

Monthly update for parish councils: Nov 2010

County Council and Cabinet meetings

The next full County Council meeting is on Tuesday 7th December and will start at 2pm, to allow Councillors to attend a Carol Service at King's College in the morning.

There is a Cabinet meeting on 14th December 2010. The agenda includes a petition about cuts to universal Youth Service provision from Unison, more about the guided busway, and Park and Ride.

In the Cabinet meeting on 16th November, the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) was taken to Cabinet to start the process that will lead to staff being made redundant. The new staff structure is expected to take effect from 1st April 2011 see <http://tinyurl.com/cab101116-6>
The item on localism and partnership working can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/cab101116-12>

The Government settlement is not expected until 9th Dec at the earliest. It is thought that the Council, in line with Government suggestions, will not raise Council tax this coming financial year, and possibly longer. I am aware that Mark Lloyd has written to you to make you aware of the shortfalls in our communities. Some Parish Councils are putting items such as youth work, elderly care, community transport, road improvements and path clearing into their precept plans.

Environmental Services

Resurfacing work took place on Sunday 5th Dec at Histon Green, and it is hoped that work will be carried out shortly at the crossroads in Oakington. I would be grateful to anybody who is reporting either potholes, missing bollards or streetlighting problems to copy David and myself in, as it gives us an idea of how long it takes to progress these items.

We had a local CGB liaison meeting in November. We have decided to continue with them, as it seems to concentrate the officers' minds on topics that might otherwise have been forgotten.

The BBC's debate on the Guided Busway at IVC sportscentre was interesting, as it gave the chance for local people mainly to express their dissatisfaction with the scheme. It looks like the scheme may now cost £180m (in answer to a written question). This is in contrast to what was stated at the meeting that they were within 1% of the £116m previously mentioned. It is unlikely that this service will be in place before the spring, although as part of the handover agreement, buses may run in the next few weeks.

Childrens' services

Sue is now Vice-Chair of Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee, which means looking closely at the budget. It does not look good – expect cuts to services. For youth work, the County Council will concentrate on those with higher needs; funding the more universal services will fall to Parish Councils and the voluntary sector, if we wish them to continue.

Adult services

The management of Hinchinbrookes Hospital is likely to change from June 2011 to a private firm. There are also some concerns that with budget resources being cut, the response time for ambulances in South Cambs should not be affected.

The Addenbrookes access road is open for all who have a legitimate purpose at the hospital: anybody not registered and using the road will receive a warning letter. It is very important that you respond to this initial contact promptly, as a fine will be levied if you cannot prove that you had an appointment or were dropping off / collecting a patient or member of staff.

Local Issues

The Rampton bus: Sue spoke with Andy Campbell last week and the bus is not being used very much. Please support it.

Lorry movements in both Oakington and Cottenham seem to have increased recently. By day, it seems to be because of a housing development in Cottenham, and by night, it is a result of junction closures on the A14. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Gritting bins: if after the recent icy weather, you feel the need for a gritting bin, then contact your local Parish Clerk, who can purchase these from the County Council. (see <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/winter/salt+bins.htm>)

Gritting routes: despite some rejections in the first round, the Citi6 routes through Oakington are now approved and, subject to further consultation, the Landbeach Road looks like it will be a secondary route.

Other items

David and Sue attended the Remembrance Service in Histon and Impington, with Sue going on to the Cottenham one, too. The Cottenham service was much improved by the road being closed this year.

David met the interim CEO of ESPO to review options for this organisation going forward and also met Stephen Conrad of County Farms. David visited Santa's Grotto, in the recently renovated Signalman's hut and attended the Cambridge Mosque open day.

The Jubilee People's Millions will run in place of The People's Millions in 2011, to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee in 2012. It will award £3.6m to good causes that will run projects in time for the celebration year. Community groups throughout the UK will be able to bid for one of 60 grants worth up to £60,000, that will improve local places and the lives of people in the community. The public will choose the winners from finalists featured on ITV regional news programmes in June 2011. **The deadline for entries is 4 Feb 2011.**

Potholes / bollards:

Highways Supervisor: our new contact is Steve Thulborn - 0345 045 5212

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/>

Streetlighting problems: <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/lights/streetlighting/>

Tel: 0800 253529 - useful to note the number from the streetlight or sign

Forthcoming meetings and events

07 Dec 2010	County Council Meeting
10 Dec 2010	Joint Surgery – County, District Parish – Histon Parish Offices 7pm
07 Jan 2011	Joint Surgery – County, District Parish – Cottenham Community Centre (former Methodist Church) 7pm
11 Jan 2011	Neighbourhood panel at Impington Village College 7pm
17 Jan 2011	Area Joint Committee Transport 2pm SCDC
15 Feb 2011	County Council Meeting

Both this monthly report, and the ones for previous months are on our website www.chilibdems.org.uk

Sue Gymer on behalf of Sue Gymer and David Jenkins
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