street Housing – that rents homes in the private sector to generate income to support Council services, and setting up the Housing Development Agency with Cambridge City Council to deliver 250 social homes each year. The Council is also one of the top three performing councils in the country for re-letting homes and has exceeded customer satisfaction targets for repairs. A trusted

handyperson scheme to help tenants with small jobs around their home has also been set up along with warm homes strategy to tackle fuel poverty and condensation while making people more comfortable in their homes.

This year saw the further introduction of new government policies providing additional challenges for the housing service. The first of the 4 years of mandatory 1% reduction in rents has limited the Council's ambition to deliver new build housing but it still managed to continue the programme in a more modest way with completion and handover of 39 new homes this year.

Recognising the wide range of aspirations and financial circumstances of its residents the Council is working to identify an appropriate range of solutions. These include affordable rent and shared equity homes as well as Government's new Starter Homes and Rent to Buy and innovative products like Rentplus. It also maintained its record of managing homelessness with minimal use of bed and breakfast accommodation.

The Council is a vanguard authority and regional lead for the Government's Self & Custom Build agenda and is starting to apply for planning permission on its first plots. The council is actively promoting self-build, and has held regular seminars to help people who want to construct or commission their own homes, exploring such matters as regulation, finance, and modular construction. There are already 600 names on our register of those interested in contributing their own "sweat equity" towards solving the housing crisis.

Housing White Paper: While there may have been some disappointment with the emphasis in the White Paper on requiring local authorities to get houses built, when landbanking by big housebuilders and controlling the release of houses to keep prices up are seen as contributory factors limiting the number of new houses, two shifts in government policy were generally well received:

- a set of measures to make it easier for small building firms to get back into the business of building houses, and
- greater willingness to allow local authorities to build houses again. (The public sector used to build half the houses the country needed.)

Councillors and staff have already had meetings with Gavin Barwell, the Housing and Planning Minister, and more are expected as we put together a package of measures best suited to the needs of South Cambridgeshire.

6. Financial performance

One of the main 'unknowns' in the annual budget cycle had been the level of the annual settlement received from the government. This was not advised until after the Autumn Statement (which was usually delivered around Christmas time). The budget then had to be prepared for approval by the full council in February. This timescale always made planning beyond one year difficult, so this year the government introduced the option of a 4-year settlement which would allow councils to know exactly what level of government funding they could expect for a 4-year period. Any council wishing to take the 4-year option had to publish an efficiency plan by October 2016 showing where it would make savings to meet budget forecasts. We signed up to this, giving us more certainty in forward planning - although there may still be some funding streams (like New Homes Bonus) that are excluded from the detail of the 4-year settlement.

Business rates - Local businesses are now getting more support from the council due to an increase in the level of Non-Domestic Rate Relief for those businesses operating in rural areas. Mandatory relief has been increased from 50% to 100% meaning some small enterprises will now not have to pay any rates at all.

Larger businesses are also being helped by the creation of three Enterprise Zones in our District. These are in Waterbeach, Cambourne and Northstowe. This policy is designed to attract new businesses to the district by offering rate relief for up to five years if they move into one of our new Enterprise Zones.

Businesses who are liable to pay rates are able to appeal the amount they have to pay, by challenging the Valuation Agency's assessment. When appeals are successful any reduction in income is a direct cost to the council, and we have had to make provision

Benefits - Residents who are in receipt of benefits are continuing to receive support from the council in respect of Council Tax payments. The Localised Council Tax Support Scheme continues for another year unchanged, which makes this the fourth year it has been in operation without having to be adjusted. This is a scheme that is fully funded by the council and receives no grant to support it from Central Government.

Community Chest Grants - The hugely successful Community Chest grants programme made a total of 63 awards last year, each providing funding of up to £1,500 for community projects. Another £52,000 (or £1,000 per week) will be given out in the coming year, but as the popularity of the scheme increases, so we've had to reduce the maximum amount that can be granted down from £1,500 per award to £1,000. Hopefully this will help the money last a little longer into the coming year, because at £1,500 a time we usually run out of budget within 6 months.

