

Monthly Report For Parish Councils

Matt Bradney – November 08

Sorry, it is a bit 'bitty' this month...

This is budget setting time at County. It is our second year of our new process, called Integrated Planning Process (IPP). We had a briefing on IPP earlier this month for the whole council to go through our early workings. It was a good seminar, if poorly attended, perhaps we will see more interest later in the stage. Of course we also found out that the already poorly funded authority was going to get an increase of just £1.71 per person, or 1.9% if you prefer. The average is 4.2% with neighbours getting significantly more than that.

This compares with Essex receiving £3.47, Suffolk which will get £8.87 and Norfolk who benefit by £12.88 per person. All of which is dwarfed by the large cities such as Manchester, receiving on average £13.16 per head increases for their population.

The long and short of it are we will have to find £19 million of savings. It is still early days, but a lot of work will be going on in the next few weeks.

Regional Spatial Strategy

EERA made their call to developers to put forward ideas for further housing development. I know this sounds nuts given the problems we face at the moment, but this is a very long term plan. As you will know Mereham was put back into the ring, along with Hanley Grange and Waterbeach. Letters have been sent to EERA about Merham but it would appear it must once again go through the process...

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)

This years Drink, Drive and Drug campaign will be starting on 01/12/08 running until 01/01/09. This will be publicised through ecops and information will be sent to parish councils.

Over the weekends surrounding Christmas and as part of a series of connected activities (Operation Sodium, Care Tent, Ice Rink Advertising) to address alcohol related disorder Cambridgeshire Constabulary will pilot the provision of specialist outreach workers in Parkside custody. The specialist workers are from DRINKSENSE and they will be interviewing and providing support to 13 - 16 year olds (with an appropriate adult in attendance) and 17 - 25 year olds who are in custody as a result of an alcohol related offence.

Milton Park and Ride

You may have read that I opened the Milton Park and Ride this month. I have heard some reports about extra traffic through Impington because of it, this is something I

will look into. The facility itself is an impressive one and should help with some of the issue from the previous Park and Ride.

Gritting

I had the pleasure of hosting some Children at the Highways Depot at Witchford. These children had given names to our new fleet of Gritters. The names were absolutely brilliant. They got a ride in the gritter and their picture taken with me (some prize eh???)

The names:

Gritting – Brad Grit, Grittney Spears, Anti Freeze Louise, Snow Go, Ice Monster, Anti Skid Sid, Skitty Gritty

Royal Award for Cambridgeshire

A scheme piloted by Cambridgeshire County Council Road Safety Team to save the lives of motorists who drive as part of their work has received a Prince Michael International Road Safety Award for its 'We Mean Business' project.

The project targets company directors and managers to develop and implement work related road safety policies, and enables companies to help themselves to reduce road accidents. The initial programme consisted of eight one day seminars for small and medium enterprises across Cambridgeshire, informing them of the legal requirements for work related driving, the benefits of writing work related road safety policies, and the methods to write and implement them.

Presenting the award today at Shire Hall Cambridge, Mrs Nigel Pearson – The High Sherriff said: “ Many company directors simply do not understand their duty to their own drivers – The Cambridgeshire scheme has gone a long way to changing perceptions; it is a fine example which other authorities should follow.”

Neighbourhood Panels

County Council have employed two Liaison officers for the Neighbourhood Panels.

Our officer is Wendy Lansdown. She will be supporting the forums in our area and has responsibility for; Area Committees in Cambridge City and Neighbourhood Panels in South Cambridgeshire and the southern part of East Cambs.

Northstowe

Most of you will have read that it was announced that Northstowe is to be delayed.

Northstowe's Joint Promoters, Gallagher and English Partnerships, have put forward a revised housing trajectory, which shows a delay for work commencing onsite of at least a year from first estimates

To assist the delivery of this prototype eco-town, Cambridgeshire Horizons has submitted a refreshed programme of development to Government, including a request for further investment in the up-front infrastructure that is necessary to allow Northstowe to begin being built. A response to this bid is anticipated in December.

Cycling

Cabinet received the report on the Cycling Demonstration Town this month. As the lead for it I am very pleased and excited that the Cottenham to Histon route is seen as a top priority. Points were made about quality etc. but I have said in many different fora that has always been top of my agenda. It was always the intention to look at routes strategically and ensure we provide whole routes.

Adult Social Care

We were absolutely delighted this month to be awarded 2 stars for our adult social care. We always felt we were scored to low. I feel it is a shame that so much focus id put on these scoring mechanisms but we have to play the game. So this year we put in a very good report and got our just rewards.

Website

I decided that it was time for me to get a website too. So you can find it at www.mattbradney.co.uk. It is still very much in its infancy, and once I have got it all figured out I am sure it will become more useful for you all.

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