

A View from the District (September 2012)

I have been on holiday for the past month, but have kept working on a couple of items as and when I have had electronic communication. The major one has been the continuing discussion over flood prevention, with a date now set for a preliminary meeting with affected residents on 4 October. I still have not received satisfactory replies from the Environment Agency to my questions concerning the proposed individual flood defences, of which I remain deeply sceptical. I hope this meeting will at least expose the issues which will have to be addressed for a proper solution. It must be seen as the start of the process, not a goal in itself.

The Scrutiny Committee has been kept busy, with a number of items on its agenda. Two major decisions have been taken by Portfolio Holders recently, without any public meeting and therefore without any proper scrutiny. This should also be a concern for the new Civic Affairs Committee, of which I am a member. Because of the dates on which these decisions were announced (the day I left for Australia) it was not possible for anyone to challenge them within the specified period: members are understandably furious and demanding an explanation. We have also been asked to look at our Strategic Housing policy, which has been presented through an unhelpful and nigh incomprehensible 'portal' with links to the details which do not work. I have objected and believe improvements have been made now.

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