

A View from the District (May 2010)

Election fever meant that little else happened in the District this month. For me the local election was a great disappointment. Brian Bromwich came within 74 votes of winning despite the Lib Dems deeming the seat unwinnable. Their unwise decision to fight instead against a couple of very good independent councillors in Histon & Impington and Fulbourn meant that they wasted the chance to oust an administration which last year squandered £1.4M of your money on the Housing Futures debacle and this year £1.5M on a doubtful blue-bin scheme in a year when £1.5M budget savings were needed. However, that is what the electorate has decided and we shall have to live with it.

The sharp-eyed may have noticed that in the first edition of the results on the Council's web site there was a massive discrepancy in the figures for Histon and Impington with some 600 votes unaccounted for. This demonstrates the need for the candidates to scrutinise the whole process very carefully.

I had tabled a question for the Council meeting of 22 April on the effectiveness of the Sustainable Transport Policy which the Cabinet introduced 18 months ago with great razzmatazz. The reply was a litany of failure to achieve any useful result at all. It played heavily on the fact that two Councillors did actually cycle to Cambourne and ignored the fact that this had nothing at all to do with the Policy since we both do it for pleasure.

A number of questions were asked about the continual problem of flooding and sewerage overflow at Cambourne, to which as yet we have rather unsatisfactory answers. It is one of my main concerns to ensure that none of the many errors of Cambourne should be repeated in any of the sites round Girton, and I am hoping that I shall retain my place on the JDCC where I have already been able to interrogate the processes for Trumpington: the plans for NIAB 2 will shortly be presented to the JDCC.

Other than that the business was all bread-and-butter stuff and as usual the minutes will be on the Council's website.

And that all for this month. Looking ahead, the Council's AGM is on 27 May, the same date as the postponed Parish Council elections (please do come out and vote!); the JDCC meets on 19 May and the Climate Change meeting has been cancelled. However I shall not be idle: the Public Inquiry over the A14 has a pre-meeting on 24 May which will introduce a great deal of work as we look to presenting a case for Girton to the Inquiry proper which starts in July.

If you would like a fuller monthly report emailed to you please contact me at scdc@de-lacey.org and I shall add you to the list of recipients. If you have any District Council issues you would like to discuss please don't hesitate to ask me.

Douglas de Lacey
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