

A View from the District (November 2010)

A very quiet month for me, which considering what has been happening at Parish level is perhaps just as well. For many of the issues of concern to Girton, the results of the Comprehensive Spending Review – specifically the shelving of the A14 – have entailed a major re-think which will set them all back several months. We shall need to ensure that the immediate proposal – scaling back all the developments – does not entail the removal of necessary infrastructure.

The Head of ICT has produced his promised report. We are promised a simplified login process, but as this entails a new dongle (possibly a replacement but it looks like an addition) and a ‘new secure ID’ it is not clear that this is simplification. We shall see.

The redundancy policy was taken back to the Portfolio Holder, and on 2 November we had a Member Briefing on redundancy. Despite the wording on the last Council agenda (‘minor changes’), our policy has been completely re-written so it is quite difficult to see where the changes are. We were assured that there should be very little enforced redundancy, and that the redundancy package was still significantly better than the legal minimum. The main changes are that the number of year of service on which the payment is based will no longer include all service (even if interrupted, *eg* to bring up a family) but only continuous service; and there will no longer be an automatic multiplier of the resulting calculation by 1.5. However, we have added a lower cap to protect the lowest-paid. I suggested that an upper cap would be in the ratepayers’ interest since the best-paid are also likely to find alternative employment easily, but there seemed little enthusiasm for this. But many other of my comments have been accepted into a revised draft.

I have arranged a 1:1 meeting with the new CEO on the morning of 26 November, when I shall show her the sights of Girton and discuss developments here as well as procurement and ICT issues.

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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