

# Joint District Councillors' Report January 2019

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](mailto:Cllr.HuntS@scambs.gov.uk), Councillor Martin Cahn is on 07826 748407 or [Cllr.Cahn@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Cahn@scambs.gov.uk), Councillor Pippa Heylings is on 07837 228416 or [Cllr.Heylings@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Heylings@scambs.gov.uk). You can also follow your councillors on our webpage <http://hiopcouncillors.org>, on Twitter @pippa4hiop , and on Facebook @pippaheylings4hiop

## New Business Plan 2019-2024 and Consideration of the Budget

As a new administration, we have made significant changes to the proposed Business Plan with a focus on building a Greener, Cleaner and Fairer South Cambs, together with preparing for the new financial year by laying out its proposals for the budget. The main areas of focus are:

- Growing local businesses and economies
- Housing that is affordable for everyone to live in (not just the cost of the house but also the costs of commuting, energy and child or adult care that come with a house depending on its location and design)
- Creating a cleaner, greener and zero-carbon future for our communities
- Being a modern and caring Council

The proposed Business Plan and Budget went out to consultation and had a higher response rate than normal (mainly very positive), changes were made based on the consultation and it was then presented for pre-scrutiny (a new approach brought in by this administration) in the Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, then approved at the level of the Cabinet before finally being submitted for approval by Full Council on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The proposed Business Plan and Budget can be found online as part of the Agenda Report Pack for this forthcoming Full Council.

## Waste and Recycling

**Elimination of Single-Use Plastic at South Cambs.** You may remember that Pippa put a successful motion at Full Council to eliminate the purchase and use of single-use plastic within South Cambs buildings, including cups, bottles, cutlery and straws. We're really happy to announce that this has now been fully implemented within the South Cambs building. The Facility Manager has stopped all procurement of plastic water, juice and fizzy drink bottles for sale in the canteen/café; all plastic cups in offices, meeting rooms and by the water dispensers have been replaced with glasses; no more paper cups are being purchased for the tea/coffee vending machines – these have been replaced with ceramic mugs and with a co-branded re-usable mug (supplied by the vending machine company); no plastic cutlery is provided in the café; plastic straws are available on-demand if needed. We have also bought recycling bins for each floor and office space at South Cambs Hall. A survey we conducted showed that there was a huge level of support from staff to cut single-use plastic and to enable them to recycle whilst at work. It's quite incredible that this wasn't happening before, really, given the number of people that work at South Cambs Hall. Recycling bins were only available at the back of the café previously, for use by the canteen staff. It's great to see

South Cambs 'walking the talk' and now doing as much as possible in their own workspace to improve recycling rates.

**Local Dog Poo Bins.** A rather unpleasant overspill of one of the local Dog Poo bins led to useful collaboration between your District and Parish Councillors and residents following a discussion on HI People. This resulted in a temporary solution to that particular problem and hopefully a better longer-term solution for this bin and others. The dog poo bins are collected weekly by SCDC. At the moment, they are collected on Fridays, the same day as our other bins. They are collected by SCDC on a separate run from the bin lorries. It is usually the Parish Council that identifies where these bins are needed. If they are on Parish Council land, then the PC pays for the bins and SCDC provides the waste collection service. If they are on the street or on public land, then it is SCDC that pays for the bins, installation and provides the weekly waste collection. If the weekly collection doesn't happen – as in this case - or there is a problem, then this needs to be reported to SCDC by going to the following page under "littering" HERE: <https://www.scams.gov.uk/report-it/> This is a bit like the pot-hole logging system, so that it is actually registered and a recurrent problem can be identified/highlighted. Also on this central reporting system, the information is then sent out to the vans who may be passing quite close in the next day or so. Reporting online is better than writing to a particular officer responsible because emails can get stuck in someone's inbox which is a problem if they are ill or away etc. However, as in this case, an online report that is copied to the officer responsible for collections can help: a double-pronged approach. As for the longer-term solution: SCDC is very happy to install bigger bins to replace the smaller dog poo bins in order to deal with the increasing amount of dog poo that needs collection within a week. These bins (not quite as big as our household collection bins) would be collected as part of the weekly general bin collections by the larger bin lorries. The Parish Council is considering whether/where to invest in these larger bins.

