

County councillor's monthly report for March 2020

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

It's clearly been a funny month with no meetings (except for a virtual one at the Combined Authority) after the middle of the month when all meetings including a Full Council meeting were cancelled.

Note that the Council is at the centre of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) which brings together all public sector bodies to coordinate the public sector response to the Covid-19 situation.

There's information about how council services are responding at <https://bit.ly/34taZsQ>. As far as it can it's continuing to operate 'as normal' so that, for example, the pothole fillers were out in Histon & Impington earlier this week.

Full Council meeting

The advertised Full Council meeting was cancelled.

Committee meetings and other council matters

Adults: there was one key decision viz to approve the business case for Cambridgeshire's Technology Enabled Care Service to become a Lifeline provider that includes a tender for an Alarm Receiving Centre for a four-year contract.

Children & Young People: this committee met but there were no key decisions.

Communities & Partnerships: this committee met (doesn't it always?) but there were no key decisions (are there ever?).

Economy & Environment: there were two key decision. The first related to the allocation of Integrated Transport Block funds. This is a small pot, the big money is now with the Combined Authority. The second decision was more significant and the committee agreed to renew the bikeability contract. This has been close to death in recent years and it's good to see that its funding now seems secure.

Highways & Infrastructure met. There were no key decisions but it did agree the winners (and losers) in the annual Local Highways Improvements scheme. Histon & Impington was successful (again) but Orchard Park sadly missed the cut.

Commercial & Investment, General Purposes, Health: these committees did not meet.

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

Neither the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive nor the Assembly met.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority met virtually. Because such meetings do not yet have permission to take decisions it was therefore an exercise in watching the Mayor take them himself. The meeting took place on Zoom and seems to have worked well. Its Transport & Infrastructure, Housing & Communities and Skills Committees and its Business Board also met.

The Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel did not meet. Its end March meeting was cancelled and it has not yet set a next date to meet.

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The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority met virtually to determine its decision on going ahead with the non-Police land version of the new fire HQ.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health & Wellbeing Board met. This committee makes few decisions and the meeting was typical. inter alia it received an update on the joint Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Health & Wellbeing Strategy consultation and 'think communities' approach.

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 County officers and contractors on site to review the recent resurfacing work at Church Hill.

I attended a virtual meeting with Histon & Impington Junior School and County library officers to review plans for the use of a temporary mobile library whilst the current library site is being redeveloped.

And finally ... it seems that we do everything through the prism of the corona virus these days. It dominates our conversations and behaviours and every strand of the news seems to have a corona strand. Once again I'm thankful of where I live. Cambridgeshire appears to have a low infection rate and I'm told that, although there's no cause for complacency, Addenbrookes has sufficient critical care beds. And although it has been unnerving seeing the reports of panic buying and long queues at supermarkets we seem to do OK round here. The big worry though is 'what happens next'. On the one hand a premature move back towards normality would be wrong but it does need to happen if many of the companies on which this country's economy and our personal lifestyles depend are going to survive. For my personal take on what's going on go to <https://wp.me/phtcF-SI> but be sure to read the small print first.

Diary (next public meetings)

22 Apr	1000	Communities & Partnership	Shire Hall, Cambridge
23 Apr	1000	Economy & Environment Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
23 Apr	1000	*General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
24 Apr	1000	*Commercial & Investments Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
28 Apr	1400	Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
29 Apr	1000	C&P Combined Authority	ECDC office, Ely
14 May	1000	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
19 May	1030	Full Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
26 May	1000	Highways & Infrastructure	Shire Hall, Cambridge
26 May	1400	Children and Young People Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
4 Jun	1000	C&P Health & Wellbeing Board	Shire Hall, Cambridge
4 Jun	1000	Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly	SCDC office, Cambourne
11 Jun	1400	Adults Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
25 Jun	1400	Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	Hinchingbrooke Park
no date	1400	Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel	HDC office, Huntingdon

*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.