Performance on collecting rates and council tax - Our collections teams have put in another superb year, making sure that we collect as much Business Rates and Council Tax as possible. [The latest year-to-date figures, as at February 2017, are 98.9% and 98.1% respectively.] We are regularly in the top quartile for collecting Council Tax and this year collection rates are around the same level as last year, which were 99.4% for both Council Tax and Business Rates. This ranked us at 2nd best in the country for Council Tax collections, and 22nd best for Business Rates.

7. Environmental services

Bin collection days changed for over 130,000 households across Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire at the end of February as a result of new rounds aimed at reducing the need to travel for waste collection vehicles by up to 20,000 miles each year, cutting traffic and emissions, and contributing to a £700k efficiency savings target over three years. Households were sent a new collection calendar and leaflet detailing how the changes would affect them. Signs were put up at entrances to villages to further increase awareness: information is also available on www.scams.gov.uk/bin-changes.

The Council monitors a range of services for which licences are granted. Earlier this year the licencing team spotted a fake drivers' badge after a scanned copy was submitted by its Buckinghamshire-based holder for checking. On further investigation the driver had not obtained the badge from us and it was proved to be counterfeit. As the District Council only ever issues taxi driver licences to individuals after an interview is carried out in person, the matter was immediately referred to Thames Valley Police for investigation. During the operation, several properties were searched and licensing officers worked alongside police at a registered taxi office to check driver badges and car licence plates. A second fake South Cambridgeshire badge was seized as evidence, along with revoked plates from another council outside the area.

8. City Deal

It isn't just about chopping down trees on Milton and Histon Roads, bulldozing a Busway across the West Fields, extending the cycleway network or imposing a workplace parking levy on Cambridge businesses.

The Smarter Cambridge initiative has built a Cambridge-wide dedicated wi-fi network which will be extended into South Cambridgeshire in due course. Currently, they are collecting data from GPS sensors that are already put on buses (so they know where each and every bus is, real time), air quality monitors, how many cars are going down major roads, congestion, how full each car park is, etc. They could eventually draw on a vast range of sensors, even down to whether an individual on-street car park space is full or empty. Councils could also bolt on to it, and they think it might help elderly social care to put monitors in vulnerable peoples' houses.

In summer 2017 the City Deal will roll out a travel app, to help people know where the buses are (exactly and in real time). It will also have a "predictor" function in due course. So you could be in Northstowe or Cambourne or wherever and tap in "I want to drive to Cambridge at 8.30am: what is my predicted drive time... and how much less would it be if I left 30 mins earlier or later?". This might induce people to spread their journey times, easing peak-time congestion.

DRAFT

OAKINGTON CHARITIES

Registered Charity Number 203789

Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31.12.2016

CHURCH AND TOWN ESTATE

Bl. At Bank 01.01.2016	£213.80		
Income		Expenditure	
COIF319300001T	159.99	Grants to persons (Christmas)	150.00
COIF319300002T	38.43	St Andrews Church (Christmas)	72.09
BRIM Charinco Divs	33.04		
Bank Interest	00.14		
Total	445.40	Total	222.09
Bl at Bank 31.12.2016	£223.31		

The assets of the Church and Town Estate at 31.12.2016 are comprised of 438.88 unit shares in the COIF Investment Fund valued at £5964.69 and 412.817 units invested in Black Rock Investments Managers (BRIM) (formerly Merrill Lynch Investments Managers) Charinco Fund valued at £840.08

From the Vouchers, Certificates and Bank Statements presented I confirm that the above accounts reflect an accurate statement of the Charities Accounts for the year.



(C W Loweth)

Date: 13/4/17

OAKINGTON CHARITIES

Registered Charity Numbers 201239 and 203789

REPORT FOR 2016

There were two meetings of the Trustees during the year.

It was agreed to make four grants, each totalling £50, to individuals and one grant, totalling £100 to a married couple. These grants were paid out in December.

