

A View from the District (August 2012)

Following last month's flooding I have been involved in meetings with the Environment Agency, and with the Agency and our other Councillors (District and County). It was good to find that the Agency representatives were well aware of the issues of concern; however they do not feel that rebuilding the Oakington Road bridge is economically viable, preferring instead to offer individual homeowners small-scale flood barriers. Only if these are refused would anything else be considered. The Agency is planning an information day for Girton in the near future.

Following political realignments in SCDC, the Independents' Group has 2 extra committee seats, plus a seat on one of the Joint Development Control Committees. The Group was unanimous that this should go to me for the Cambridge Fringes JDCC; a great relief since its next meeting was all to do with NW Cambridge. Other than that there was not a lot on the agenda: tidying up Standing Orders and adopting a new Code of Conduct which, as the Leader of the Liberal Democrats pointed out, adds a great deal of hassle but completely fails to address the major issue of acting for personal gain. We agreed to ask central Government to try again.

The JDCC has met to consider the outline Planning Application for NW Cambridge. I had a very large number of concerns, and am grateful to officers from all three Councils for giving me their time beforehand to address them. However, many remained and I was able to put my concerns and those of the Parish Council to the JDCC. The main ones are the traffic modelling, flood control and the management model. On these issues officers will continue discussions with the University – as shall I. There were many other points raised and we did manage to gain some improvements, and after four hours' debate we approve the outline application. Now the detailed work starts: this is only the end of the beginning.

The County Council is consulting on replacing bus subsidies with more cost-effective transport plans. They need much more information from users, and I have been asked to gather what information I can in Girton. At present they want to know whether anyone in Girton uses the 106 or 110 services. If you do please let me know, or you can contact the District directly either through good old-fashioned telephone (0345 045 0675) or via contemporary media: Twitter: @CambsCC #CFT or search Facebook for Cambridgeshire Future Transport.

I have been asked by the editors to keep it short this month so this is a much-abbreviated report. 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