

Monthly update for parish councils: September 2011

County Council and Cabinet meetings

There were two Cabinet meetings on 6th and 27th September

On the 6th, a petition for a Shared-use Cycle & Pedestrian Path from Orchard Park to Histon Road Roundabout was discussed. It was interesting to note the deferral of a previous decision to allow windfarms on County land.

The decision to not pursue the Trust model for Libraries was set out at the meeting on the 27th. This was attended by many of the Friends groups from the “at-risk” libraries. Nick Clarke was reported to say that he did not want to close any libraries and savings would be sought from a variety of means. Both David and Sue sent letters in support of our local library. There was an item on road safety and along with much government guidance, this was thought best to ask local people what they thought was necessary.

Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed to review a decision taken in February 2011 to cut the £2.7 million over the next four years that is currently spent on subsidising bus journeys in Cambridgeshire. This review is being carried out as part of the council’s budget planning process, ensuring the authority consults widely and seek views on not only the principle of making the cuts but also on the impact of specific route changes. The Council is also looking back at the routes that have already been cut, gathering feedback on how this has impacted communities in these areas. The consultation closes on 9th December.

There is also a budget consultation: this closes on Friday 7th October: <http://bit.ly/pzi8it>

Environmental Services

The guided bus is reported as being successful, but County are waiting for figures on concessionary bus pass holder use, as this may be rather a large bill. Locally, we have met with officers to discuss some ongoing safety concerns and items not finished during construction phase.

The B1049 cycleway is again progressing very slowly. The tarmac phase in Histon was delayed by problems with the installation of the lighting columns. It seems that issues over the mid-section between Cottenham and Histon may mean the completion date is thought to be pushed back to December.

If you need to report any potholes, damage to paths, tree or drainage problems on the highway: then use <http://bit.ly/o81WbP>.

Children and young people’s services

The director of Childrens Services has been seconded to help on Peterborough three days a week but he found time to open the wonderful new facilities at Cottenham Village College 6th Form unit.

With the announcement of the SHLAA one issue we are considering at County is school places. This particularly is a worry when new housing developments are proposed. We are pushing County officers to look at the sources of their predicted numbers as we have seen significant problems in new developments around the County where actual numbers far outstripped the predictions.

Local Issues

The next **Neighbourhood Panel** will be held at Impington Village College this month. There was a nasty accident in Cottenham, on the B1049, which raised many concerns over safety at peak times. If you have any concerns in Cottenham or elsewhere, then please contact David or Sue.

The Co-op in Cottenham: we have asked for County officers from highways to be involved with any planning issues that come up with the Co-op rebuild.

Sue attended the opening of Cottenham's **Sixth Form Centre**.

Northstowe link <http://bit.ly/n51KmA> website available from 5th October.

Forthcoming meetings and events

6 th Oct 2011	Northstowe consultation:The Pavilion, Over Road, Longstanton noon -8pm
6 th Oct 2011	Budget consultation finishes 7 th Oct
7 th Oct 2011	Northstowe consultation Oakington Sports Pavilion 1-6pm
7 th Oct 2011	Councillors' surgery Oakington Sports Pavilion 7-8pm
8 th Oct 2011	Northstowe consultation:The Pavilion, Over Road, Longstanton 10am – 4pm
11 th Oct 2011	Neighbourhood Panel IVC 7pm
14 th Oct 2011	Histon & Impington joining meeting 7.30pm
16 th Oct 2011	Cottenham Feast
17 th Oct 2011	AJC Transport Forum – cancelled
18 th Oct 2011	Full Council
21 st Oct 2011	Councillors' surgery at Histon and Impington 7pm Parish Office
25 th Oct 2011	Cabinet Meeting
28 th Oct 2011	Northstowe consultation cutoff date

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
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