A sum of £72.09 was paid to St Andrew's PCC being retrospective income received in 2015. From the income received for the Church and Town Estate in 2015 Saint Andrew's PCC is due the sum of £69.85, which will be paid out in 2017. (For guidance please note that Saint Andrew's PCC is due one third of the income from COIF30900001T Account and half of the income from the BlackRock Charinco Common Investment Fund)

You will notice that the two Charities, which have always been shown as a combined balance sheet, are now required to be presented separately.

It is with regret that we have to announce the retirement of our secretary, Mrs Yvonne Graves, who has been connected with the Charities for over thirty years.

APPENDIX 5

Oakington & Westwick Community Plan

Steering Group

The Steering Group maintains a light touch on the three action groups.

Number of Changes over the last year.

Adrienne Chaplin stood down from CLAG due to work commitments

Oakington and Westwick Neighbours, under leadership of Jo Mills, continues.

Transport Action Group – Alister Bailey stood down as Chair also due to work commitments. Jim Bryant now undertakes the role of Chair.

The OWCP bank account has £160.38. There have been no transactions on the account since last year's Annual Parish Meeting.

Each of the Action Groups will provide their own updates.

Transport Action Group

Has prepared a number of proposals for LHI's for consideration, reviewed speed restrictions and made a proposal for improvement to the existing Longstanton to Girton cycleway through the village.

Supported the proposal for a Hub at the Guided Busway for providing parking and to connect the Citi 6 to the Busway as per one of the outcomes of the Community Plan questionnaire on Transport and Travel.

Longstanton Road

Engaged with the PCC over enforcement as safety concerns have been expressed as volumes increase in part due to the work on the A14.

Meet with Philip Harker (HCA) to discuss the impact and timescales of the Southern Access Road into Northstowe. SAR to be in place by late 2018 – disruption to traffic flow across the Longstanton Road may occur sooner.

Planning consent is still needed but will include pedestrian and cycleways.

Provided input to Heidi Allen's survey on Public Transportation.

Offered support to the PC in regard to proposals for traffic monitoring.

Currently reviewing and preparing "wish list" of projects that require funding.

Including additional cycleways towards Cottenham and down the Dry Drayton Road to connect up with the new Local Road. However the perception that funding will be a major obstacle.

Raised, monitored and reported the issue of suspected A14 contractor heavy vehicles passing through the village at speed.

APPENDIX 6

OWCP Environmental Action Group report 2017

The group aims to improve the village environment, making it safer and tidier and by increasing biodiversity.

1. Grass verges and vegetation management in village streets. James Youd has led members of the EAG in improving appearance the appearance and safety aspects of our pathways. James has kept Laura in touch with his plans, ensuring Health and Safety regulations have been adhered to. We would also like to record our thanks to the County Highways Dept. who came up with their Volunteers' Scheme which offered guidelines and insurance cover. James and his volunteers received lots of thanks from local people, including complements on Oaky Folk. Work has included improvements to the land between Mead View and the shop. Rain is desperately needed for the emerging grass.
2. As a result of the work, the EAG were nominated for an award by SCDC and James received the 2017 Special Award at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne at the Annual Community Awards, on 9th March.
3. Village Pond restoration. The pond has not been substantially restored for the last 30 years and is in very poor condition. Restoration is vital to help numbers of wildlife as well as the pond's appearance and indeed its existence. In the fifties, there were still five ponds in the village; this pond is the only survivor. We have taken advice from Rob Mungovan (SCDC Ecology Consultancy Officer) but unfortunately, he leaves the District Council in May. He confirmed the presence of great crested newts, a protected species. We aimed to put the silt on nearby farmland and felt it was important to sample it to ensure we knew the composition of the material. The PC kindly paid for the analysis. Unfortunately, the silt contained hydrocarbons so we were unable to put the material on farmland. The new plan is to put the silt behind a permeable barrier of fabric, called 'Nicospan', a material used by Rob at Histon 'pond'. Andrew Dennis has been much involved with surveying and liaising with contractors and Andrew, James Youd, Stephanie Smith and John Terry have met no less than seven times to ensure our grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, is a good one. We have been liaising with older local people to record their memories and had good support from the History Society and the school.
4. New railings round the pond largely down to Geoffrey and our new Highways man, Simone Carroll, who has been particularly helpful. The railings have been funded by Highways Dept, the Parish Council and local donations
5. Control of Giant Hogweed. This alien weed can cause blistering to skin and in 2016 we asked for information on its whereabouts and took action to control it. We ask for the same information this year.
6. Information Boards. We still have plans to place boards as recommended by John Whittington in his village survey. These plans also depend on grants. In a recent meeting with The History Society, we realised we share common ground in these areas.
7. Nykki Rogers, Paul Dover and Geoffrey Butlin have been assisted by Simon Edwards in the plans to clean up the land beside Cambridge Road. A community garden vision document is being drafted and ideas are would be welcome. A number of different sites are being evaluated.
8. Paul has kept the group in touch with the litter picking carried out by the Cambridge South Rotary Club, every two months.
9. Flood Mitigation Group, set up to help reduce flooding in the village. Andrew, Geoffrey, John and Mike Oakley have had meetings with HCA (Northstowe) to clarify modelling and plans for attenuation ponds between Bar Hill and Oakington. We are disappointed by progress so Geoffrey coaxing Heidi Allen, our MP, into the debate.

