

A View from the District (February 2012)

As their building nears completion, Abbeyfield would like to work on the public land which will eventually be handed over to the Parish; but this involves a lot of legal issues and I have spent a good deal of time in meetings with Abbeyfield directors and other interested parties. I am hopeful that we can find a solution to the best advantage of both Abbeyfield and the village. At such meetings I am also able to discuss the relationship I hope will exist between Abbeyfield and its facilities and other residents in the Village.

SCDC has now agreed to sell the small extra parcel of land to the Parish Council which abuts onto the bowling green area, and I am working with the Town Charity and the Parish Council on a revision of the plans for this whole area. The Charity has generously provided the money for this purchase, which will be a great asset to Girton. I am extremely grateful to the Charity for its help and support.

Our January Council meeting was very brief: apart from the standing issues we expressed concern over parish emergency plans (or lack thereof) and the potential loss of bus subsidies; and then approved a plan to scale down the top layer of administrators in the Council which (we hope) will contribute to savings without harming service. And that was pretty well it.

For (I think) the third time in a row the JDCC meeting (with responsibility for NW Cambridge) was cancelled, but we are told that the planning application is imminent, as is that for Northstowe. Both of these when they come will create an enormous amount of work for councillors and our already-overworked planning officers.

I have attended several presentations on the budget which is the major item on the forthcoming Council meeting, though our Press Office has already published, effectively, the result: a freeze on Council Tax and a £28M spend on new council housing to boot. There are still important issues here for debate before we approve that.

I have just been informed that the footways of Woodlands Park are to be resurfaced by the County Council. It is a pity there was no consultation with me or the Parish on this plan: we would have argued that the footways of Girton Road are far worse, and far more significantly in need of such work, and should have been given higher priority. I have complained to the County Councillor.

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
South Cambridgeshire District Councillor for Girton