**Green bin Collection.** From April 2019, there will be an annual charge for residents who want their additional green bin(s) to be collected. The Council has thought long and hard about this and has looked at examples around the country. They are still going to collect and dispose of food and garden waste from one green bin per household with no additional charge as before. A long discussion on HI People about this issue enabled many views to be aired. Where people have larger gardens, this is perhaps the opportunity to set up composting in the garden to then enrich the soil and put garden waste back into the ecosystem. Other suggestions included: setting up community green waste compost sites, such as the allotments; or, agreeing among neighbours to use their green bin for storage and collection (if they have space). It's quite a cost to taxpayers to be moving around garden waste and the focus is now importantly on getting other recycling sorted. We have found out that in our district only 22% of our total waste (excluding green waste) is put in the blue bin at the moment. So we need to reduce overall waste (black bin) and make sure that we are recycling more (blue bin). That's where the Council is going to be really focussing recycling efforts with the limited financial resources available to local authorities.

Meanwhile, there is a national government consultation out at the moment looking at how to get manufacturers to pay the cost of recycling/ disposing of the waste and packaging they produce. This includes food waste. So, local authorities may have to collect food waste differently in the future, perhaps including a weekly food waste collection. Watch this space. Meanwhile, because our green bins have mixed waste (both kitchen food and garden waste), this goes for a 6-week intensive treatment (in-vessel composting) at Waterbeach Waste Treatment Centre, under strict regulations to avoid the spread of disease. It is turned into 35,000 tonnes of compost each year and residents can collect this compost for their gardens/allotments for free.

**Histon, Impington and Cottenham to Pilot a Recycling Campaign.** Although we are better than some areas at our recycling, evidence now shows that only 22% of our overall household waste is being put in the blue bin. We'd like to change that. SCDC Waste Service has agreed, therefore, to pilot a recycling campaign in Histon, Impington and Cottenham by providing technical advice, planning support and communication materials to the local sustainability groups: HI Sustainability and Sustainable Cottenham. These groups have been meeting once a month since November to plan the campaign, together with Pippa Heylings, Neil Gough (Cabinet Lead Member for Environmental Services and Cottenham District Councillor) and Vicky Lacey (Waterbeach Depot Communications Officer). The online campaign will be launched at the beginning of February and will be fronted by the recycled puppet, Janet Street Sorter (made completely from recycled materials by a very creative member of HI Sustainability). The Parish Council have agreed to support this campaign and information will be shared in the HISIMP newsletter. We would also like to request that a leaflet about the campaign be included in the delivery of the HISIMP newsletter so that it can also reach residents who do not use the HI People facebook.

**Orchard Park Community Council Recycling Efforts.** The Chair of Orchard Park Community Council has established a working group between the area's Police Officer, County Councillor David Jenkins, District Councillors Steve, Martin and Pippa, SCDC Patch Officer for OP and representatives of some local groups. This Working Group aims to help OP deal with some of the issues it is facing in terms of community-building, littering, crime and anti-social behavior. OP is now running regular community litter collection days and regular community events at the OP Community Centre. The Chair, Andrew Chan, has established the OP Community Centre as a TerraCycle Centre which can collect items which cannot be recycled through the blue bins but which companies have agreed to take back: crisp packets, toothpaste tubes and packets etc. This is useful not only for Orchard Park residents but also for Histon and Impington residents as this is a much closer collection point for such items.

## Planning

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. Your District Councillors have requested that this application be referred to Planning Committee if Officers are minded to approve. We have also supported the Clerk's request for transparency regarding the viability assessment which should be publicly available.

Regarding the application for the **Land North of Impington Lane**, the applicant Hill has decided not to take up the opportunity to engage further with residents and the Parish Council regarding their concerns. The Planning Committee deferred their decision so as to give them more time for this engagement. 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. As part of this process, the SCDC Planning Committee meeting in February will require members to take a vote to show what the decision would have been on this application if there had not been a deferral. Parish Council and residents are invited to send in written representations to the Inspectorate with a copy to SCDC.

Regarding the proposed **Unwin Community Park and 50 Houses on Milton Road**, Pippa has provided the Parish Council Community Park Sub-Committee with information on the

relevant policy and planning considerations that the SCDC Planning Committee would need to take into account if the application were to be submitted and then subsequently referred to the Committee.

Briefings on the application for a **new town at Waterbeach** have continued and the proposed Planning Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> February has been postponed with no new date being decided as yet. We are happy to see that there is due consideration of the proposals in relation to their promotion of cycling. 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. Despite concerns being raised by your Councillor about the location of the Primary School close to the A10, it is considered that pm2.5 values will not breach thresholds even if those thresholds were to be reduced in the near future by national government.

