

Girton Parish Council

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The Pavilion
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Minutes of the Meeting of Girton Parish Council on Wednesday 20th April 2011 at St Vincent's Close Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllrs de Lacey (in the Chair), Bromwich, Cockley, Garner, Godby, Gordon, Hiley, Johnson, Noble, Taylor and Thorrold.

In attendance:

County Councillor Reynolds and District Councillor Bygott (to item 11/40.3).
John Burridge (Clerk), Natalie Stone (PFO).

11/42 Welcome from the Chairman:

The Chairman welcomed members, County Councillor Reynolds and District Councillor Bygott.

11/43 Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Ash, Clift and Ziobro and the Chairman accepted their reasons.

11/44 Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda:

None.

11/45 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

1. Members of the public.

No members of the public were present.

2. County Councillor's report (*Cllr Reynolds' report attached at Appendix A*)

Councillor Reynolds was thanked for his comprehensive report. There were no questions.

3. District Councillors' reports (*Cllr de Lacey's report attached at Appendix B*)

District Councillor Bygott reported that the Children's and Young People's Plan was now available on the SCDC website. The contract for the Contact Centre was coming up for renewal and one option was to take it in house. Cllr Bygott said that he would welcome the views of the Parish. Cllr Taylor said that he found the centre to be a potential barrier between clients and officers, in particular he found it extremely difficult to speak to specific officers.

Cllr Bygott said that he would stay for the item on Wellbrook Way, as he wanted to hear the feedback on this matter.

4. Police Report:

The police representatives were both unavailable due to shift patterns and had sent their apologies via the Clerk. A written report detailing the crimes reported during the past month was circulated to members. A copy will be appended to the minute book.

11/46 To confirm minutes of the Parish Meeting of 16th March 2011.

Proposed: Cllr. Godby **Seconded:** Cllr. Cockley

Approved: Unanimous.

11/47 Matters arising from the Minutes:

There were none

11/48 Business items requiring a decision or consideration by the Council:

The Chairman agreed that Item 3 should be taken first, so that County Councillor Reynolds and District Councillor Bygott were not delayed.

1. To approve the draft agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting:

Proposed: Cllr de Lacey **Seconded:** Cllr Thorrold

The Chairman agreed that his report and the accounts should, in fact, be two separate items. Subject to this, the draft agenda was approved..

Approved: Unanimous

2. To approve the dog-walking route:

Proposed: Cllr de Lacey **Seconded:** Cllr Johnson It was noted that a number of dog owners were currently using the Churchyard as part of their walk. Cllr. Johnson confirmed that the matter was a subject for the next meeting of the Parochial Church Council. Subject to the PCC having no objections, the proposed route was approved and it was agreed to publish a suitable plan of the route. If there is to be an objection by the PCC, an appropriate notice will be posted on the western gate from St John's Field stating "No Dogs Beyond This Point".

Approved: Unanimous

3. To consider negotiations with South Cambs District Council over the transfer of its holding at Wellbrook Way for use as recreational space:

Proposed: Cllr de Lacey **Seconded:** Cllr Gordon

The Chairman reported that the land was, in fact, encumbered and felt that the quoted value was excessive. Cllr Hiley confirmed that the Council could not afford to purchase the land. It was recognised that the Bowls Club would take up the majority of the POS and that a car park would be necessary. After discussion, it was agreed that negotiations should be entered into.

Approved: Nine in favour, one against, one abstention.

Councillors Reynolds and Bygott then left the meeting

4. To receive the recommendations of the Emergency Planning Working Group:

Proposed: Cllr Taylor **Seconded:** Cllr Godby

Cllr Taylor spoke to the recommendation in the absence of Cllr Ash. Members agreed that a list of people with relevant skills should be drawn up and regularly updated, but accepted that it would be for the emergency services to deal with any disaster and that the Parish Council would have little input in such a situation.

The recommendation of the Working Group were received

5. To receive and approve the Annual Risk Assessment:

Proposed: Cllr de Lacey **Seconded:** Cllr Bromwich

The Chairman thanked the PFO for her hard work in putting together the Risk Assessment which was received and approved.

Approved: Unanimous

6. To receive and approve the Business Management Group's recommendations:

Proposed: Cllr Taylor **Seconded:** Cllr Godby

Cllr Taylor spoke to the paper. Members felt that there was a problem in manning the various committees but it was recognised that there was also a danger of individual committees having too much to do. Cllr de Lacey proposed an amendment to the effect that the Planning Committee should remain in its present form and not be combined.

