

Joint District Councillor's Report July & August 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@scams.gov.uk, Councillor Martin Cahn is on 07826 748407 or Cllr.Cahn@scams.gov.uk, Councillor Pippa Heylings is on 07837 228416 or Cllr.Heylings@scams.gov.uk. You can also follow your councillors on our webpage <http://hiopcouncillors.org>, on Twitter @pippa4hiop, and on Facebook @pippaheylings4hiop

Histon and Impington Junior School make a presentation to the Climate Change and Environment Committee

On 8th July 2019 the Climate Change and Environment Committee received a presentation from Histon and Impington Junior School about the Climate Emergency. Five representatives from the school presented their own statements about the issues that they felt were important regarding the emergency to impress the importance that they felt, as those who would have to live with the impact of the Emergency, were important to them.



Cycle access to Huntingdon Road

Complaints have been received about the condition of the path which runs from Histon Road near the boundary with the city council across the new Darwin Green development to Huntingdon Road. Although this is formally a footpath, it is heavily used by cyclists and is foreseen as a joint use path in the new development. The section of the path nearest to Histon Road – which lies in Impington

Parish, is in poor condition, rutted and uneven, and a cyclist from Impington, who uses the path regularly to get to work, fell and injured herself recently. It turned out that the City Council staff had been managing this particular development and the officer concerned was consulted. Investigations showed that it was planned to provide the new cycle path along a slightly different alignment, and works by the gas utility had caused problems on the original alignment. The new alignment was planned for early 2020, but the highways authority promised to carry out a temporary improvement on the original alignment to prevent further mishaps.

Meadows Development and St Albans Road Recreation Ground

The City Council has obtained Government funding to provide 500 new council houses and has been looking for sites in its control. One of those identified was on the site of St Albans Road Recreation Ground and the Meadows Community Centre. It is proposed to demolish the Meadows and Buchan Street community centres (the latter mainly serves a housing estate in the city area but also serves a few houses on the estate that lie in Orchard Park Parish). On the site of the community centres and their car parks, it is proposed to rebuild the Meadows Centre and provide a community room in Buchan Street, and also build 100 council flats. However the Meadows proposals would also remove about 10-15% of the green space on the St Albans Road Recreation Ground.

All the land concerned is owned by the city council, and the City manages the Community Centres, but the Meadows Centre and part of the recreation ground lie in South Cambridgeshire District and also serve the Kings Meadow development that lies in Impington Parish. A local action group has been established to fight the proposals on the recreation ground and Martin & Steve have met with the group to hear their concerns. The group, which includes members both from South Cambridgeshire and the City, has expressed particular concern about the low amount of greenspace in northern Cambridge and the impact the loss of this greenspace will have on this and on tree cover in the area. They are also concerned about the proximity and scale of the new development in relation to the green areas and in particular the sports pitches.

As a result of their and many other representations, the City Council has withdrawn the proposals and is now investigating ways in which the development can be refined and better integrated into the green space.

Steve attended a briefing for councillors and was shown the outline of a new proposal which the developers and City Housing feel addresses many of the concerns. The new design is a complete re-think by a new team of architects and landscapers. It will be the subject of a new consultation which has yet to be announced.

Sustainable New Development

A new draft Supplementary Planning Document has been jointly prepared by South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City to ensure that all new development in the Greater Cambridge area is carried out in a sustainable manner. Covering Sustainable Design and Construction, it will indicate in a clear manner to developers how they should minimise their impact on the environment, in particular with respect to carbon emissions, flood risks, pollution and pressure on water resources. Consultations

are open until 23rd September and the document can be viewed on <https://cambridge.jdi-consult.net/localplan/readdoc.php?docid=198> . It will provide a welcome backdrop to the local design guide.

Zero Carbon Community Projects

A new grant scheme has been launched to help the area move to a zero carbon future. A total of £91000 will be available to community groups and parish councils for grants between £1000 and £15000 (Other groups such as schools can apply via a parish council or non-profit organisation). The money can be used for projects that reduce carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels. Applications are open until 31st October 2019.

Cambridge Ice Arena

The new Cambridge ice rink off Newmarket Road opened on August 26th 2019. This project has been supported by the District Council and its opening will be the culmination of a long-held dream to have an ice rink in the Cambridge area.

Cycle Security at Cambridge North

We had an informal meeting with officers from British Transport Police and Cambridgeshire Constabulary to look at what might be done to improve security of bike parking at Cambridge North. The police had a number of thoughts about how to improve the site layout and equipment. They took an action to organize a meeting with the station operators and we will attend to represent residents. Please do contact us with your views on this, especially if you have been the victim of crime or avoid using the cycle park for fear of crime.

