

Monthly update for parish councils: November 2011

County Council and Cabinet meetings

There was a Cabinet meeting on 15th November. They discussed the University's Cambridge North West development. Concern was expressed over traffic (for construction, effects on traffic travelling from further afield, and for new and existing residents), and a suggestion was made for a central Community hub.

The County Council meets on Wednesday 7th December. On the agenda are items about:

- having at least some meetings in the evening (seconded by Sue); this is in response to the vote to increase allowances by 25%, which at the moment has been shelved as "due process" needs to be followed
- Community transport and bus contract schemes
- Distribution formula for money to academies and schools
- Child poverty in Cambridgeshire

Environmental Services

Road surfacing in the north part of Cottenham High Street has been completed.

We are hopeful that the B1049 cycleway will be finished by the end of January: it has been agreed to pipe some of the ditch, and the cycle path will be at least 2m wide.

The Cambridgeshire Future Transport (CTF) initiative has suggested a pilot scheme in three areas, including the Haddenham / Wilburton area. This seems to have been delayed as the local Parish Councils have reservations on the impact on the 106 service. The bus service survey ends on 9th December.

David and Sue are asking officers to look at a CFT route from Bar Hill to Waterbeach station through Cottenham. We would like to see more orbital routes rather than the 'spoke' model that we have in the Cambridge area. Routes through Histon and services for Orchard Park are also being considered.

Money will be made available from the Environmental Agency for improvements to flood protection in Oakington and Girton (Bin Brook) – see <http://bit.ly/vIDLQ3>

In the Autumn statement, the Chancellor announced that the A14 would receive £20m for improvements – this seems to have been split into various pots, with £10m spent on the Spittals and Girton interchanges. If you would like to look at the BBC website you will find an interactive map showing road deaths over the last ten years: <http://bbc.in/sE66hx>

David and Sue attended a seminar on transport modelling at South Cambs with particular interest in Northstowe.

Children and young people's services

The Head of Cottenham Village College – Tony Cooper – retires at Christmas after more than 20 years there. Many would like join us in thanking him for his strong leadership, and welcome his successor Steve Ellison.

Local Issues

We had a number of complaints from parents about the pedestrian crossing on the guided busway in Station Road Impington/Histon. We are still waiting for the engineers to investigate the length of time assigned to crossing the route.

David facilitated a meeting with BT Open Reach on Histon Green to ensure that plans for high speed broadband could be implemented at the Histon exchange. The Cottenham and Cambridge Science Park (for Orchard Park) exchanges will also be upgraded before 2015.

Histon Library opening times are: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays plus extended hours to 7.30pm on Fridays, and 9.30am to 1.00pm on Saturdays.

There is a new Library self-service system in **Cottenham**. Here is a reminder of the library opening times – morning sessions 10.00am – 12.30pm on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, plus afternoon sessions 2.00pm to 6.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays: see <http://bit.ly/eyAz0i>

The Co-op in Cottenham: opening date 8th Dec 2011.

Sue was able to attend the light show at the crossing-keepers hut – very atmospheric lighting and a good start to the Christmas season. As usual, many thanks go to Pene Nudd and her team. Many children stood in line to see Santa! We were pleased that County were able to provide the power again this year.

David joined a meeting between County Farm officers and Oakington parish council to explore allotment opportunities. After a positive meeting the officers agreed to evaluate a preferred option.

Forthcoming meetings and events

7 th Dec 2011	County Council Meeting (Wednesday)
8 th Dec 2011	CCC development control
9 th Dec 2011	Bus consultation finishes http://bit.ly/qWXRwE
13 th Dec 2011	Cabinet meeting
16 th Dec 2011	Councillors' Surgery Histon and Impington Recreation Ground 7pm
6 th Jan 2012	Councillors' Surgery Cottenham Community Centre 7pm
22 th Jan 2012	Northstowe parish forum
16 th Jan 2012	AJC Transport Forum (cancelled)
19 th Jan 2012	A14 B1049 crossing meeting
30 th Jan 2012	Cabinet meeting

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope you have a Happy New Year.

Both this monthly report, and the ones for previous months are on our website <http://www.chilibdems.co.uk/>

Sue Gymer on behalf of Sue Gymer and David Jenkins
County Councillors for Cottenham, Histon and Impington
Sue Gymer 07919 036246 David Jenkins 07739 758859
suegymer@ntlworld.com ccc@davidjenkins.org.uk
Home: 01954 252902 Home: 01223 236232