Proposed: Cllr de Lacey **Seconded:** Cllr Cockley

Approved: 7 in favour, 4 abstentions

Proposed: Cllr de Lacey **Seconded:** Cllr Cockley

After further discussion, it was agreed that the matter should be referred back to the Working Party for further consideration.

Approved: 10 in favour, 1abstention

7. To consider a proposal to demolish the bridge between St. John's field and Girton Wood:

Proposed: Cllr. Gordon **Seconded:** Cllr Johnson

Approved: Unanimously

Cllr Johnson left the meeting at this point

8. To approve the continuation of the grass cutting arrangement with regard to roadside verges:

Proposed: Cllr de Lacey **Seconded:** Cllr Godby

It was agreed to consider this again and that the next cut should be authorised while three quotations were obtained.

9. To consider the proposal from Girton WI to sponsor a planter at Thornton Road shops:

The proposal was noted with approval, although it does not fall within the Council's remit and the Clerk was instructed to point out that the land in question was in multiple ownership.

10. To consider and approve the desired approach to Street Light maintenance:

Proposed: Cllr de Lacey **Seconded:** Cllr Hiley

Cllr de Lacey proposed that Option 1 contained in the letter from Cambridgeshire County Council be adopted and Cllr Hiley confirmed that some of the lights were installed by Girton and were then passed over to SCDC who were in turn passing them back to villages. It was agreed that ownership needed to be established and insurance obtained, if the Council needs to have this cover.

Approved: Unanimously

11/49 Finance & Resource Management:

1. To approve payments from 17th March to 20th April 2011:

Proposed: Cllr Cockley **Seconded:** Cllr Hiley

Approved: Unanimously

2. To approve the Balance Sheet:

Proposed: Cllr Cockley **Seconded:** Cllr Hiley

Approved: Unanimously

3. To receive the finance report from 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011

The Finance Report was duly received

11/50 Correspondence received:

The following correspondence has been circulated to all Councillors.

1. Copy letter from Girton Tennis Club.

The Chairman reported that the figures for the increase did seem very high but that this may be influenced by the increase in the cost of electricity. He would consult with the Centre Manager on her return from annual leave and write to the Treasurer of the Tennis Club.

11/51 To receive reports:

1. Chairman's Report (Appendix C)

Received.

2. Girton Town Charity:

The office is now open and operating successfully. There have been instances of cases of hardship and members were asked to refer any known to them to the Town Charity.

3. Girton Youth Club:

Tim Shuker-Yeates is undertaking a course in Counselling which is being paid for by the YMCA and the Town Charity.

4. Footpaths and Rights of Way:

Cllr. Bromwich had nothing new to report.

11/52 To receive Committee Minutes:

1. Planning Applications Committee dated 14 April 2011 (unconfirmed)

11/53 Exclusion of Press and Public:

The Chairman stated that this Item was irrelevant as he planned to withdraw Item 11/54.

11/54 Employees' Contracts:

The Chairman withdrew this Item from the agenda

11/55 Matters raised by Councillors:

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm.

APPENDIX A

February 2011 Report from John Reynolds 4 Hollytrees Bar Hill CB23 8SF

Email J.E.Reynolds@ntlworld.com

BUDGET REPORT

The Council has published its Integrated Plan proposals. The proposals outline how we are going to deal with the most difficult and challenging service and financial planning position in the Council's history. The council will have a gross spending next year of £460 million plus the schools grant of £362 million. We will be spending around £195 million on adult care, and £122 million on children's services. We will also be investing some £108.9 million on capital projects such as new or expanding school. Even with this expenditure we will still need to make substantial saving. **This involves radical change.**

The Council's priorities - which are the priorities of residents - will change. How we work to deliver them will change, and in many cases, the services themselves will change. Our Integrated Plan 2011/12 contains a set of new priorities, as well as a statement of how we will provide them.

These priorities will help us deliver our ultimate vision for the county - Making Cambridgeshire a great place to call home.

The new priorities are:

Supporting and protecting people when they need it most

The Council will provide a safety net for vulnerable people until they can take back control of their own lives. We will work to keep children and families safe at home, whilst providing the right care at the right time for those children and young people for whom Local Authority care is the right decision.

We'll help older people and those suffering ill health or disability to get the care they want and need - helping people look after themselves in their own homes for longer, without the need for long-term care. Our support will be targeted to those most in need and where we do provide support, it will be to help people towards independence.

Helping people to live independent and healthy lives in their communities.

