

# Monthly update for parish councils: July 2011

## County Council and Cabinet meetings

There were two Cabinet meetings in July: the first one on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Sue and David felt that the County Council were being inflexible over the provision of Primary School places in Northstowe, and we were concerned for our established village schools. <http://bit.ly/o1HeT9>

There was a special Cabinet Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the same day as the main Council Meeting. The Special Cabinet was to approve the start of legal proceedings against BAM Nuttall to recover the overspend (<http://bit.ly/pMyFEr>).

In Council the same day, the Members approved the Mineral and Waste Plan. Sue spoke about lorries travelling through villages and the damage they do to the roads, asking for GPS data to be shared with Parish Councils if they felt they had a problem. Four motions were discussed. One was on Care Homes asking for a review following the problems of Southern Cross. A review was also requested for the effects of the withdrawal of bus subsidies to include the services lost in April this year. Although defeated, the Cabinet Member has undertaken to do this. The A14 motion was to ask Cabinet to promote a cheaper A14 upgrade concentrating on improving safety issues. The majority of the Council members were reluctant to support the "Cambridge Amendment" for the Government's Localism Bill. David has asked CCC Officers, if possible, to liaise with police and other partners to enable local communities to halt traffic during the two minutes' silence at Remembrance Day services.

## Environmental Services

We had a meeting with the Officer in charge of the B1049 cycleway. This is progressing slowly but we hope to see more action through August, particularly new lampposts to give full width to the cycleway; the top surface will follow soon after. Purchase of land and drainage are still issues to be solved in places.

After the localised floods in July, various drains have been cleared, though there are some issues with possible obstructions (eg tree roots and broken pipes). If anybody notices a problem, the earlier this is reported to County, the better. <http://bit.ly/fiNwgD>

Some yellow lines have been repainted and mobility crossings have been installed.

A petition is to be handed in about making a path from the B1049 into Orchard Park <http://bit.ly/qCLHvJ>.

The Cambridge to Ely stretch of the A10 looks set to have a 50mph speed limit to reduce accidents.

## Adult and community services

Adult Social Care is forecasting a £12M end-of-year overspend. The worry is that in order to balance the books by end of year the Council will have to make even bigger cuts to basic services.

The proposal for the Library Services will be put to Cabinet on 27<sup>th</sup> September. This will be informed by responses from the (13) affected communities. Their responses need to be returned to Head of Libraries by 22<sup>nd</sup> August. It is thought that some staff will be lost from October. Sue attended the Friends of Cottenham Library (and also Comberton).

## Children and young people's services

We looked at the OFSTED report "Unannounced Inspection of Children's Social Care". Things have improved since the last inspection but there were some concerns about IT provision and usage. An area of improvement would also be having suitably qualified social workers in contact with the children and young people: this is planned under the unit model.

## Fire and police

The emergency services have already been active on the Guided Busway. Sue asked at the full Council Meeting about safeguarding the community when crossing the Guideway, particularly wishing to see signage improvements, for example.

The Fire and Police Services were kept busy by the fire in the Cottenham Co-op, thought to have been started deliberately. Investigations are ongoing. The Cottenham appliance was already committed to another large incident at Madingley Hall. Between them, 16 appliances attended these two fires, starting within an hour of each other. Presently, the Fire Authority is looking for service reductions. The first two pumps in attendance at the Co-op were from stations at Ely and Soham, and these stations are currently under review.

## Local Issues

A **Neighbourhood Panel** was held in Waterbeach. The priorities were to tackle antisocial behaviour and criminal damage in various open spaces. The Oakington Chair outlined his most recent discussions regarding the Airport Road – he plans a further meeting with County and Police.

In Orchard Park, a meeting was held with interested parties to see if the **broadband cable** provision could be improved: BT have cable infrastructure but need to update their exchange at the Science Park and NTL (as was) declined to put infrastructure at the time of building, and this means that Virgin would have to dig up paths. This is proving a delicate negotiation, as the roads have not yet been adopted by the County, and to restore the paths to the required standard could leave the developer out of pocket.

**Northstowe Parish Forum:** anticipated timetable for Phase 1 (1500 homes)

- Outline planning application July 2011, Public Consultation Sept 2011
- Submit detailed planning application Jan 2012, Statutory Consultation Feb/Mar 2012
- Decision (South Cambs District Council) Summer / Autumn 2012

**Histon and Impington Community Orchard:** David and Sue attended part of the meeting of a very keen group <http://www.hicop.info/>

There is a proposal to build 50 David Wilson **homes** on a site at the junction of Long Drove and Beach Road in Cottenham. They have taken the unusual step of consulting with the public before putting in a Planning Application. Approximately 100 people attended and had the opportunity to express their concerns.

**Cottenham Skips:** their planning application was supported subject to several conditions (making good the access road and ensuring that trucks don't leave the site with dirty wheels).

**IVC** has made the decision to become an Academy, despite a plea from local residents to extend the consultation period <http://hicourier.com>

## Forthcoming meetings and events

5 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2011	Councillors' surgery at the Community Centre Cottenham 7pm
7 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2011	Guided Busway opens
19 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2011	Councillors' surgery at the Community Centre Orchard Park 7pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug 2011	Library responses to Head of Libraries
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2011	Councillors' surgery at the Community Centre Cottenham 7pm

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

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