Histon Road Redevelopment

The Histon Road Local Liaison Forum met, and many residents and local representatives saw a presentation about the latest iteration of the design. The most contentious subject was the developers' preference to close Histon Rd to inbound vehicular traffic for the entire duration of the works (over a year). The alternative would be light-controlled alternate direction running, but this is said to more than double the overall length of the programme. If Histon Road is closed inbound, traffic entering the City on that route would be diverted to use Huntingdon Road and Milton Road. We asked whether the impact on these roads had been modelled, but were told they had not. The biggest impact is likely to be on users of the Citi 8 which will have to take a considerable diversion along already congested streets. However, the shortening of the development and various other side benefits of the closure are likely to make it the chosen option.

A14 Update

At the 11th hour, Highways England withdrew its legal challenge to the stricter conditions imposed by South Cambs District Council on noise, vibrations and nightworks that were disproportionately distressing residents.

South Cambs received notice that the legal challenge to the planning conditions (S61 consent) made by Highways England to the Secretary of State was withdrawn on the evening before the appeal was to be formally served by the Planning Inspectorate. SCDC had done all the preparation of their submission with the support of QC and experts and felt confident that they had a good case. Pippa had made sure that they would submit the residents' statement (prepared by members of the H&I A14 Action Group), too, as is due process. In our last meeting with David Bray, Director of A14 Project, Pippa let him know how disappointed she was that they had made this legal challenge now that the new thresholds had made things better for residents and had been possible to be maintained by HE (with a little rescheduling). Communications were also much better, which had always been a problem. This has not gone the way HE thought it would. They thought it would create a precedent to stop other local authorities insisting on stricter conditions in residential areas. But it also creates a precedent if the local authority wins and strengthens their hand in setting adequate provision and control. In some ways, perhaps, it is a shame that the appeal didn't go ahead. However, this saves the Council from having to spend more money on legal costs and from diverting officer time away from the job they need to be doing. This result is unprecedented for our Council and has been the result of our concerted efforts at local level and strong representation by your Councillors within the Council, as well as a change of approach, staff and leadership within the Council.

SCDC continue liaising with HE to make sure that the A14 improvement happens as smoothly as possible, with due consideration for residents

Appointments during July

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| 2 July | Cavendish School Drop-In | Impington |
| 4 July | Extraordinary Full Council Meeting | Cambourne |
| 4 July | Local Plan Workshops | Cambourne & Guildhall |
| 8 July | Climate and Environment Cttee | Cambourne |
| 9 July | Planning Site Visits | Cambourne |
| 10 July | Planning Committee | Cambourne |
| 10 July | Orchard Park Community Council | Orchard Park |
| 15 July | H&I Parish Council Meeting | Impington |
| 16 July | SCDC Scrutiny and Overview Committee | Cambourne |
| 17 July | Cambridge Fringes JDCC | Guildhall |
| 18 July | Full Council | Cambourne |
| 22 July | Histon Rd Local Liaison Forum | Meadows Centre |
| 29 July | Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee | Fenland Hall, March |

Appointments during August

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| 13 August | Planning Site Visits | Cambourne |
| 13 August | Meeting with Police about cycle security | Cambridge North |
| 14 August | Planning Committee | Cambourne |

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| 14 August | NEC AAP Local Ward Members Forum | Guildhall |
| 15 August | Meeting on St Albans Recr. Ground | Impington |
| 20 August | Scrutiny and Overview Committee | Cambourne |
| 21 August | Cambridge Fringes JDCC | Guildhall |
| 27 August | Brexit Advisory Committee | Cambourne |
| 28 August | Meadows Centre Briefing | Meadows Centre |
| 29 August | NEC AAP Local Ward Members Forum | Shirley Centre |

Appointments during September

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| 3 Sep | Economic Development Action Plan Member Workshop | Cambourne |
| 9 Sep | JDCC Site Visits | Eddington/Darwin Green |
| 10 Sep | JDCC Site Visits | Trumpington Meadows |
| 10 Sep | Scrutiny & Overview Committee | Cambourne |
| 12 Sep | Planning Committee | Cambourne |
| 23 Sep | Greater Cambridge Local Plan: Issues & Options report briefings | Cambourne |
| 24 Sep | Climate & Environment Advisory Ctte | Cambourne |
| 26 Sep | Local Transport Plan Briefing | Cambourne |
| 26 Sep | Full Council | Cambourne |
| 27 Sep | Grants Advisory Committee | Cambourne |