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

## Policing

We met with the Neighbourhood Policing team - PCSO Tony Martin and Sgt Emma Hilson. Drug and nitrous oxide use at the Rec and skatepark has been tackled over the summer resulting in cautions being issued. They are working on breaking the supply chain. Tony Martin is working on re-invigorating Neighbourhood Watch schemes and identifying localities where new schemes could be established. It was mentioned that vehicle and parking violations are not currently a high priority.

The police will hold a public meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 18:00 at the Histon and Impington Parish Offices. This will be an opportunity to hear about the priorities for local policing and a chance to discuss any concerns you may have.

## Traffic and transport

There will be a Greater Cambridge Partnership consultation starting 4th February on proposals for the Cambourne to Cambridge Transport link. Although not directly affecting residents in Histon, Impington and Orchard Park, it might be of interest to residents who travel that way. Councillors have been asked to promote as much as possible.

The Strategic Bus Review report, commissioned by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, was published on 23rd January. The options being considered will be outlined in a business case. These could include franchising and enhanced partnerships but the timescale is depressingly long. Some improvements in bus networks could be introduced sooner but the report is rather disappointing given the time it has taken to produce. The report can be found on: <http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/Strategic-Bus-Review.pdf>. We will endeavour to make sure that

the interests of residents living in the village around Cambridge will be served as these proposals progress.

Elsewhere, proposals on the Cambridge/Bedford section of the East-West Rail Route between Cambridge and Oxford have been published for public consultation. The consultation runs from 28th January to 11th March. Information about the options being considered can be found on: <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/haveyoursay>

This is just a start and there will be more opportunities for people to comment as proposals evolve. One point to note is that a proposal for a northern route from Cambridge North Station and linking to the Guided Busway through Histon has been eliminated. The Northern option was rejected due to higher costs and operational complications particularly for freight movements. The 5 proposals being consulted on are southern routes.

At the local level, the issue of a faulty bulb in a light on the path between Saffron Road and Somerset Road has been raised on HI People. This proved to be a South Cambs light (all the lights on the Somerset/Merton Road area are South Cambs lights). This followed a similar problem with a light on the path between Hereward Close and Water Lane in December. The lights concerned were identified – they had been omitted from the map database and the information was passed to the depot for action. It would be helpful if details of locations where the footpath lighting is inadequate could be forwarded to councillors as well as any other faulty, possibly unrecorded, footpath lights. The problems of lighting at another point on the path from Hereward Close to Water Lane have already been raised.

## “My South Cambs” Customer Portal

Councillors attended a demonstration of a new South Cambs Council customer portal that went live on 21st January. Users will be able to sign in using e-mail, facebook, Microsoft and Google. The system allows customers to submit questions, contact the Council about planning, benefits, waste collections etc as well as to report problems. The system is evolving and will enable customers to track the progress of their complaint or enquiry. As the system is web based, it will free up officer time to carry out their work – we welcome any feedback. The new portal can be accessed from the S Cambs Council homepage or on <https://mysouthcambs.scambs.gov.uk>.

## Meetings held in January 2019

3 Jan 2019	Scrutiny and Overview Committee – Waterbeach (MC, SH)	Cambourne
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Meeting with Neighbourhood Policing team - PCSO Tony Martin and Sgt Emma Hilson (SH, MC)	Cambourne
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Histon and Impington PC Planning Committee (PH, MC)	Impington
9 Jan	Orchard Park CC (SH)	Orchard Park
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Training regarding the new Customer Portal (MC, SH)	Cambourne
15 Jan	Planning Trips (MC)	Cambourne
16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Planning Committee (PH, MC)	Cambourne
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Histon and Impington PC (All)	Impington
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Scrutiny IT Working Group (SH)	Cambourne

22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Scrutiny and Overview Committee (MC, SH)	Cambourne
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Joint Development Control Committee – Cambridge Fringes (SH)	Guildhall
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	SCDC Staff Awards (MC)	Cambourne
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Orchard Park Police Liaison Committee (MC)	Orchard Park

### Forthcoming meetings

4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Climate Change and Environment Committee	Cambourne
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Planning Briefing (Waterbeach E.)	Cambourne
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Scrutiny and Overview IT WG (SH)	Cambourne
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Flood & Water Management Briefing	Cambourne
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Joint Working Group on Natural Environment in Planning (PH)	Cambourne
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Planning Ctte Site Visits	Various
13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Planning Ctte	Cambourne
13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	OPCC	Orchard Park
18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	H&I PC	Impington
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Joint Development Control Committee – Cambridge Fringes (SH)	Guildhall
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	CPCA Briefing on new Local Transport Plan	Cambourne
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Scrutiny and Overview Committee (MC, SH)	Cambourne
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Full Council	Cambourne