We want people to be in control of their own lives, as individuals and as part of their community. We'll promote choice through our services to help people choose the right options for them. We want people to step up and be more active in their local community so we'll work to remove the barriers that stop people getting involved. We also want to tackle the barriers which prevent everyone from enjoying the best that Cambridgeshire has to offer. We have a strong belief in fairness and reducing inequality. Therefore, we'll target our services at those people who need extra help to make the most of living in our communities.

Developing our local economy for the benefit of all.

We will help people to access the support they need to get the jobs being created in Cambridgeshire - supporting children and young people to stay in learning and providing a range of options for adults. Across the county, we'll ensure that people can travel safely and are able to access economic opportunities. We'll continue to provide the services that people use every day - like street lighting, dealing with waste and safely maintaining our roads - as much as we can within financial constraints. We'll provide these in the best possible way to improve the quality of life of the people who live here now and in the future.

How we work will also change. We've set out four principles which will guide and govern what we do.

- Be a genuinely local council
- Making sure the right services are provided, in the right way
- Investing in prevention
- Working together

Savings proposals

The budget decisions have and are being made in conjunction with Community Impact Assessments, which consider the impact of our services on communities, with particular reference to ensuring equality and cohesion. These will continue as changes are made to services. Pressures of demand for services, along with inflation and the steep reduction in our grant settlement, means the Council has to make savings of £55 million in the coming financial year. We cannot achieve this without cuts to services, which of course carry an inevitable impact in terms of the numbers of employees which the Council needs to provide them. Some of the headline reductions are below.

Children's Services

In Children's services over the next four years, we will remove universal and discretionary services, saving £1 million from youth services, £761,000 from home to school transport and £600,000 from children's centres. We will end direct support to some children and young people, saving £1 million from disability services, £527,000 from specialist teaching, £315,000 from budgets for educating looked after children and £301,000 from the Cambridgeshire Racial Equality and Diversity service.

Other services where we will make savings include the teenage pregnancy service, Cambridgeshire Music and support for newly-qualified teachers. By doing things differently we will save £950,000 from children's social care, £240,000 from the early years service, and £3 million from mainstream and special educational needs school transport.

Communities and Adults

In Libraries, Learning and Culture next year, we will save £282,000 through operational efficiencies, income generation and new ways of working next year alone, £108,000 from redesigning the mobile library service, and £100,000 from introducing more self service and using volunteers in libraries.

Working in partnership with other councils to provide support services and creating a Trust to run libraries will save a further £294,000. In social care, promoting prevention and localism will save £2.9 million, adopting reablement approach a further £4.75 million, and decreasing the cost of high cost and complex placements will save £1.3 million.

Environment Services

In Environment Services, we will make savings totalling £6.5 million over year one. Re-designing services will save money and focus on the new corporate priorities. £641k will be saved by a proposed re-design of Trading Standards and there will be savings from a proposed restructuring of Waste Management and Highways and Access. Senior Management costs will be reduced.

We will be making savings on service provision, including £2.7 million (over four years) on public transport services, although we will make a small additional investment in our community transport budget. Some highway services, such as grass cutting and gully emptying, will be reduced. Although there will be a revenue reduction of £1.4 million in highways maintenance, we are now investing additional capital of £3.8 million in this area. This was a key issue coming through the public consultation results. It is proposed that Environment and Climate Change spending will be reduced by £472,000.

Corporate Directorates

In Corporate Directorates, over a four-year period, reducing properties and maximizing office space in retained buildings will save over £1 million. Reducing the contact centre opening hours and moving to more services being accessed and delivered online - £426,000, reducing IT functions and delivering services in different ways will save £989,000 and reducing communications and marketing activity will save £550,000.

BUDGET ON LINE

More detail of the County Council Budget are only a click away. The link to the budget page on our website - it's actually only one click away from the front page. From here there is more detail under the three headings on the left, the links in the main text and related links on the right. The most useful links are 'areas of savings' and 'detailed budgets by policy area' on the left. <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/finance/spending/ip2011/>

CONSESSIONARY FARES

As you know responsibility for this transfers to the County Council on the 1st April and this is another pressure on us. We're told that last year the District/City Councils jointly spent some £5.7m in delivering the scheme across the county. The Coalition Government have given us £3.995m by way of grant The Department for Transport guidance is that the reimbursement rate for bus operators in the order of 50% as opposed to the current 66%. We are still in negotiations with the bus operators on the reimbursement rates.

ZERO COUNCIL TAX INCREASE AND A RADICAL NEW APPROACH TO SERVICES IN COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET

There will be no increase in the County Council's element of Council Tax in the next financial year, and probably no increase for a further four years, proposals released today reveal.

The County Council has unveiled its Integrated Plan covering the next five years, which aims to save £50.4 million in 2011/12 and £160.6 million over the life of the plan.

