

**County Councillors Report – October 2017**  
**for the parishes of Milton, Landbeach, Waterbeach, Horningsea and Fen Ditton.**

**Planning**

Hazel, Ingrid and I have been intrigued by the new northern boundary of the Waterbeach strategic site being promoted by RLW and published in the Cambridge News (13/09/2017). If RLW's proposal for 5,000 houses is accepted, the total for the site will amount to 11,500, so 1,500 more than SCDC approved in Autumn 2016.

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (and the Mayor)**

A key function of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is to attract investment into the area and the Mayor is preparing to bid for money from the government's Housing Infrastructure Fund whose purpose is to 'unlock' otherwise difficult sites, where housing is in greatest demand. This £193m funding would enable the relocation of the Anglian Water Cambridge Water Recycling Centre which in turn would free up 40 hectares of land for development for an estimated 7,600 new homes on the land around Cambridge North Station. The Mayor is also proposing to dissolve the County Council.

**How much does a Mayor cost?**

When the Combined Authority was originally proposed, the costs of the Mayor's office were estimated to be around £800,000 pa, at least initially using officers seconded from the County Council. We now find that the actual costs (so far) are £1.8 million and climbing, with more new staff appointments. My group on the Combined Authority Scrutiny and Overview Committee has asked the Mayor to explain the increased expenditure.

**Local Governance**

The County Council has not only created two new service Committees (Commercial & Investment and Communities & Partnerships) with their attendant scale of remuneration for the Chair and Vice-Chair but in addition, the C&P Committee has created five new roles (attracting additional allowances) with responsibilities to "liaise with the Parish, Town, District/City and County Councillors to understand the needs of local communities at District level." My group feels that these roles, which cover geographic areas larger than County Divisions will be practically impossible to deliver and will unnecessarily duplicate the roles of existing County and District Councillors. This does not seem a cost-effective use of taxpayers' money.

**Children's Centres**

The County's consultation on Children's Centres has now closed and I am sure officers are now mulling over the responses received. I was surprised by how few parents attended the session I went to - but also, not being a mum, by the apparent lack of connectivity between the different services that parents' access. We are fortunate that the Centre in Waterbeach is expected to be retained as a Children and Family Zone, partly because of the recognised need in our villages but also because of the foresight of the current Manager. She has ensured that the Centre is well-used by a number of different family-related organisations, several days a week.

## **Libraries**

The Council is seeking ways of ensuring the Library service can meet the challenges of a growing population, new developments and tight public finances. They aim to use technology to help meet library user's needs. Workshops have been held in August, September and October. Views collected will inform a set of options for the service which will then be subject to public consultation in the future. If you read this online, you may still have time to contribute. The last workshops nearby are on:  
Tue 26 Sep 6.30-9pm, St Andrew's Centre, School Hill, Histon, CB24 9JE and  
Mon 2 Oct 6.30-9pm, Cambridge Central Library, 7 Lion Yard, Cambridge, CB2 3QD

## **Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (Milton, Landbeach, Waterbeach)**

It remains for the parishes to confirm their agreement to the purchase in writing and to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, which I hope you will consider at your October meetings.

## **Highways**

There is still time (but not much) to apply for Local Highways Improvement grants at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-your-local-highway/>

The deadline for LHI applications is **15th October 2017**, following which you will be contacted to look at the feasibility of your application in more detail. Final applications will then be presented to the LHI Member Advisory Panel in February 2018. If you have any questions contact County Highways at [local.projects@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:local.projects@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Items to update

**Milton:** RTPI opp. Tesco now complete, Archaeology, Emergency Plan insurance cover, MVAS purchase arrangements, MoU and approved locations.

**Landbeach:** MVAS, County Officer site visits – securing parish land.

**Fen Ditton:** Bus access and turning point, Green End.

**Waterbeach:** Chapel Street crossing – County Officer site visit, drains, MVAS, Neighbourhood Plan meeting, Cody Road ditch.

**Horningsea:** MS report on rural hubs, Greenway – no progress?

AB 25/09/2017