

Joint District Councillor's Report Jan 2020

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

Scheme of Delegation for Planning Committee

As mentioned in the last report, the Director of Fews Lane Consortium Ltd has written to parish councils alleging that the Council is proposing to make a major change to the way the scheme of delegation operates. In the light of this letter, it has been decided to tighten the scheme of delegation to clarify the process and this will be discussed in Planning Committee on 12th February – a verbal report will be given at the Parish Council meetings. A slight amendment is proposed to avoid any risk of legal challenge and to avoid any ambiguity. The process remains the same in that Parish councils and Local Members will continue to make requests for an application to be decided by committee and these requests will be considered at a meeting between planning officers delegated by the Joint Director of Planning and the Chair of the Planning committee.

Local Plan Issues & Options Consultation

As we reported previously, a public consultation is being held on the first phase of developing the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan. It will be a joint plan shared by Cambridge City and South Cambs, which will be a powerful tool to ensure that there is joined-up thinking in the developments which affect us all in both areas. The initial consultation is about the broad priorities in the plan and the major choices in the development strategy guiding the plan. Local consultation pop-up sessions have been arranged to gather local feedback and these are being held in the month of February (7th, 10th and 13th).

The consultation opened on January 13th and will run until 24th February. Links to the consultation website will be available here: <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/>

We will also be holding a 'Big Debate' at the Corn Exchange on the evening of 18 February, where we are inviting local groups to share their ideas about what should be in the Local Plan, in a fun, provocative and lively public event. This is a ticketed event so book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/greater-cambridge-local-plan-the-big-debate-tickets-88648697641>

Network Rail consultation on new railway station for Cambridge South

As noted in the last report, the public consultation on proposals for a new railway station for Cambridge South serving Addenbrookes and the Biomedical Campus began on 20th January and will close on 2nd March. View the consultation here: <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/anglia/cambridge-south-station/> There will be a series of informational events during January and the times and places of these may be viewed at the above website.

Zero Carbon Grants

Histon, Impington and Orchard Park were very successful in their applications for financial assistance under the Zero Carbon Communities grants. Grants were awarded to Cambridge Carbon Footprint whose coordinator, Nicole Barton, lives in the village; to the Histon & Impington Trees Action Group for tree planting to screen the new A14, and to Cambridge Cohousing for a community electric cargo bike at Marmalade Lane.

Community Safety and Resilience Event and Zero Carbon Communities Workshop

South Cambs District Council will be hosting a joint Community Safety Event and Zero Carbon Communities Workshop on Saturday 7th March at South Cambs Hall.

The morning (9:30-12:30) will be a **Community Safety and Resilience Event** where District and Parish Councils meet to share best practice in creating safe, connected communities. This year's session will again be led by South Cambs Community Safety Partnership members, including Police, Fire, County Council and South Cambs District Council. The aim is to explore ways in which community-led action can reduce vulnerability to crime and anti-social behaviour in the district.

The afternoon (13:30-16:30) will be a **Zero Carbon Communities workshop**. This is the first of 4 workshops as part of our Zero Carbon Communities (ZCC) programme aimed at Parish Councils and local green groups. In the first workshop we would like to help address the challenges our District faces in delivering its net zero carbon ambitions. We will include presentations from various groups such as Cambridge Carbon Footprint and some of our other successful ZCC grant recipients. We will also be providing tabletop exercises to identify the key challenges faced, how to overcome them and find solutions.

Coffee With A Cop

Cambridgeshire constabulary has introduced a new programme to improve liaison with the local community. Our local police officer, PCSO Tony Martin, will be present in the village for one hour on a regular basis for anyone to come for a chat about their concerns. Steve and Martin attended the last event which was held on 23rd January at the St Andrew's Café, and we intend that one or more of us will attend future events where possible. Forthcoming events in our ward are as follows:

- Wednesday 19th Feb – The Geographer, Station Rd, Impington – 10:00-11:00 hrs.
- Thursday 26th March – Meadows Community Centre, St Catharine's Rd – 11:00-12:00 hrs.
- Thursday 7th May – D:Licious, Vision Park, Chivers Way, Histon – 13:30-14:30 hrs.

Further details are available on HIHub.

New Complaints Procedure

There are some important improvements to the complaints process at South Cambridgeshire District Council. These improvements include the introduction of a customer-accessible complaints portal and the creation of a designated complaints mailbox. These changes aim to make our complaints process much more transparent, help us to respond quicker to customer complaints and provide customers with a more efficient and engaging service.