The proposals, answer to the most difficult financial situation in its history, as the Council deals with the increasing pressures of demand, an increasing and ageing population and inflation coupled with a 14 per cent reduction in the core funding received from Government. They are defined by a new set of Council priorities, and informed by the results of a consultation process which put residents in the place of County Councillors and replicated the tough decisions in this year's budget.

BUSWAY CONTRACTOR CHASED FOR COMPLETION PAPERWORK

With only minor work left to be finished on the Busway, the County Council is demanding the contractor hands over the paperwork to confirm their work is finished and guaranteed. Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive at the Council, has today written to BAM Nuttall to ask when the Council will receive the outstanding documents and information it needs. These are the final pieces of information that are needed for the Busway to be certified as complete. Late last year BAM Nuttall set yet another deadline for when the relevant documents and work would be completed by December 17. Yet again the deadline was missed and the date has been slipping ever since. The information could and should have been provided by now.

The outstanding information includes:

1. Proof that Shelford Road Bridge has a long working life as required by the contract.
2. A final report to confirm the stability of earthworks where the Busway goes along old railway cuttings.
3. Evidence that work on the Trumpington Retaining Wall meets the required standards and the National Grid have approved this too.
4. Acceptance from Network Rail of how the Hills Road Bridge will be maintained
5. A final guarantee through completed documents that the work has been carried out to the standards required in the contract.

This information is vital to allow the Council to assume responsibility for the track in the same way as a prospective homeowner needs to get the NHBC guarantees or someone buying a car needs the registration documents before they can complete the sale

In the letter, Mark Lloyd says: "I am advised that you still have some minor work to do to complete Addenbrooke's bridge, which has now slipped to next week, and other minor snags and safety audit issues to finish, but other than these you have no further major site work planned. I am therefore concerned to hear that the Project Manager is still not in a position to certify completion as there are key areas of documentation which the Project Manager requires that have still not been provided by BNL or are not in the correct format. I understand that the Project Manager has been requesting these documents for some time.

"Whilst I understand that there are other matters outstanding, those listed above are the ones which are most critical and therefore the key to securing completion of the Busway. These issues are entirely in BNL's hands and consequently so too is the point at which the Busway can open for use. All of these issues could have been dealt with before now and should not have been left to this late stage. We all want to achieve completion at the earliest opportunity so I must ask that by return, you set a clear programme for when BNL will address these issues."

Once the contract is certified 'Complete' BAM Nuttall have 28 days to fix all notified defects on the route. If, as expected, the contractor does not complete the work within the time permitted the Council will bring in a new contractor to fix the defects charging the cost to BAM Nuttall.

For the latest information on the Busway, log on to:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/thebusway/Latest+information.htm>.

COUNTY COUNCIL'S ADOPTION SERVICE 'GOOD WITH OUTSTANDING FEATURES'

Cambridgeshire County Council's Adoption Service is well managed at all levels with particular strengths in supporting adopters and the provision of excellent access to psychological services, according to inspectors. Inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education - said the overall quality of the agency was good and children are placed in safe families who meet their needs. They said the service had a 'committed and thorough' medical advisor.

Staff within the organisation were viewed as being 'knowledgeable, skilled and committed and appropriately supported to enable them to provide a good service to children and their families'.

They found a thorough and well-established matching process for children in which comprehensive sharing of information was used to assist in the matching of children with adoptive families. Birth families actively contribute to the matching and planning process, inspectors added.

Support to adoptive families was noted as being a particularly strong feature of the agency and adopters were well prepared for the task of parenting an adopted child during the preparation and assessment process. Adoptive families found the adoption and adoption support teams a valuable source of support, inspectors found.

Areas for development included the need for improvements in some procedural elements of the adoption process and a more consistent approach to ensure Life Story Books are provided in a timely manner for children.

Local Cllr John Reynolds, said: "This is an excellent report and a tribute to the hard work and dedication of everyone who works in the adoption team. It is clearly going from strength to strength and we now have the endorsement of OfSTED to prove this. Well done to everyone concerned."

Anyone interested in learning more about adoption should contact the adoption team on 0800 052 0078 or at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/childrenyoungpeople/socialcare/adoption The team is particularly interested in hearing from people from black, minority and ethnic groups as well as those who could consider adopting sibling groups or children with complex needs.

WINTER MAINTANCE

Clearly the winter isn't over yet but may return. Recent deliveries of salt have helped increase our stockpile - we currently have around 4250 tonnes in stock and we've already started refilling Parish Council bins.

