

Monthly update for parish councils: June 2008

County Council meeting

There was no council meeting in June. There will be on in July.

The new PDGs announced last month have started to meet with patchy results. Despite their large potential memberships they have not been well attended (at a recent corporate services PDG there were only 5 members present, 3 Lib Dem and 1 each from the other 2 parties), I attended a recent Environment and Growth PDG where the agenda was uninspiring and had little to do with 'policy development' and the Families PDG is having difficulty finding a role with an practically empty agenda plan.

I participated in an IDeA peer review of the County Council during the month. This was an initiative of the CEO and Leader in their respective new roles to get a snapshot of what's good and what's not. I have been privy to the results, I understand that a report will be issued in July.

Environment and Community Services

June's big news was the proposal by the County Council to set up a 'commission' to 'recommend' how the Council should proceed with its TIF bid. It seems that following the consultation (reported last month) the Tory group felt that it should ditch all that has gone before, start afresh and give the responsibility for developing a new bid, and presumably for taking the flack which would go with it, to this commission.

Children's Service

Schools planners have been redoing their arithmetic to cope with a higher than expected primary school intake in the north of the city this year. The solution appears to be to allow Milton school exceptionally to take in 3 classes instead of 2. This allows more parents to send their children to their first choice schools but it does reduce the intake at other schools. Although the Orchard School in Arbury park is a part of the arithmetic it does not appear to be affected.

Corporate Services

The expected interview session with candidates for the now vacant head of press and PR position did not take place. A meeting is to be scheduled for the end of July to address both this and the long delayed review of the structure and place in the organisation of Adult Social Care.

Local issues

The parents of Rampton school children were denied their 'day in court' when the County Council thought again and, given the precedent set by the Oakington/Girton appeal, withdrew the threat to cease provision of the free bus services for children attending the junior school. Bravo! Avid readers of the CEN

will have noted 2 letters on the subject setting out somewhat different views of the sorry saga.

I have initiated the requested call for action on behalf of Oakington residents regarding the growing, persistent and illegal use of the airport road. Unless there is action beforehand it will be addressed for inclusion in the work plan at the ECS scrutiny committee meeting in July.

I attended and chaired a meeting regarding traffic related issue concerning Histon FC. This was the third such meeting. Previous meetings have been attended by representatives of Impington Parish Council, the police, the guided bus team and CCC highways and traffic.

The action in Impington to draw attention to the problem of overnight HCV parking appears to have made progress. As I reported last month it was intended to take a petition to the AJC. The Council has however moved on; it has agreed that the situation in Impington merits action and is proposing to implement an overnight parking ban throughout the villages of Histon and Impington.

I dropped in on the launch event for the new Oakington recreation centre. It was a fine day, the rain held off and the food from the hog roast and associated offerings was excellent. I was pleased to meet several Oakington parish councillors and other friends from the village. The centre itself is excellent, well positioned and apparently ideal for hosting the many events which to date have not been possible. Congratulations to the many people involved in it.

Forthcoming meetings and events

3 Jul 08	Cambridge Guided Bus Liaison (Histon City)
17 Jul 08	Development Control meeting
22 Jul 08	County Council meeting
7 Jul 08	South Cambs AJC
7 Jul 08	Northstowe development control
16 Jul 08	CCC ECS Scrutiny
29 Jun-5 Jul 08	Histon feast

And finally ...it's a dangerous step to take I know but I've got my own web-site. www.davidjenkins.org.uk. It's dangerous because it exposes me to some ridicule if I don't keep it active and interesting. So far, so good: I've managed to add half a dozen new 'stories' since it went live a week or so ago. I will use it to highlight issues relating both to the county broadly and to the specific parishes. I will do my best not to be simply political but there will be an element of this. I will gladly take input and provide links to other sites when appropriate (note the current link to www.fenedge.co.uk regarding the Fen Edge Festival of the Arts).

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