We have now launched our Open Process portal, which allows customers to create an account where their complaints can be raised and tracked throughout the investigation, until resolution. There is the facility for supporting documents to be uploaded and messages can be sent between

investigators and customers, which will help to speed up the process altogether. This may be accessed from the following page: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/feedback/compliments-complaints-and-suggestions/> - please follow the link for the “online complaints form” and not the general feedback form.

In addition to the online portal, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning have set up a Shared Complaints Mailbox (Complaints.Compliments@greatercambridgeplanning.org). We advise that any complaint queries or updates are requested through the portal by customers as this will be the quickest way to establish contact with their investigator. There may be instances where you want an update on a specific case and you can request this via email to the shared mailbox

East-West Rail route

The alignment of the East-West rail route has recently been announced. This takes a northerly alignment providing a station at Cambourne, as recommended by the District Council, entering Cambridge by the new Cambridge South station. The Council is active in the steering group for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, with the leader of South Cambridgeshire on the board with special responsibility for the environment.

Proposals to upgrade South Cambridgeshire Hall

Detailed proposals for the upgrade of South Cambridgeshire Hall have now been developed. It is anticipated that work will be carried out in the next financial year. This involves investment in ground source heat pumps, improved ventilation, solar panels and low energy lighting. The investment will save money the council and will be paid for itself over a number of years, while also reducing carbon emissions and improving the comfort and utility of the building. Read more here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/making-south-cambs-hall-green-to-its-core/>

Revised Air Quality Strategy.

A revised Air Quality Strategy was considered by the Climate Change and Environment Advisory Committee in January.

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/b50007596/Air%20Quality%20Strategy%20-%20Supplement%20to%20the%20Agenda%20Tuesday%2028-Jan-2020%2014.00%20Climate%20and%20Environment.pdf?T=9>

This strategy highlights the importance of air quality in health outcomes and identifies the main sources of pollution that are deleterious to health: NOx and particulate matter. It noted that DEFRA had proposed removing the current Air Quality Management Area along the A14 from Milton to Bar Hill, and proposes the continued monitoring of air quality along this corridor.

Information on air quality management in South Cambridgeshire can be found on

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/environment/pollution/air-pollution/local-air-quality-management/>

Among other proposals, this proposes adopting an air quality policy in the Local Plan, a sustainable design and construction SPD, together with a Low Emission Strategy for major developments. The document proposes that the Council should investigate on alternative scenarios from an air quality point of view.

The draft proposes appointing an air quality champion to promote air quality in different communities.

Holocaust Memorial Day

The District Council hosted a memorial event in South Cambridgeshire Hall on Holocaust Memorial Day led by Cllr Cahn and his wife Aga – a member of Histon and Impington Parish Council. Events were offered to secondary schools in the district (including Impington VC), and were held at Secondary Schools in Cambourne, Melbourn and Northstowe.

Biosphere Reserve

There is a proposal for a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve for the Cambridgeshire Fens and Rivers. The provisional area proposed for designation covers part of South Cambridgeshire, including Histon and Impington. These are designated at the recommendation of Governments and are means of promoting the integration of man's activities with the protection of biodiversity. The core areas would be based on Wicken Fen and the Great Fen areas. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Meetings in January

7 th / 8 th January	Local Plan briefing	Steve, Pippa, Martin
8 th January	OPCC	Steve, Pippa, Martin
10 th January	Local Nature Partnership Meeting, Peterborough	Martin
15 th January	Planning Committee	Pippa, Martin
16 th January	Budget Briefing	Martin, Pippa, Steve.
20 th January	Histon and Impington PC	Steve, Pippa, Martin
21 st January	Briefing on Taxi Policy	Steve
21 st January	Scrutiny and Overview Committee	Steve, Martin
27 th January	Holocaust Memorial Day event, Cambourne	Martin
28 th January	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee	Pippa, Martin
29 th January	Holocaust Memorial Day Events, Cambourne VC, Melbourn VC	Martin
31 st January	Holocaust Memorial Day Event, Northstowe Secondary	Martin

	School	
31 st January	Grants Committee	

Forthcoming meetings

3 February	Cabinet Strategy	Martin
4 th February	Constitution Review Group	Martin, Pippa
7 th February	Biosphere Reserve information meeting – Holme Fen	Martin
10 th February	Licensing Committee	Steve
11 th February	Local Access Forum	Martin
11 th February	Planning Visits	Pippa, Martin
12 th February	NEC AAP Ward Members Liaison Forum	Steve
12 th February	OPCC	Steve, Pippa, Martin
12 th February	Planning Committee	Pippa, Martin
13 th February	Scrutiny Committee	Martin, Steve
19 th February	Climate Workshop	Pippa, Martin
19 th February	HisImp PC	Steve, Pippa, Martin
20 th February	Full Council	Martin, Pippa, Steve