POST SIXTEEN SCHOOL TRANSPORT SAVED FROM THE CUTS

Good news that the County can now continue to support Post 16 transport following the review of expenditure. This funding will help support those in the rural areas and support our priority of reducing those children Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETs).

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The services in Cambridgeshire are mainly provided on a commercial basis. However the Council does have a

discretionary role in subsidising services that operators will not provide on a commercial basis. We also provide some funding for community transport schemes. We will increase this support by £220k over the next two years. The proposed phasing out of subsidised bus services is likely to have a significant impact on rural communities and potentially affect people travelling on Sundays and evenings. It will be important for us to closely monitor the impacts of phased reductions in tendered services to minimise impacts on our communities. Consultation will be carried out prior to any removal of services and community impact assessments undertaken.

We are in discussions with bus operators to find out to what extent operators might run currently subsidised services without a subsidy. In addition to the extra funding we are putting into community transport there is potential for other local councils to support public or community transport services and for us to work closely with districts and other partners to address transport needs of local communities. Initially the service reduction will focus primarily on services that are highly subsidised and/or underused, or where alternatives are available. Services are likely to be reduced rather than stopped altogether where appropriate.

NEW VISION REVEALED FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE LIBRARIES

Communities will be at the heart of running and managing libraries according to draft proposals drawn up to help protect Cambridgeshire services in the face of tough financial savings. Government has given Cambridgeshire 14 per cent less main funding than last year leaving Libraries having to find £3.2 million in savings over the next five years.

Rather than simply closing facilities Cambridgeshire County plans could see the savings being made while protecting library services as much as possible. The proposals are based on the feedback given by thousands of Cambridgeshire residents. They emphasise that library closures will only be considered as a last resort but these can be avoided if communities come forward and help support their local services. The plans include the setting up of a Cambridgeshire Trust to look after the running of the libraries, but still the responsibility of the County Council. This would unlock funding and savings the Council currently does not have access to.

Libraries will also be reorganised into groups with a main library supporting the others in its area and sharing a reduced level of staff. This will also see the roll-out of more self-service technology and more community engagement and volunteers in libraries, with Community Management Boards like the one established for Wisbech Library. This idea is also backed by the public in the recent consultation. Some 69 per cent of respondents in the public consultation said they support Alternative Service Delivery model as an alternative to closing libraries. This would maximise the use of self-service facilities in libraries, while reducing staff and increasing volunteers.

Where it is already used in Cambridgeshire, self-service accounts for more than 85 per cent of normal library transactions. Already libraries have hundreds of volunteers as well as friends groups. The new model would extend this and see communities helping to manage the library as well as support initiatives such as IT buddying or children and older people's activities. Nearly half (48 per cent) of the 5,600 survey respondents said they would volunteer to help libraries, and 1800 people have already registered their interest in volunteering. Cambridgeshire will also join up with four other local authorities to provide backroom library services to drive down costs.

In order to meet the additional savings required, communities with least need will be approached to see if they could run the service themselves, with the support of the Council and the new Trust. This would be similar to the library access points which are already run by volunteers in the county. Libraries could also look to merge or share facilities with other services to reduce costs or move to other, more cost effective, buildings in the same area.

Some 77 per cent of survey respondents said they wanted to see libraries used as community hubs where various agencies and community groups could use the buildings. The proposals ask for communities to take the lead in helping to come forward and support their library to meet the savings targets.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "We are facing some of the toughest financial choices ever. But Cambridgeshire County Council is clear that libraries are vital community hubs that we need to support as much as we can and work together to keep them open. That is why we have come up with proposals that are based on what residents have said to us, that keep services but still make the savings needed. There is much we all can do together to reduce costs and transform the library service but communities must be encouraged to continue to play their part if they want services to remain. Due to the tremendous challenge we are facing we could have made the decision to close libraries but that would not be the right thing to do. We have put forward a plan that will change the delivery of services and put communities at the heart of that transformation. As part of the localism agenda I urge residents to take this opportunity with both hands and help us achieve the savings needed."

A14 UPDATE

You will be aware that the A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton scheme was withdrawn in late 2010. Instead the Department of Transport is planning to undertake a study to identify cost effective, and practical, proposals which bring benefits and relieve congestion on the sections of the A14 covered by the former scheme. The study is to report in mid-2012, allowing the findings to play into the next Spending Review and other relevant decision-making processes.

The plan is to build on the body of existing evidence and analysis and to use this as a basis for the development of

a Business Case for any preferred option which would support a definitive investment decision within the context of the next Spending Review. Priority problems would be identified and solutions for these proposed. Roads-based solutions would be examined in the Huntingdon/Cambridge area, and this approach would also look at the potential for rail, other public transport and demand management approaches to help alleviate problems on the A14, particularly in the vicinity of the previous scheme. The study will involve local stakeholders.

