

Joint District Councillors' Report December 2018

District councillors' monthly report for the communities of Histon & Impington, Orchard Park and King's Meadow.

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these - or indeed any other - matters, please do not hesitate to contact us. Councillor Steve Hunt is on 01223 455180 or Cllr.HuntS@scambs.gov.uk, Councillor Martin Cahn is on 07826 748407 or Cllr.Cahn@scambs.gov.uk, Councillor Pippa Heylings is on 07837 228416 or Cllr.Heylings@scambs.gov.uk. You can also follow your councillors on our webpage <http://hiopcouncillors.org>, on Twitter @pippa4hiop , and on Facebook @pippaheylings4hiop

Brexit

At the time of writing the Brexit deal has been overwhelmingly rejected by MPs, even though Lucy Frazer, as she indicated, voted for the deal. Councillors, like many other constituents, have been making their representations to MPs. Heidi Allen in the neighbouring South Cambridgeshire constituency has come out as a champion of a People's Vote. Lucy Frazer has been reticent. At the time of writing, Mrs. May has not announced her intentions other than indicating a firm opposition to ruling out No Deal, but there is strong pressure in Parliament to prevent a No-deal scenario. Various options could be considered, but recent polls have indicated a significant majority now in favour of Remain, and so leaving without testing the 'will of the people' again can be seen as very undemocratic. Various avenues have been suggested, such as a citizen's assembly, further referendum, or passing the matter to a Royal Commission (suggested to Lucy by Cllr. Martin Cahn), but all depend on delaying Article 50. In the meantime, the Brexit Advisory Group of South Cambridgeshire DC is considering what help it can provide to local citizens and business in the case of a No Deal departure, and preparing a list of immediate recommendations for Cabinet.

Planning

Following the deferral of the application for 26 houses on Impington Lane, the developer was evidently frustrated with progress, and has appealed to the Secretary of State on the grounds of non-determination. The matter will now go before an inspector on the basis of written representations and is out of the local authority's hands. SCDC will need to consider carefully on what material grounds it is going to defend its decision.

Briefings on the application for a new town at Waterbeach have continued and this planning application is likely to be considered in a special session of Planning Committee on 28th February. Consideration of the proposals in relation to their promotion of cycling has continued. While the layout proposed by the Cambridge Cycling Campaign has been considered to pose problems, other layouts on the same basic theme are being considered.

We attended a briefing on the proposed redevelopment of the Cambridge Northern Fringe area, being the land bounded by the A14 to the north, Cowley Rd to the south and west, and the railway to the east. The proposal involves moving the water treatment works to a completely different site and includes ideas for making better use of the Science Park land. The vision is: "A thriving low carbon place for innovative living and working; inherently

walkable where everything is on your doorstep”. A key consideration in the design of the development is minimizing impact on traffic on the surrounding roads and neighbourhoods. The next step will be an “Issues and Options 2” public consultation, which is expected to run for 6 weeks from early February

Regarding the application to build student flats off Neal Drive in Orchard Park, at the time of writing we have not heard back from the developer since the meeting in November when they agreed to find a way to consult more effectively with the community.

Meadows Community Centre

Cambridge City Council has been appraising its community provision and has looked at the Community Centre in the Meadows which straddles the Cambridge City/South Cambridgeshire boundary, also serving the Kings Meadow area in South Cambridgeshire District.

The current proposal is to demolish the existing Meadows Centre and rebuild a new one on an adjacent site. Some new council housing would also be constructed. The City Council would also demolish the Buchan Street facility in the City and replace it with new council housing and some retail provision. The proposals will go out to consultation this year and will also involve SCDC as planning authority.

Your councillors would be very interested in hearing any concerns or suggestions the Parish Councils or residents in Kings Meadow and Orchard Park may have about these proposals.

South Cambs IT News

A new customer portal is being established and the customer website redesigned. This will come in progressively, but will permit users to send messages to the relevant persons in the Council directly and keep track of the progress of their enquiry. It is hoped that this will simplify access to our services, speed up responses to complaints and queries and lead to improved customer satisfaction.

There was a serious multiple-day IT outage in November, which impacted many of the Council’s internal and external applications. A dedicated Scrutiny & Overview working group has been set up to investigate why this happened and identify how we can increase the resilience of the Council’s online services.

Consideration of the Budget

The council has been preparing for the new financial year by laying out its proposals for the budget. The new proposals will be presented to Scrutiny Committee on 22nd January prior to being presented to Cabinet.

Meetings held in December 2018

Date	Meeting	Venue
4 th Dec	Civic Affairs Committee (MC, SH)	Cambourne

10 th Dec	Briefing on Northern Fringe Plans	Cambourne
11 th Dec	Planning Site Visits (MC)	Various
12 th Dec	Planning Committee (PH & MC)	Cambourne
12 th Dec	Orchard Park PC (MC, PH & SH)	Orchard Park
17 th Dec	Briefing on Design Quality	Cambourne
18 th Dec	Scrutiny and Overview Committee (MC, SH)	Cambourne
19 th Dec	Joint Development Control Committee – Cambridge Fringes (SH)	Guildhall
19 th Dec	Brexit Advisory Group (MC)	Cambourne

Forthcoming meetings

3 Jan 2019	Scrutiny and Overview Committee – Waterbeach (MC, SH)	Cambourne
8 th Jan	Meeting with Neighbourhood Policing team - PCSO Tony Martin and Sgt Emma Hilson (SH, MC)	Cambourne
8 th Jan	Histon and Impington PC Planning Committee (PH, MC)	Impington
9 Jan	Orchard Park PC (SH)	Orchard Park
14 th Jan	Training regarding the new Customer Portal (MC, SH)	Cambourne
15 Jan	Planning Trips (MC)	Cambourne
16 th Jan	Planning Committee (PH, MC)	Cambourne
21 st Jan	Histon and Impington PC (All)	Impington
21 st Jan	Scrutiny IT Working Group (SH)	Cambourne
22 nd Jan	Scrutiny and Overview Committee (MC, SH)	Cambourne
23 rd Jan	Joint Development Control Committee – Cambridge Fringes (SH)	Guildhall
23 rd Jan	SCDC Staff Awards (MC)	Cambourne
24 th Jan	Orchard Park Police Liaison Committee (MC)	Orchard Park