

Joint District Councillor's Report September 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, 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

Road Improvements on Histon Road

A meeting with the engineer in charge was organised with Parish, District and County councillors affected by the proposed improvements to Histon Road. The proposals were outlined, which include the establishment of improved cycle lanes, including a bus lane in the section nearest to the A14 roundabout and an improved crossroads at Gilbert Road intersection. The current proposal is to do the work in three phases. The first phase would be on the Huntingdon Road intersection for a few months, followed by the section from there to Gilbert Road over about 6 months. Diversions on these sections would be limited to the sections affected. The section from Gilbert Road to the A14 would only commence once work on the A14 is complete and would take about one year.

It is planned that motor traffic going into Cambridge will be diverted along Milton Road (cyclists will be able to continue in both directions). Great concern was expressed about delays to buses going in to Cambridge, in particular those going to sixth forms south of the centre (Hills Road, Long Road) and the need for more effective peak time transport along the busway was also noted (Cottenham in particular wanted services from Cottenham along the busway from Oakington which would also ease the morning situation in Histon where schoolchildren find all the buses from St Ives full by the time they reach there). The possibility of free replacement buses was raised and it appears that there will be such a service to serve people living along the final section of Histon Road to be treated (Gilbert Road to the A14).

Your councillors are concerned about the impact of these works on traffic and are concerned that concurrent works in Milton Road will create an even worse situation than a simple diversion. It was stated by the engineer that the Milton Road scheme would not be started until Histon Road was open both ways. Particular concern was expressed about bus services which are a lifeline for some residents and detailed information on the precise routes proposed in the different phases was requested. While there was a suggestion of tidal flow (in in the morning, out in the evening), apparently this creates real managerial problems and could greatly lengthen the timescale. The options for alternatives do appear to be limited. We are awaiting further information in the light of our representations.

Redevelopment of the Meadows Centre

As part of the proposal to develop 500 new council houses for the City of Cambridge, it is proposed to demolish the existing centre and replace it by 78 new council flats and a new centre. An initial proposal in Spring 2019 initiated many objections about the loss of green space and density and height of development. Revised proposals have now been developed and consultations have been

opened – an exhibition was held on 1st October 2019. The Meadows Centre lies in South Cambridgeshire even though it is owned and operated by the City Council. In the revised proposals the community centre will be rebuilt on land in the City Council area, and new housing will be constructed in South Cambridgeshire.

The revised proposals provide less impact on trees on the St Albans Recreation Ground and take a smaller area of existing open space. However, a six-storey block is proposed at the northernmost part of the site adjoining the St Catherine's Road/Arbury Road intersection which many residents feel will be overbearing. In addition, the other flats are 3-4 storeys high, and there is concern among residents that they will have an overbearing effect on nearby housing. That being said, the impact is clearly less than in the initial proposals. The community centre is being rebuilt on two storeys, and concern was expressed about access for those with impaired mobility, access to outdoor play areas for the resident pre-school nursery, and access to the main auditorium area on the first floor. There appears scope for careful redesign of the interior.

The design proposal can be viewed at https://www.ip-cambridge.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/045_Consultation-Boards_6.0-PRINT-lo-res.pdf .

Consultation form is available here: <https://www.ip-cambridge.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Meadows-and-Buchan-St-Comments-Form-v5.pdf>

Responses can be made up until 25th October 2019.

Wind Turbines

There is currently an effective embargo on further onshore wind power development in England at a time when onshore wind is the cheapest form of renewable power available. A motion was presented to Council by Councillor Geoff Harvey which asks that the Council write to the Secretary of State asking that the policy be revised to permit small-scale onshore applications of up to 5MW. These applications should be considered on their merits like other applications for low carbon energy.

Marmalade Lane wins an award.

The Marmalade Lane cohousing development in Orchard Park has won the Highly Commended acclamation in the Royal Town Planning Institute's Awards for Planning Excellence. This innovative development recreates a street as of yore – with little traffic, a place for meeting and activity in a setting of high environmental standards. It has taken many years of interaction between the Planning Department and the group of interested developers but now makes an excellent contribution to the innovative and active community in Orchard Park.

Local Plan Issues & Options Consultation

South Cambs is working with Cambridge City Council to prepare a joint Local Plan for the Greater Cambridge area. Both the Councils' current adopted Local Plans (2018) include a policy which makes a commitment to an early review of those Plans to commence before the end of 2019.

We attended a briefing about the first stages which is an Issues and Options consultation. This is due to begin on 25 November and run through until the New Year. At this early stage, the consultation will be around four big themes and not delving into detailed planning policy:

- Climate change
- Biodiversity/Green Space
- Wellbeing and equality
- Delivering quality places

A report was published on Monday 23 September, giving details of the Issues and Options consultation.

<https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/documents/s47421/191001%20-%20LPAG%20-%20Item%20%20-%20Local%20Plan%20Issues%20Options%20report.pdf>

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/what-s-next-for-homes-jobs-and-the-environment-in-cambridge-and-south-cambridgeshire/>

At the briefing we learned that the consultation will be online and designed to allow people to dip into areas of interest. We would like the consultation to include groups that have been traditionally hard to engage in planning issues. If you know of any public meetings or events where the planning team could bring a “roadshow” to connect with residents, please let us know.

Thermal Imaging camera

With the weather getting colder it’s worth considering whether you could reduce your energy use by putting in simple insulation measures to reduce heat losses and draughts. A thermal imaging camera will help identify these heat losses and can be borrowed for free from the Council. For details please see <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-development/the-sustainable-parish-energy-partnership/thermal-imaging-camera/>

Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme

A reminder that this scheme is accepting applications for community projects around climate change and the environment. The deadline for applications is 5pm on October 31st. For full details please see <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/zerocarbongrant>

Meetings in September

9 th / 10 th September	Eddington, Trumpington Meadows, Darwin Green	Cambridge Fringes JDCC Site Tours	Steve
10 th September	Cambourne	Scrutiny and Overview Committee	Martin, Steve
11 September	Orchard Park	Orchard Park Community Council	Martin, Steve.
12 September	Cambourne	Planning Committee	Martin
16 th September	Impington	H&I Parish Council	Martin, Pippa, Steve
17 th September	Cambridge	Trees Working Group	Martin
18 September	Girton	Consultation on Darwin Green	Martin
18 th September	Guildhall	Cambridge Fringes JDCC	Steve
23 rd September	Guildhall	Greater Cambridge	Steve, Pippa

		Local Plan Issues & Options Briefing	
24 September	Cambourne	Climate Change and Environment Committee	Pippa, Martin
24 September	Cottenham	Meeting with Histon Road project officer	Steve, Martin
26 September	Cambourne	Full Council	Martin, Pippa, Steve
30 September	Cambourne	Brexit Advisory Group	Martin, Steve

Forthcoming meetings

1 st October	Meadows Centre Consultation	Martin, Steve
4 th October	Workshop on Housing and Wellbeing	Martin
8 th October	Planning Site visits	Martin
9 th October	OPCC	Steve
15 th October	Local Nature Partnership	Martin
17 th October	Scrutiny and Overview Committee	Martin, Steve
18 th October	Planning Briefing	Martin, Pippa
21 st October	H&I PC	Martin, Pippa, Steve
23 rd October	Cambridge Fringes JDCC	Steve
24 th October	Planning Committee	Martin, Pippa
24 th October	Brexit Advisory Group	Martin, Steve
29 th October	Civic Affairs Committee	Martin