REDUCING TOP MANAGEMENT COSTS.

The County Council is continuing to reduce the number of senior managers. Over the past 6 years the numbers have been reduced to 7 and this number is likely to reduce to 5 in the coming year.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THOUSANDS OF LOCAL PEOPLE TO SHAPE THEIR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (CCS) provides a wide range of community-based health and social care services across Cambridgeshire including adult social care services on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council. From 5 January to 30 March 2011, the Trust is undertaking a public consultation on becoming an NHS Foundation Trust, which will give thousands of staff and local people the opportunity to become Members of the Trust and really influence how local services are developed. The Trust genuinely wants to hear what people think about the proposals outlined in its consultation document, click on the link below to read a summary:

<http://bit.ly/eESf1o>.

To become a Member on line, click on the following link:<http://bit.ly/g9tZJu>

For further information, contact Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS

Trust's communications team on 0800 013 2511 or 01480 308216 or email FT@ccs.nhs.uk

SURVEY GIVES FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A new survey of parents has shown why the uptake of school dinners in Cambridgeshire has rise from 31.5 per cent to 40 per cent in the last three years. This equates to an extra 600,000 meals a year. Parents of primary pupils who choose a school lunch told researchers:

- * They valued the importance of a hot, nutritionally balanced meal at lunchtime
- * Children enjoyed the meals and are given the opportunity to try new and different food
- * School meals offer convenience for families with busy lifestyles
- * Eating a school lunch teaches children important social skills
- * A school lunch offers good value for money.

The survey was carried out by Cambridgeshire Catering Services (CCS) - which is part of Cambridgeshire County Council. Uptake of school meals in Cambridgeshire has

The price of a school meal has remained at £2.00 for the last two years. CCS has also introduced a pre-ordering system in some schools to ensure the most popular meals do not run out - and is looking to extend this in 2011.

CCS already provides meals to over 200 schools across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Essex and Rutland, and has recently started providing meals to about 70 schools in Northamptonshire. A total of 17,000 children in Cambridgeshire now have a school meal every day.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

My report this month is about progress with the Annual Public Health Report which is one of the roles of the Director of Public Health (DPH). This is an independent report, which describes key statistics relating to the health of the local population and makes recommendations for action to improve/maintain population health. The Annual Public Health Report is distributed widely and made publically available on the NHS Cambridgeshire website.

The draft Health and Social Care Bill proposes an ongoing duty for the DPH in the local authority to produce an annual report on the health of the local population. The report includes information from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) as there is considerable cross over between the two documents.

The Annual Public Health Report 2010 presents a brief summary of some key health statistics for Cambridgeshire, key points and recommendations from the JSNA work carried out in 2010. The report reviews progress against the recommendations of the APHR 2009, and make a small number of new recommendations.

The full report is due to be published in March; previous reports are available from the Director of Public Health.

CHILDCARE AND EARLY YEARS NEEDS BEING MET IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

A survey of over 1500 parents and carers in Cambridgeshire has revealed that 94 per cent of their childcare and early years needs are being met. However, the survey also revealed that a quarter of parents find childcare difficult to afford, and that there were significant pressures on childcare. The final Childcare Sufficiency report will be published on 1 April 2011, along with detailed action plans and locality profiles giving more detail on the local childcare picture in residents' neighbourhoods.

Local Cllr John Reynolds, said: "The survey's aim is to identify where and why parents are struggling to find the right sort of childcare or early years education for their children. Once identified, we can put plans in place to meet these needs. It's good to see that we are meeting the needs of such a high proportion of our residents."

"Where families simply need more information about options, the Council's Childcare Information Service (CIS)

is a vital resource. The CIS, currently provided by Opportunity Links, is the first port of call for parents seeking childcare or early year's places. The service includes enhanced support for parents who have particular needs or difficulties in finding suitable childcare".

Log onto <http://www.opportunity-links.org.uk/> or call 0845 04 54 014 (local call rate).

To view the results of the research and to provide feedback, as well as find out more on the sufficiency process, see: <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/education/parents/childcare/sufficiency.htm>

GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A DIFFERENT SORT OF CARD

Why not give a different kind of card to the one you love. The C-card isn't like any other kind of card. It's much more exclusive - available only to young people aged 19 and under. Once you have a C-card you have access to a confidential service, providing information and advice around relationships, sexual health and access to free condoms.

