

## **Monthly update for parish councils: July 2008**

### **County Council meeting**

There was a pretty full council meeting in July, the last one until October.

The Lib Dems proposed 2 motions. The first suggesting that windfall receipts should be invested in infrastructure and not just hoarded was voted down. The second recommending the establishment of a fund to support post offices under threat was neutered (doubtless others will take a different view) by a Tory amendment. A final attempt on the Lib Dem side to at least criticize the government for holding the consultation in the summer (especially critical in Cambridge itself) was also not supported for reasons which escaped me.

### **Environment and Community Services**

The 'commission' of independent stakeholders proposed to help develop the TIF bid has metamorphosed during the month. After starting as 'the' body to make recommendations with a first meeting to take place in July it became first of all 'a' body and then it was suggested that it be modeled on the lines of a similar commission in Reading which comprised independent experts. Anyway we are now in for a period of calm before the Council's plans re-emerge at the September cabinet meeting.

Most of the performance indicators for ECS are looking good but ones relating to the state of the local infrastructure are less buoyant and it seems that a more rigorous approach to surveying the state of our pavements and footpaths is showing evidence of significant problem.

### **Children's Service**

Readers may recall announcements some time ago about the closure of the Queens School, Wisbech and its reincarnation as the Thomas Clarkson School. The first appointed head has resigned with indications that all is not as it should be. Thomas Clarkson is one of the schools in the first wave of the 'building schools for the future' PFI program and it's a real challenge to bring a school round and to do the work necessary for this program at the same time.

### **Corporate Services**

We have finally met to address the reorganization of Adult Social Care. This remains a confidential matter but I can at least report that the process is active.

### **Local issues**

As far as I can now be aware the Longstanton Road closure 'call for action' is now on the ECS scrutiny committee forward work program for October. It was on the agenda to be added to the program at the last meeting and there is no evidence from the minutes/I have not been informed to the contrary that this is not now so!

I attended and chaired another meeting related to parking at Histon FC. The police and CCC officers attended and a plan agreed. Financing the proposed no waiting signs etc will need to be sorted out but at least we have progress.

The AJC duly endorsed the proposal to implement an HCV ban throughout Histon and Impington. However the note of the meeting is a lot less clear and I will follow this up with officers.

An issue flared up in Arbury Park when new arrivals found that their young children could not get places at the Orchard Park primary school. After intensive email activity from the chair of governors and a local parish Councilor and a little behind the scenes lobbying good sense has prevailed and places are now to be offered to any children who come new to the estate. The episode highlighted some issues relating to Council support for the new school which will now be addressed.

Arbury Park is now Orchard Park and will become its own parish 'shortly'. This makes much sense and is the result of much hard work on the part of Impington Parish Councilors on both sides of the A14. Well done and congratulations.

And: as expected Impington Post Office is one of several in Cambridgeshire selected by the Post Office for the chop. A campaign is underway to rescue it; it has full support from all local councilors and the key County Council officer.

Several Cottenham residents have contacted me about the road closure which has brought calm to the village and their worries about the resumption of 'normal service' and its implications for speed through the village and HCV traffic.

Denis Payne and I met officers to talk about use of Arbury Park access money to improve facilities for cyclists primarily at the A14/B1049 junction. Subsequently we found out that £600K which had been presumed to be reserved for Impington's use for a cycle bridge or similar had instead been used for the Milton P+R. We are digging to find out the truth behind this.

## **Forthcoming meetings and events**

7 Aug 08                      Cambridge Guided Bus Liaison (Histon City)

And finally ...here's a warning to all of you. I was visited in last by a good friend from my college time. We went to a reunion (if you're interested check out [j davidjenkins.wordpress.com](http://j davidjenkins.wordpress.com)). Peter's in the IT business and asked me if I backed up my hard disc; after all I've got a lot of council stuff there and thousands of photographs. Of course I hadn't, have any of you? Anyway I bought an Iomega 106GB portable hard drive last weekend from John Lewis direct ([www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com)). I placed the order on Saturday, got delivery on Monday and backed up my hard disc on Tuesday. On Friday my hard disk crashed but thanks to my back up I now have a pretty full set of files running on my laptop.

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