

# Monthly Report for Parish Councils

March was a little better than February, but I am quickly finding out that Cabinet members do actually do some work!! I just thought they were good a looking busy, boy has my opinion changed. Sorry it is a bit of a long report this month, but there has been quite a bit going on...

## **New Chief Exec**

You may well have read that Mark Lloyd started his new job as Chief Executive Officer of Cambridge County Council on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> April. 1 Day in (obviously writing this on the 1<sup>st</sup> – and no there are no April Fools in it!) and there seems to be quite a buzz amongst officers. Now comes a time to really make some step changes and drive forward on changing the County of Cambridgeshire for the better.

## **Closure of High Street, Cottenham**

Of course we got the news this month that there is a planned closure of the High Street in Cottenham for 12 weeks by Anglian Water to replace the sewer. Apparently this is much needed work as there have been some failures over the last few years. I met with Anglian Water, the contractor and officers from CCC to explain our concern and to ensure some thought and action was given to what they would do with the vehicles.

This is an email from an officer at Shire Hall:

*Cllr Bradney*

*Anglian Water will be commencing works on 14th April, as planned. The road closure Order has specified that all traffic should use A1123, A10 A14 and Histon as an alternative route, but there will be extra signs warning that HCV's will not be allowed through.*

*I will also remind Anglian Water of the needs for the speed limit to be signed in Lambs Lane.*

*Please let me what if you need any further info at this stage.*

*Regards  
Gary*

I have asked and chased on what will happen to the bus service, as yet I have not had a straight answer.

## **BUS ROUTES FROM OAKINGTON AND RAMPTON**

We had the news at the end of last month that there are planned changes to some of the bus routes to school. The policy which was adopted last year has meant that all secondary children that live over 3 miles and all primary children that live over 2 miles from their respective school will no longer be subject to free home to school transport.

This has flared up in the press and at Council. Both David Jenkins and I have met with officers and asked for more work to be done on the 2 routes. There are several

things I personally am not happy about and have raised these with officers myself. There is an appeals procedure which I have no doubt this will go through – which is where a lot of us will have our say. When I know more I will report more.

### **HISTON AND IMPINGTON INFANT SCHOOL 'IMPROVING RAPIDLY'**

OfSTED gave Histon and Impington Infant School a good report recently. The team from OfSTED - the Office for Standards in Education - also praised the quality of teaching and the behaviour and attitudes of pupils. They said a significant strength of the school is the positive attitudes it fosters.

### **BUS PASS IMPROVEMENTS**

Thousands of residents in Cambridgeshire will be able to use their new bus passes to travel all over the England from next week.

The District and City Councils throughout the county have been inundated with applications over the last few months and have made a huge effort to make sure everyone who has applied have their new pass in time.

From today, 1st April, those who have their new pass will be able to travel for free on local bus services throughout England after 9.30am until the last bus of the day between Monday and Friday and all day at the weekends and bank holidays in any part of England.

Bus passes are available for the following groups:

- Pensioners (men and women over the age of 60)
- People who qualify for the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners Mobility Supplement
- Those registered deaf
- Those who are without speech, and can provide medical evidence  
Those who are prevented from obtaining a driving licence on medical grounds
- Those registered blind or partially sighted
- Those who have a learning disability which includes significant impairment of intelligence and social functioning
- Those who have long term loss of the use of both arms

If anyone has not yet applied for or received their new bus pass, the old style pass will remain valid for free travel within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough until the printed expiry date. This arrangement is only in place until the 30th September 2008. Those who have a pass that is due to expire on the 31st March 2008 will be able to continue to use their cards until the 30th April for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough travel, after this time they will need to have a new national pass to receive a concession. Only those with a new national bus pass will be able to receive a free travel outside of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

The Government is currently in negotiations with long distance bus operators to see how the companies are included in the concessionary scheme.

## **SHARED SERVICES**

Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire County Councils signed an agreement this month to collaborate with Fujitsu Siemens on a project to deliver back office systems not only in their own authorities but to put it to market.

Soft market testings will commence shortly on the Oracle e-Business suite which provides systems for finance, HR, on-line procuremtn and payment facilities. This is real ground breaking stuff and has the potential to deliver even further savings but also revenue generation too

## **EARLY YEARS CENTRE WINS NATIONAL AWARD FOR HELPING FAMILIES LEARN**

Histon Early Years Centre has been chosen as the winner of a national award for its work with Travellers to promote creative learning opportunities.

Family Learning Week, co-ordinated by the Campaign for Learning charity, promotes the importance and enjoyment of learning as a family and encourages local venues to host events in informal, familiar and friendly locations to attract even the most reluctant learners.

