

A View from the District (July 2011)

Last month I suggested that the County Council might try to block local groups' attempts to apply speed limits by applying expensive conditions. At a meeting with the key traffic officers I was delighted to discover that they have no such intent. I am therefore in discussion with the College and City and County Councillors to bring forward a proposal to achieve our long-held goal to reduce the Huntingdon Road limit to 30.

The Donarbon Open Day on 18 June was well worth while. One eye-opening exhibit was a videotape which had wrapped itself around some parts of the new Mechanical-Biological Treatment (MBT) plant bringing it to a juddering halt. A 3-foot ship's anchor and chain hadn't done it a great deal of good either. With much help from Donarbon (now part of AmeyCespa) our own recycling service is going well.

Two important meetings – the Climate Change Working Group, and the Local Strategic Partnership Board (which was due to receive our Village Plan) – were cancelled at very short notice. This is extremely frustrating and I was not alone in saying so.

The Corporate Governance Committee meeting on 7 July, under a new and dynamic chairman, had a very different style. Before the accounts we were presented with two reports from other areas of our corporate life. The first was on our use of natural resources, and the second on our illness statistics. It made the Committee realise that there is more than money in governance issues!

The Electoral Arrangements Committee had an item on its agenda to consider re-drawing the City/SCambs boundary. Although this proposal did not affect Girton, and was rejected on the grounds of significant changes since the original proposal, both in developments here and in Boundary Commission guidance, we may at some stage in the future to face a proposal for changes to Girton's boundary.

Last month I lauded officers on collecting almost all of our Council Tax last year. I have received a disturbing report of heavy-handed action by bailiffs against a resident who was not actually in arrears with Council Tax, and am investigating.

We have been notified that the new health profiles of the nation have been published and are available at <http://www.healthprofiles.info> from which it would seem that in general Cambridgeshire is generally better than the England average. We have also been informed by the County that the proposed further cuts to bus routes are currently on hold, which must be good news

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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