

County councillor's monthly report for January 2020

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

Another busy month with all policy committees meeting and for once there were some substantive items on some of the agendas. But not many.

Full Council meeting

There was no meeting during January.

Committee meetings and other council matters

Adults: there were several key decisions including one of some significance viz to make changes to the Council's charging which will raise £1.7 million next year and a further £1.7 million the year after. This is a key part of the proposals coming forward for the 2020/21 budget. The other key decisions relate to the procurement of care and support services in Extra Care schemes, to the retendering of current block contracts for residential and nursing care, and to the development of a unit for supported living in partnership with the NHS.

Children & Young People: there were two key decision. The first related to the insourcing of the residential and overnight short breaks service. The second concerned the schools funding formula and in particular the transfer of about £6.6 million from the 'schools block' to the 'high needs block'.

General Purposes: there were two inconsequential key decisions. In other decisions it approved to go ahead and pilot no car zones outside schools at two schools during the summer of 2020.

Economy & Environment, Health, Highways & Infrastructure: these committees met. There were no key decisions and thin agendas and that's what I said last month. However E&E did rubber stamp the Cambridgeshire Transport Investment Plan, H&I approved new parking charges, and Health conducted a rather unsatisfactory review of the Clinical Commissioning Group's Strategic Transformation Plan's digital plans.

Commercial & Investment: the committee met. There were no key decisions but there was the usual secret session. This time it was about an option on land forming a part of Northstowe phase 3b.

Communities & Partnerships: the committee met. There were no key decisions. However it did consider a Cambridge University Science & Policy Exchange report on the future of local government in relation to the council's 'think communities' approach. It agreed to run an ambitious workshop in April.

The Planning committee did not meet. It has not met since Oct 19 and its next meeting is not until Mar 20.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive did not meet. However the Assembly did meet and considered the City access strategy and a number of public transport proposals.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met with a focus on affordable housing programs and moving the Cambridge Autonomous Metro plan forwards. Its Housing & Communities, Employment & Skills, Overview & Scrutiny and Audit & Governance Committees and the Business Board also met.

Neither the Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel nor the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority met. Both have met early in February to set their precepts.

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Consultations relevant to this division (and elsewhere)

Consultation	Purpose/object	Due date and link
There are no currently active consultations		

More local matters

I met CCC and A14 officers on site at the B1049/A14 junction to look at ways to improve the waiting area for cyclists and pedestrians.

I joined parish and district councillors in a meeting to consider and secure the future of the Abbeyfield independent living facility in Histon

I attended a meeting with district and parish councillors and District Council and A14 officers to review plans for landscaping at the B1049/A14 junction.

I joined community councillors and residents in Orchard Park to celebrate Chinese New Year.

I met county officers to review drainage issues related to Buxhall Farm primary school.

And finally ... on the one hand it's good news that the A14 people say that they'll be finished early and that the end is in sight but they really have been immensely difficult to deal with. From the thoughtless destruction of our trees two years ago through to the casual way they've handled the provision for cyclists and pedestrians as they've been working on the B1049 approach to the A14 it's been difficult. It's a big project and I'm in awe at its complexity and how it can be managed but the one impression I get is that the focus is on delivering on time and within budget and nothing can get in the way of this. The impact that this has on residents is worsened by the many layers of contractors and sub-contractors because although just maybe the A14 people have a more balanced scorecard these people are just hired hands and are paid for delivery which is all that they do. I've had good relationships with the A14 top people but even they seem to have little ability to control the way that stuff actually gets done.

6 Feb	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	HDC office, Huntingdon
6 Feb	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Hinchingsbrooke Park
11 Feb	1030	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
19 Feb	1400	Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive	Shire Hall, Cambridge
21 Feb	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
25 Feb	1000	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
26 Feb	1000	C&P Combined Authority	ECDC office, Ely
5 Mar	1000	Economy & Environment Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
10 Mar	1000	Highways & Infrastructure	Shire Hall, Cambridge
10 Mar	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
12 Mar	1400	Adults Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
12 Mar	1000	Communities & Partnership	Shire Hall, Cambridge
19 Mar	1400	Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
19 Mar	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
4 Jun	1000	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	SCDC office, Cambourne
2 Jul	1000	Health & Wellbeing Board	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.