The winning event was organised with the local Traveller community to offer children creative learning opportunities, and to help parents gain the confidence to learn with their children and for themselves.

Histon Early Years Centre is just one of thousands of organisations that take part annually in Family Learning Week, organising fun and informal activities. Histon Early Years Centre took this opportunity to take family learning directly onto the Travellers' site and show parents what they and their children could achieve.

By bringing families together, the local family worker was given the chance to speak directly to parents about other local learning opportunities, and as well as break down many of the barriers and pre-conceptions about learning for the Traveller community.

## **INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**

The County Council was awarded the Investors In People award again this month. I think this shows the commitment Cambridgeshire pays to it's 18 000 employees. This year the authority had to meet the new harder standards.

## **COUNTY COUNCIL AGREES NEW VALUES**

Over the past year the Council has been developing its long-term vision and identifying the key challenges and objectives for future service delivery. This has been undertaken through consultation with residents, local community groups, council employees and with our partners in the public, private and voluntary sector.

The issues identified are also being reflected in a new set of organisational values that have been adopted to describe ‘how’ the council will operate in the future. The new values are:

- **Accountability** – We will be open and transparent, listening and communicating clearly and taking responsibility for our actions.
- **Respect** – In working with each other, our partners, residents and service users, we will treat each other as we would like others to treat us, recognising and embracing differences and taking account of the full range of opinions.
- **Integrity** – We will behave honestly, and demonstrate reliability by promising only what we can deliver and delivering what we promise.
- **Value for Money** – We will balance cost and quality to ensure all our resources make the maximum possible impact.
- **Excellence** – Working with partners where appropriate, we will ensure services of the highest quality.
- **Equity** – We will treat people fairly, valuing and responding to their diverse backgrounds and needs.

## **CONGESTION CHARGE CONSULTATION NEARS IT’S END**

The very contentious issue of Congestion Charging and the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid rumbles on.

Consultation on the proposals started last November and finished on 24 March. So far, 2,623 surveys have been completed online and 663 surveys have been completed by people at the Council’s congestion roadshows. An independent market research company, MR-UK, is conducting the surveys.

In order to share the results of the consultation, the Council is organising a presentation where Dialogue by Design and MR-UK will share their findings. This will take place on Tuesday 6 May. This will be the first opportunity for everyone, including all Members of the County Council, to find out about the results of the consultation.

The Council is also waiting for feedback from the Department for Transport on the package of measures. The Council has bid for £517 million to fund the transport improvements that Cambridgeshire needs.

## **SUCCESSFUL BUS TRIALS COMPLETED ON GUIDED BUSWAY**

Successful bus trials were completed on the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway earlier this month.

Bus manufacturers from across the country brought their buses to Cambridgeshire to try them on the 4km section of guideway that has been built from Longstanton to Oakington. This is the first section of guideway to be completed and engineers have now moved the track laying machine to Oakington to complete the section of guideway to Histon.

The bus trials allowed local bus companies who will run services on the guideway to see how different buses performed.

## **WSTE PFI**

The County Council has moved a step closer to officially signing a groundbreaking contract which will see the authority leading the way in recycling its rubbish.

This month lawyers for the County Council and Waterbeach based firm Donarbon have agreed a new contract to deal with Cambridgeshire's rubbish for the next 28 years. A ceremony to officially sign the new contract is due to be held in April.

The £730 million contract will see the building of a state of the art mechanical biological treatment plant at Waterbeach. The new modern facilities will complement the excellent kerbside recycling that residents are already carrying out. It means that much more of the rubbish that would normally end up in bins and therefore landfill will be recycled. One of the other main products of the recycling process will be a compost-like material.

An education centre will also be built at the new plant to help encourage future generations to recycle.

This new contract will see Cambridgeshire using the most modern facilities in the eastern region to deal with its waste.

It signals a reduction on reliance on landfill and is part of a wider strategy to improve recycling facilities across the County.

## **MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN MOVES FORWARD**

In its role as the waste planning authority, Cambridgeshire County Council has been drafting the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Development Plan. This plan outlines Cambridgeshire's requirements for waste disposal and mineral extraction up until 2026.

After significant feedback from Cambridgeshire residents to the consultation on the first Preferred Options report, County Waste Planners have drafted a Second Preferred Options report for the Local Development Plan.

These preferred options will be consulted on countywide over a 6-week period starting in September. Some of the major issues include the movement of Cambridge waste water treatment works; dealing with London waste and providing new recycling centres for Cambridge southern fringe and East Cambridgeshire.

The latest version of this report is currently available at:

<http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/db/council2.nsf/af8076762df199c580256b14003ef043/932691525c47efa8802574020047dd85?OpenDocument>

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