John Terry and James Youd (co-Chairmen)
Environmental Action Group
April 2017

Oakington and Westwick Neighbours

Report to Annual Parish Meeting – April 2017

OWN grew from the Oakington and Westwick Community Plan, along with the Environmental Action Group and Transport Action Group. OWN was launched in 2016, and is supported by Cambridgeshire Care Network.

We work to enhance the quality of life for people living in Oakington and Westwick. The OWN Scheme is for people of all ages. Our scheme members may be housebound or isolated. They may live with disabilities or be unwell. They may have caring responsibilities. They may be new to the village with young children.

A lot of caring and sharing already takes place in our village, just as informal arrangements between friends and neighbours. In spite of this, we know that some people feel lonely or would benefit from support on a regular basis or from time to time. We want to help people feel welcome, connected and supported. Our events and support are open to all – all ages and personal circumstances.

Last November, we promoted OWN by delivering a leaflet to every household, and we have contacted the local GP Surgeries and Social Services. We have recruited around 20 volunteers, and provided support and contact to about 10 households.

Our volunteers get involved in the community by providing practical help and befriending people of all ages. Volunteers may:

- Help elderly people with internet shopping and other basic help with their computers or ipads
- Visit regularly to chat to someone who is ill or has a disability
- Take children to the playground to give their parent a much needed break
- Maintain regular contact and be the link to arrange help as and when needed. For instance to give a lift to an appointment, collect a prescription or do basic DIY. The volunteer can draw on help from others in the network, as necessary.

These are examples. We will try to do whatever is helpful, but do not provide a regular cleaning or gardening service. All our volunteers are police-checked, supported by a co-ordinator and invited to training and information sessions that are held several times a year as well as receiving a regular newsletter.

We work with Cottenham Carecar which is a social transport service for people living in Oakington and Westwick, as well as Cottenham. Cottenham Carecar provide transport to medical appointments and daycare, to visit friends or go shopping. Cottenham Carecar is supported by Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire Care Network.

We run several social events during the year to bring people together and help to combat loneliness. For example, we held a Jazz Afternoon Tea in September and Winter Fun afternoon in February. Our volunteers help to organise our events, bake cakes, serve refreshments, chat to guests and provide transport to those who need a lift. We are currently planning a Big Lunch on 17 June and another Jazz Afternoon in September.

We are always pleased to recruit new volunteers for OWN and the Carecar Service. Please put the Big Lunch 12.30 – 2.30 on Saturday 17 June in your diaries.