The C-card scheme is run by Cambridgeshire County Council and is offered from a wide range of places that are accessible for young people, including Young People March to Alconbury Doctor's Surgery and Manor Leisure Centre to the Connections Bus Project, which stops at 11 places across the county. Many of the C-card registration points also offer other services to young people, such as screening, pregnancy testing, emergency contraception and testing for sexually transmitted diseases.

To find out more about the C-card and a searchable database of registration points, visit: www.youthoria.org/c-card. Youthoria is the website for young people in Cambridgeshire providing information and advice on a wide range of teenage topics.

NEW POLICE WEBSITE

The new Police website www.police.uk has provided you with maps that show crime and anti-social behaviour at a street by street level right in your neighbourhood. This means you can see, even from your mobile, exactly what crime is happening and where - right down to the level of your street corner. If you have concerns about the crime you see or how issues are dealt with, you can raise them with the police. The interactive maps open the door on crime and police information. You can view crimes including burglary, violence and anti-social behaviour in a particular area by using a simple postcode search. There will also be details about your neighbourhood policing team and information about regular beat meetings.

The government is introducing a series of measures as part of a plan to fight crime:

Slashing bureaucracy - steps already taken to save up to 800,000 hours of police time by scrapping the stop form and limiting stop and search reporting.

Removing all targets and setting the police just one goal: to cut crime.

Introducing directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure that police forces respond to the needs of local communities.

Providing transparent information so local communities really know about crime in their area.

These crime maps which will reconnect the police and communities through the power of information are just the start. **It's clear that this sort of transparent information is very popular as www.police.uk has already received millions of hits.**

We want to build on this by working with the police and with you to explore how we can go further and faster and drive forward even greater transparency across crime, policing and justice.

John Reynolds Feb 2011

APPENDIX B

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey 8. 3. 2011

The Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) has had a troubled year, compounded by a motion put to the recent Council meeting which effectively outlaws wind farms (ie 2 or more turbines) in South Cambridgeshire. This motion was supported by the Chairman of the CCWG, which must make its future very uncertain.

I mentioned last month the controversy about the unappointed '3+3 Group' set up to run the Northstowe planning. In the light of this the group has now been disbanded, which will at least permit parishes most nearly affected by Northstowe to have a voice in its planning. However, little else seems to be happening there.

At the Council meeting of 24 February the major item was the approval of our budget for 2011/12. Local councils have been offered what seems to be a bribe by central government: freeze your precept at 2010/11 rates and you will receive a 2.5% increase for the next 4 years (I should say this does not apply to Parishes). For most Councils this seemed to have worked, and we were presented with a zero increase in precept and a large number of cuts. The LibDems stated that they opposed the budget, but offered no alternative of their own. There are many worrying aspects to the proposals, for instance the enormous expenditure on agency staff; and a general obscurity in the way the accounts are presented. But with no alternative on the table, I felt happy to support the budget proposals in the main. We now need to make sure that we do not follow the path of previous years where actual spending has been massively at variance with the budget; and that the cuts when implemented do not create intolerable disadvantage or hardships. The Finance Portfolio Holder assured us that he held three issues in mind: the impact on residents; value for money, and the impact on the Council and its staff.

Progress on a number of issues continues to be painfully slow. There is none on the Wellbrook Open Space despite my attempts to get the Council and Taylor-Wimpey to move on the various outstanding factors. I requested that the Planning Application for 5 flats at 11 Mayfield Road be postponed when I discovered the Planning Committee was intending to decide it without a site visit, which I deem essential for the Committee to understand the issues fully. So this will now go to the Planning Committee in April. I am to have a meeting with officers on 24 March to discuss the lack of progress on rectifying the Planning website.

A year ago I reported on the confusion within the Cabinet over the future of recycling centres following the introduction of the blue bins. The final decision then was that they would remain. In January of this year the Environmental Services PFH decided on major changes to these centres, removing most of the current facilities, but adding Parish councils and / or site owners should be consulted before any changes to specific sites are made. Where they would like to retain particular banks, which otherwise would be removed, it is proposed that they cover all associated operating costs' (full details of the minutes at <http://scams.moderngov.co.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=5195&T=1>). However, the Parish Council has now been told, with no consultation whatsoever, that all but the paper bank will be removed in the next couple of months. I have requested an explanation, and the Parish Council will debate the future of our recycling facilities at its March meeting.

On 4 March the Cambridgeshire Rotarians opened what is intended to be a permanent project to support people with memory loss and their carers. The 'Memory Café' will function every first Friday of the month in the Girton WI Hall, and there was a good crowd for the inauguration. Andrew Lansley MP formally declared the project open and Mike Petty invited discussion based on photographs of yesteryear. I was pleased to represent the Village at this event which should offer value well beyond the Village boundaries; and, if a success, may be augmented by other such cafés in other villages.

