

County councillor's monthly report for November 2019

For the Histon and Impington (H&I) county council division of Cambridgeshire which also includes King's Meadow and Orchard Park.

Full Council meeting

There was no meeting of Full Council in November.

Committee meetings and other council matters

Adults: there was one key decision relating to the need to be able to continue to spot purchase care services ie to maintain the status quo. There was also a secret item about the Learning Disability Partnership. The committee 'considered the content of the report and approved'. Makes you wonder what it was all about

Children & Young People: the committee met in Cambourne. There was one key decision whereby the committee approved a new primary school development in Sawtry instead of an expansion of the existing provision. It also agreed to work in partnership with Cottenham Parish Council to deliver a nursery/childcare facility in the new village hall development. Bravo!

General Purposes: the committee met; the agenda was again short with no key decisions of note. However in its review of the capital budget it (actually me) spotted that the council's contribution to the A14 rebuild cost was expected to be funded by robbing other highways related budgets and not from extra borrowing as had originally been planned. Officers have gone away to check ...

The Highways & Infrastructure, Economy & Environment and Planning committees did not meet.

Commercial & Investment: the committee met. There were no key decisions but there was the usual secret session. This time it was about the Shire Hall disposal Heads of Terms. I argued against this because of massive public interest but was outvoted by the all powerful Tory whip.

Communities & Partnerships: the committee met but doesn't appear to have taken any decisions.

Health: there were two, related, key decisions concerning the Sexual Health Services contract. It is being recommissioned as a joint deal between Peterborough and Cambridgeshire councils.

Neither the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive or the Assembly met. The planned meeting of the latter was cancelled because of the election.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met as did all its committees. The Board itself approved the setting up of an 'Independent Commission on Climate Change' with a duty to report within 12 months and a budget of £125k. It also made a number of grants (£5.78k affordable homes in Great Abingdon), £100k Entrepreneurs' Accelerator Fund, £2.185m Business Growth Service including £50K Skills Brokerage Service, £795k A605 Alwalton to Lynchwood improvement).

The planned meeting of the Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel was cancelled but then there was an extraordinary meeting to appoint an interim Commissioner following the sudden resignation of the incumbent. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority met and considered a number of reports.

Consultations relevant to this division (and elsewhere)

Consultation	Purpose/object	Due date and link
Proposed changes to the Council's Adult Social	to find out how five proposed changes to the Council's charging policy will affect people	15 Dec 19

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Care charging policy	currently receiving council services	http://bit.ly/2OptjwX
Business Planning 2020/21	to seek resident's views to help plan the budget and understand how the council can support a good quality of life for communities.	8 Dec 19 http://bit.ly/2CjUhP1
Minerals and Waste Local Plan - Proposed Submission Plan	Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council are reviewing their joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan.	9 Jan 20 http://bit.ly/2sTkUcj
Annual consultation of school admission arrangements 2021/2022	Councils must publish and consult on plans for admissions to primary and secondary schools within their area	13 Jan 20 http://bit.ly/38htsdo

More local matters

I attended the Greater Cambridge Partnership Histon Road Local Liaison Forum.

I joined other councillors to meet the new commercial director at Stagecoach.

I met county officers to look at options to improve safety along Station Road at school run time. I met local residents to look at 'soft' options to improve the situation.

I met local residents to review plans for cyclists and pedestrians at Buxhall Farm school

And finally ... I don't know if this is generally true but I reckon that many people are less than impressed at the quality of the electioneering that has been taking place. Certainly I'm not. Whereas I suspect that there was a consensus that an election was necessary to free up parliament's log jam any goodwill that that engendered has now gone as we've been exposed to an arms race of plans about what the various parties will do and many of them are barely credible, to claims and counter-claims about who's figures add up and to accusations of misbehaviour of some sort or another. And have you noticed how it's so much about the party leaders, almost a presidential election, and whether they are honest and can be trusted.

4 Dec	1000	Highways & Community Infrastructure	Shire Hall, Cambridge
5 Dec	1400	Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
5 Dec	1000	Economy & Environment Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
16 Dec	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
16 Dec	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
17 Dec	1000	Communities & Partnership	Shire Hall, Cambridge
17 Dec	1000	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
18 Dec	1400	Adults Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
19 Dec	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
19 Dec	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Hinchingbrooke Park
19 Dec	1030	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
29 Jan	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	HDC office, Huntingdon
29 Jan	1000	C&P Combined Authority	ECDC office, Ely
30 Jan	1000	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	SCDC office, Cambourne
30 Jan	1000	Health & Wellbeing Board	Shire Hall, Cambridge
19 Feb	1400	Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive	Shire Hall, Cambridge

*committees of which I am currently a member; these may change. Note that the Council's diary is online https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccc_live/Meetings.aspx.