

County councillor's monthly report for February 2020

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

After a full month in January there were few meeting this month.

Full Council meeting

[Click here](#) for my account of February's council meeting. It was the budget meeting and we ended up with the officers' budget amended by the Tories which gave us a 1.59% increase in council tax and little else. [Click here](#) for my analysis of what we got and what the other parties offered.

Committee meetings and other council matters

Adults, Children & Young People, Communities & Partnerships, General Purposes, Economy & Environment, Health, Highways & Infrastructure: these committees did not meet.

Note that Highways & Infrastructure will meet in March when the agenda will include, inter alia the proposed spend on Local Highways Improvement projects.

Commercial & Investment: the committee met. There were no key decisions and not even the usual secret session. The only notable feature of the meeting was that it was considered vulnerable to an Extinction Rebellion demonstration so it met in the Council Chamber and there was a full contingency plan to be triggered if there was one. There wasn't.

The Planning committee did not meet. It has not met since Oct 19 and its next meeting has been further pushed back to Apr 20.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive met. It made several decisions but few were substantive being generally concerned with continuing to support work streams. However it did approve moneys for Greenways in/towards Waterbeach (£8 million) and Fulbourn (£6 million) and to continue to compensate CCC for the revenue which it is losing because it is not charging for parking at Park & Ride sites in the GCP area. The Assembly did not meet having just met end Jan20.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met with a focus on affordable housing programs (again), the Local Transport Plan and plans for Peterborough University. It also passed a motion to remove Shire Hall from the list of premises to be used for its meetings, formal and informal. Seems rather petty. Its Employment & Skills, and Overview & Scrutiny Committees also met.

The Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel met and 'reviewed' the acting Police & Crime Commissioner's proposed precept increase of 4.5% equating to £9.99 for a band D property.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority met. It was its precept setting meeting but most of the time was spent on the Chairman's Announcements when the ongoing uncertainties around the Authority's new training centre and the judicial review regarding the Police & Crime Commissioner's proposed merger of the fire and police services. A 2.9% increase in the precept was approved.

Consultations relevant to this division (and elsewhere)

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

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More local matters

I continue to badger CCC and A14 officers regarding the B1049/A14 junction and ways to improve to waiting areas for cyclists and pedestrians.

I attended the Local Highways Panel meeting. I was not allowed to vote on either The Histon & Impington or the Orchard Park bids. The former looks like it will prove successful.

I visited the Histon Early Years Centre to listen to concerns about its future.

I met county officers, residents and contractors to review drainage issues related to Buxhall Farm primary school.

I had meetings regarding the location of the library and its computers during the School Hill redevelopment.

And finally ... it's difficult to get away from the issue of the Corona Virus at present. To some extent we are still in a phony war in this country with the threat looming large but nothing really substantive in terms of an epidemic or of constraints on what we may or may not do to fight it when it comes. Italy is certainly there with today's announcement of plans to quarantine 16 million people. In the meantime we are filling the vacuum with lots of talk challenging the experts on the one hand and unnecessary 'panic' buying on the other. I've got a personal interest in how it develops because I've got a holiday booked in Naples, mid April. In theory that's unaffected by today's developments in Italy but there's plenty of time for the situation to develop further. I'm also in a more vulnerable category when it comes to what's likely to happen if I contract the disease but I can take some comfort from reports that the majority of deaths in China are of smokers and in Italy they're people aged 80 plus. In the meantime what do I do? I keep washing my hands.

Diary (next public meetings)

5 Mar	1000	Economy & Environment Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
5 Mar	1000	C&P Health & Wellbeing Board	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
17 Mar	1030	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
19 Mar	1400	Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
19 Mar	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
20 Mar	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
24 Mar	1000	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
25 Mar	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	HDC office, Huntingdon
25 Mar	1000	C&P Combined Authority	ECDC office, Ely
4 Jun	1000	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	SCDC office, Cambourne
25 Jun	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Hinchingbrooke Park
25 Jun	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/ccs_live/Meetings.aspx.