

## **A View from the District**

The only business of the Joint Development Control Committee this month was a presentation of the plans for the NW Cambridge project. It was good to gain an overall idea of the aspirations of the University. About one third of the housing is to be delivered in Phase 1, and it is assumed that the majority of the residents will be short-term. As it is anticipated that many new residents will not already own cars, car parking spaces can be limited: if this proves wrong then plans for Phases 2 and 3 will be adjusted. The quality of the build will be to the very highest standards.

The County has been successful in a bid for significant Government finance for what they are calling the Greater Cambridge Cycle City, or GC3 for short. I have been asked to serve on the Steering Group which will assess the plans for a number of proposed schemes including a 'Dutch style' cycle lane on the Huntingdon Road physically separated from the motorised lane.

The A14 consultation is drawing to a close. I have had various discussions at the exhibitions and in other presentations, and have sent in a response expressing my concerns, and asking for a 50mph limit through Girton. I am also very concerned that the proposal is for the toll to be operative only between 0600 and 2200 hours, meaning more HGVs thundering through the village at night. If the plans go ahead construction should be 2016–2020 (so, after the next election!) and the lifespan of the project is only to 2031.

Subsequently I attended the Cabinet meeting which was to agree a response on behalf of the District. My own proposed amendments were all accepted except the 50mph limit. They were:

- to express concern at the capacity of the local road for all road users including cyclists and horse riders;
- to add references in various places to the importance of non-mechanised users within the scheme;
- to highlight the sensitivity of the stretch between Girton flyover and the Milton junction and to ask for resurfacing with low-noise asphalt;
- to request a 50mph limit on that stretch.

At Council on 26 September we accepted recommendations about housing asset management and localised council tax support which are not going to change anything; we agreed to permit filming of our meetings, which we are powerless to stop so it is no great deal. We agreed in principle to purchase, with central Government help, three sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitches. And we were reassured that no fracking has been approved in South Cambridgeshire.

The Corporate Governance Committee has been introduced to our new internal and external auditors who expressed themselves happy with what they have found here. We discussed the potential for fraud and were reassured by explanations of how in South Cambs it would be difficult to hide fraudulent activity.

On Tuesday 8 October IVC hosted an Energy Security Forum run by the County. Cambridgeshire is planning to use a 1M euro grant to leverage (if you'll forgive the jargon) multi-million investments from industry into smart energy. IVC itself presented a case in point: the College is working with Skanska on a number of energy projects (primarily three biomass boilers) which will reduce the carbon footprint of the College by nearly 50% and after the payback period of about 8 years will provide an income stream.

If you would like my fuller monthly report emailed to you please contact me at [scdc@de-lacey.org](mailto: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.

*District Councillor Douglas de Lacey*