On 9 March I had a meeting with Roger Taylor, Director of the University's NW Cambridge project. We discussed 4 main issues:

Traffic and transport. The University is revising its transport modelling in the light of the A14 postponement. I asked what had changed in the trip numbers proposed. The answer is None, but the University is now looking to put more money into things like bus subsidies. If it can persuade the Highways Agency that this will adequately ameliorate the traffic issues the University will hope to be given the go-ahead for the full proposed development. This provides its own problems which Roger is well aware of: if NWC proceeds in advance of NIAB, there will be a demand for secondary school places long before the school at NIAB is built, which means bussing children to other schools, which means more traffic ... This is a problems we must not lose sight of.

The modelling uses a package owned and run by the County, but Roger promised me the resulting data when available. Whether the granularity will enable us to get a clear idea of the impact on Huntingdon Road remains to be seen.

Carbon footprint I expressed disappointment in the Cambridge News report on the carbon credentials of the new site (<http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/Home/Innovative-energy-plan-for-3000-home-scheme.htm>) which appeared to represent no advance on the scheme I had criticised to Roger a year ago. Roger explained that the report was not entirely accurate. Solar PV would be installed on all roofs, which would make this one of the

biggest solar PV sites in the country. There will be Ground Source Heat Pumps for the industrial buildings. He defended CHP (though I am not sure I can accept the defence) but argued that it is now only part of the energy mix. I'm a bit happier than I was.

Benefit to Girton For us this is the crucial issue, and here there is not much to be said at present. Planning policy dictates that all (or at least the majority) of facilities should be available on-site (though in this case 'site' includes the NIAB development), so there is likely to be little interaction between the present village and this development. The Primary School should be built at an early stage, so there should be no pressures on our school. Villagers could use the facilities available on the NWC site. We touched on whether we might create a ward of the Parish Council for the residents of NWC in Girton Parish: Roger thought that might make sense. Any boundary changes would of course not be the University's responsibility.

Timetable The hope is to have an outline Planning Application (PA) ready mid-year, for submission early Autumn. Roger is keen to consult early rather than late: clearly it makes sense to build objections into the PA rather than have it rejected. Roger is eager to meet the Council as soon as the PA is ready: probably June or July. I propose inviting him to a full Council meeting if that is agreeable to Councillors.

Douglas de Lacey

APPENDIX C

Chairman's Report to Girton Parish Council - 29. 3. 2011

I successfully arranged for the Wellbrook Way land sale to be removed from the Housing PFH meeting. We now need urgently to put up a case for transfer of this land to the Parish.

I have had a useful meeting with the Director of the University's NW Cambridge project. As he finalises the Outline Planning Application he would like to meet the Parish Council in June or July.

Work on the Hibbert-Ware garden continues: Volunteers coordinated by Penny de Lacey organised a clear-up and rescue operation before the major earth-works. Brambles were pulled out of the trees and much dead wood removed, together with suckers. The bulbs were removed from the Millennium Garden and put in a temporary bed at the rear. This means that most of the bulbs will be available for re-planting. Since the daffodils were almost all in bloom the volunteers bunched the flowers and offered them to passers-by for a donation, thus raising some £20 for the Red Cross Disaster Fund.

Chivers Farm was required to clear the scrub at the bottom of the St John's field which stretches from between the two pubs to the bottom of Dodford Lane. This work was done in mid-March. I received several complaints about the timing and destruction caused to wildlife habitat, and about the bonfire in which the uprooted scrub was burned. I explained that the Council has no role in this matter, but arranged to see Caroline Chivers who oversaw the work. She explained that the timing was the earliest possible (they had tried to start earlier but a vehicle had become bogged down) and the extent of the work was decreed by the St John's agent, James Ingram. Neither St John's nor Chivers have any plans for the site and I am hopeful that the St John's agent may be prepared to discuss its future with the Council.

Abbeyfield have established a 'Focus Group' to advise on management and facilities at their Girton site (the proposed name for their building is 'Girton Green') and have asked me to serve on it. It is not clear from the meeting I attended exactly how they envisage the group functioning but it will be a useful way of keeping a contact between the development and the Council.

On 4 May Councillor Clift and I have arranged to meet a director of Taylor-Wimpey. We hope to establish TW's position on the 106 agreement and the LEAP fence; we have of course no mandate from the Council to negotiate.

Douglas de Lacey