

Monthly update for parish councils: June 2010

County Council and Cabinet meetings

There was no County Council meeting in June. The next one is 20th July 2010.

David Jenkins attended the Cabinet Meeting and spoke on the item which proposed an investment in a sustainability exhibition building at Longstanton Park and Ride. In David's opinion, this should be a fully functional commercial operation.

Gilbert Road cycle lanes (width 1.7m) will be advisory (bounded by a broken line) with double yellow lines to prevent cars parking in them and on the verge, and the proposed traffic calming will not be installed but speed will be monitored on a regular basis.

Much of the talk amongst Councillors is about cuts to services, and we will probably see libraries and youth services being reduced in many villages. The details have not been finalised, but loss of some mobile libraries has been suggested in the press.

The next Cabinet is on Monday 5th July. Items on the agenda will be street lighting PFI, library service review and the flood management plan for the Great Ouse. The Guided Busway northern section looks very unlikely to open until after completion of the southern section. Stagecoach and Whippet have announced in the press this week their intention of providing reduced CGB services due to the uncertainty over Northstowe and general passenger numbers.

Finance: the CCC accounts show a year end surplus of £2m (following £2m carry forward), a £1.4m virement for Adult Social Care and an underspend on finance charges. 2010/2011 spending is on-track, but there are worries about children's services.

Environmental Services

Further work has begun on the cycleway through Impington in the last few weeks. We believe that all of the landowners have now been identified on the stretch between Cottenham and Histon.

The next AJC is on 19th July 2010. One of the discussions will be about the consultation on the new speed limits on the B1049; still awaiting the agenda.

CGB landscaping: walking along the CGB with an SCDC planner and Parish Councillor, we noted a number of dead plants, others in the wrong place, and trees planted too close together.

Childrens' Services

David visited Oakington Primary School – see <http://bit.ly/aSgvm6>

The Centre School (federated with CVC) has recently had a good OFSTED report. <http://bit.ly/dzJzVt>. The staff have worked hard after being subject to special measures following the last visit.

David and Sue met with the Sure Start Strategy Manager regarding Ladybird Playgroup in Cottenham. We hope to have feedback by the end of July.

So far 12 Cambridgeshire schools have expressed an interest in the new Government's "Academies": <http://bit.ly/aqG0lw>

Local Issues

A14 widening: after much work had been done by the Parish Councils in Histon and Impington, preparing a statement of case, this scheme has now been put on hold, whilst the Government decides whether it is financially feasible for it to take place. We have been surprised how much money the Parish Councils are expected to spend if they are to get a good result for their residents, when they face large organisations or big business. What has been very heartening is the way that many Councillors and residents have given their time free of charge.

Local Transport Plan (LTP): We have been promised that these leaflets asking for people's views on Cambridgeshire transport will be delivered by 9th July. We have pressured the Council in getting the company responsible to reprint and deliver this at their own cost. <http://bit.ly/cqJV2j> The consultation period has been extended to 30th July and it can also be completed electronically, by following the above link.

After our last meeting when we met Stagecoach and one of the CCC bus officers, we have continued to have discussions on the issue of buses to Rampton. It is hoped in the future that a leaflet regarding all journeys to Rampton and connections will be produced to encourage bus travel. We have urged Stagecoach and County to look at turning circles to the north of Cottenham. There was also discussion about the new "smart tickets" <http://bit.ly/bgNgo1>. Andy Campbell mentioned that he feels that it is unlikely that the frequency of the Citi7 will be dropped, even when the CGB opens.

PCSO for Cottenham, Oakington and Rampton is Shaun White and the next Neighbourhood panel is Tuesday 13th July at Cottenham Village College

Sue was pleased to attend the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Awards. where Cottenham Retained Crew received "Fundraiser of the Year". This was for raising £550 from a charity car wash, despite having spent the night tackling two large fires near Cambridge train station.

Highways Supervisor: our new contact is Steve Thulborn (steven.thulborn@cambridgeshire.gov.uk; 0345 045 5212)

Forthcoming meetings and events

5 th July 2010	CCC Cabinet
13 th July 2010	Neighbourhood panel at Cottenham Village College 7pm
19 th July 2010	Area Joint Committee Transport 2pm SCDC
20 th July 2010	County Council Meeting
29 th July 2010	Development Control Committee
30 th July 2010	Local Transport Plan cut-off (extended)

Both this monthly report, and the ones for previous months are on our website www.davidjenkins.org.uk

Sue Gymer on behalf of Sue Gymer and David Jenkins
County Councillors for Cottenham, Histon and Impington

Sue Gymer 07919 036246
suegymer@ntlworld.com
Home: 01954 252902

David Jenkins 07739 758859
ccc@davidjenkins.org.uk
Home: 01223 236232