APPENDIX 8

OAKINGTON & WESTWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society has another good year, with membership rising plus a marked increase in visitors attending monthly meetings

Our indoor meetings have been varied ranging from the archaeology of Northstowe and Wimpole Hall, but, special thanks must go to Mike Petty, who, having given a wonderful presentation on the Ouse Washes, in September, returned to rescue us when the October speaker cancelled at the last moment.

Nick Harrison has done sterling work on the website, we are working with the EAG on the pond restoration. There may be further test pitting in the near future.

Member Gill Jondorf worked with Hilary Stroude of LDHS in order to give an accurate account of Oakington's history, to produce a leaflet for the Northstowe developers. Around half have been delivered around Oakington, others will 'trickle' out over the next few days.

We still have to decide the fate of the Anglo-Saxon skeletons and artefacts, which will have to be decided within the next two years.

Julie Grove

DRAFT

APPENDIX 9

Oakington Garden Society

Oakington Garden Society has been flourishing now for over thirty years.

We are a small friendly group of gardening enthusiasts. We meet in St Andrews Church Hall on the last Wednesday of the month.

Monthly meetings run from September through to April Membership is £15 single, per year entitling the member to a generous 10% discount at the Oakington Garden Centre. This does not include the Olive Tree Cafe

Meetings this season ranged from the restoration of Impington Mill garden, Hanging baskets, and many others.

Our annual plant and cake sale has become a very big part of the Oakington social Calendar providing a small income to pay for speakers and cover other costs.

We regularly have a selection of more unusual plants available, the unusually warm winter has meant that many plants are further on than they would normally be at this time.

The ever popular Cake and Bread stall will be present. We are also joined this year by Rela Designs bespoke bag maker. Make Saturday May 20th a date for your calendar. Please note that this year it will be held between 2 and 4 p.m.

In June there will be a combined outing with the W.I to East Ruston Gardens

In July we will be making our annual visit to a Cambridge college garden.

Please watch out for information regarding these events posted throughout the village or contact: Ann Rayner Tel. 234203

Julie Grove. 233951

APPENDIX 10

Cambridge Ten Sing Report 2017

We have had a good year with about 25 members aged 12 to 17.

The young people's committee continues to organise the weekly meetings. However, we have a new management structure following Irène Butlin's retirement, with a team of three adults, plus four adults helping on a rota basis. The Management Committee, which consists of all stakeholders, continues to meet once a term. Nick Rogers recently took over as chair when Geoffrey Butlin stepped down after 10 years.

In addition to the weekly meetings we have had special events about once a month. These included

- hosting the National Ten Sing Festival in October
- a Team Building Day with Geocaching, "Clip & Climb" and a restaurant meal
- performing at the Cambridge Railway Station in aid of Health Poverty Action
- holding a Fundraising Dinner with an Asian theme

In March we held the Annual Concert which is our main event of the year. Yesterday we entertained again at the London Marathon.

Coming up in May is a charity concert in Histon, "Song for Goa".

We will have a Taster Evening for Year 6.

In July we are hosting two Ten Sing groups from Kingswood, Bristol and Bergen, Norway and they will be joining us at the Oakington Village Day.

We are taking part in Histon Feast, will be singing at a wedding and end the year with a fun family barbecue.

We have a big European Ten Sing Festival in Oslo coming up in 2018, so will be fundraising towards the travel costs for that.

Mrs Theresa King
Ten Sing Administrator
24/4/17

APPENDIX 11

1st Oakington Scout Group - brief report for Annual Parish Meeting April 2017

The Cub pack remains popular with around 25 members, with Jo Mowatt heading the team of leaders. We have about 12 Scouts, but numbers are increasing under the new Scout Leader, Cara Hanman and her two assistants. On Friday we ran an open night to see if there is interest in opening a Beaver Scout troop - beavers are the youngest section, aged 6-8. Lots of children attended so watch this space!

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are open to boys or girls who enjoy games, activities, working for badges and camping, so if you know any young people who fit this description, point them our way!

Jenny Prince
(1st Oakington Scout Group parent committee)

DRAFT