

District Councillors' Reports – November 2018

a) Hazel Smith

Cambridge Northern Fringe community forum

Anna and I both attended, and there were several residents from the City and 2 from Chesterton Fen. The officers expect an answer on whether the sewage works will move in February 2019. In the meantime they are working on all the different strands of planning for the case that it does move ... Urban design, Strategic vision, Transport, Environment, Housing, Employment, and Retail and commercial facilities. They have commissioned studies on visual impact, landscape and transport (though the most important aspect of this, the future for the A10, is being decided elsewhere under the Combined Authority). If the sewage works move goes ahead they expect development will start in 2024. The Science Park is an important part of this planning as Trinity intend it to be much more intensively developed in future, and the planners in the joint planning team are now talking with Trinity College and Bidwells about their plans.

Greater Cambridge Partnership briefing

The main projects that affect us are the Waterbeach Greenways and Milton Road proposals. The Local Liaison Forums which have worked well allowing local people to feed ideas in to road project teams will not be used to consult on the greenways: they will have "Place-based Forums" instead. The Waterbeach Greenways are currently out for consultation, and a comprehensive leaflet has been put through letterboxes in Milton and Waterbeach,

Milton Road proposals

The latest ideas have now been fully worked up, and the exhibition in Milton showed extended bus lanes and a segregated route for bicycles most of the way in to Mitcham's Corner. There are short bits of shared use cycle/pedestrian path, particularly near the Hurst Park Ave roundabout, where the pavement is rather narrow. All the trees will be taken out but will be replaced with more suitable semi-mature trees all the way down on both sides of the road. Apparently planting Lime trees reduces pollution because the harmful particles stick to their leaves.

Amey liaison meeting

The company staff were clearly unhappy that their incinerator application had been rejected: as I understand it, they will go ahead with the Environmental Permit application which had already been submitted to the EA. So it is likely that they will appeal the planning decision.

Milton Landfill (FCC) Liaison meeting

This went ahead although it was only a week after the fire on the tip. They told us that the Fire Authority is writing a report on the cause of the fire: we may never know what caused it, but it started about 6am on Monday 1st October. There had been a 'Gold Command' set up, and the councils and relevant authorities were all communicating about the response to it. We were told that schools and known vulnerable people were given advice, but there was a criticism in the village that for those not on Twitter, Facebook, Parentmail, Milton Chat and unable to access the Fire and Rescue Service website there was little information. I asked about loud hailer vans: apparently the councils no longer have these. Perhaps we should add loud-hailers to our equipment list in the Milton Emergency Plan, if we know where people in the village have them.

Good news for Age UK

South Cambs Housing had commissioned gas supply work through EEM (Efficiency East Midlands, similar to ESPO), and this is a charitable organisation that gives away its profits to charities nominated by its customers. So I was in the happy position of facilitating a cheque for over £650 to Age UK, to help local older people with heating problems through the winter.

b) Judith Rippeth – November 2018

Waterbeach SPD:

Following on from the Waterbeach Cycling Campaign's meeting on 15th October regarding the SPD, I have set up a meeting between one of their members, planning and highways officers (County) and others involved with the delivery of the new town. I am working hard to ensure a new settlement is brought forward that prioritises walking and cycling over the use of private cars for short journeys. The delivery of sustainable public transport options – such as a relocated railway station and frequent and affordable bus services is key to this.

I have also attended a briefing on Healthy New Towns which covers areas such as public health and the need to encourage exercise and looking at the issues of air pollution. There are many innovative ways of mitigating against this, such as the use of paint on curbs that absorbs nitrous oxide from the air (particulates from diesel engines) and tree screening from main roads but also ensuring that residents are encouraged to make fewer journeys by car.

Waterbeach Greenway:

This is now out for public consultation and is a really positive step towards cycle connectivity between Cambridge, Milton and Waterbeach. The consultation closes on **Monday 3rd December**. There will also be an event where you can look at the plans and ask questions at the Waterbeach Salvation Army Hall on **Monday 12th November** between 5pm and 7pm. Households should have received leaflets explaining the plans with a number of means of getting in touch with your comments. The online questionnaire link is www.greatercambridge.org.uk/greenwaysconsultation. It is really important that as many residents comment as possible because it would be all too easy not to comment on a positive change and then the opposite message can go back of disinterest. This piece of infrastructure is simply too important to fall by the wayside. We are awaiting the next tranche of funding from the Greater Cambridge Partnership for this greenway to get off the ground.

Recycling:

I am hoping to get into Milton and Waterbeach primary schools before Christmas to promote better recycling and ways in which we can all reduce our consumptions of single use plastics and why this is so important for the health of the planet.

c) Anna Bradnam

South Cambridgeshire Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Cllr Dauntton (Fen Ditton and Fulbourn) and I represent South Cambridgeshire District Council on this partnership organisation. We attended a stakeholder event on 17 October with the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and representatives from Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Police, Fire and Rescue and Community Safety Partnerships and Voluntary organisations. The partnership meets twice a year (Feb and Oct) to set priorities and share best practice.

The recent Police Review in April 2018 generated many changes – from six divisions down to two (north and south) with a consolidated 'command hub' at HQ, emphasis on continuity of leadership, service differentiation between threat, harm and risk and a switch to neighbourhood policing (being able to deploy a force at short notice), They also aimed to increase cooperation between Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

Previous priorities had been hare coursing and associated violence, cyber-crime, dwelling burglaries and theft. At this meeting those priorities were revised to domestic abuse, child abuse, modern slavery and dwelling burglaries.

Having still not been formally briefed in the Milton Landfill fire, I took the opportunity to ask the Fire and Rescue representative for an update. He advised there were no defects in plant or machinery, there had been no-one on site at the time and there was no evidence of fire-starting. They believed the source of ignition was probably chemical and most likely a lithium battery or mobile phone that ignited spontaneously. The fire was extinguished by 4 October.

Milton Air Quality Working Party

At the Liaison meeting on 15 October, we received an update on the recent fire at the site (1-4 Oct. FCC advised us that on the Monday 1 October when the fire started the wind was from the north east (unusual) and this could have blown into the tipping face and fanned the fire.

FCC staff reported that landfill fires are normally spotted by site operatives and quickly extinguished with specialist equipment on site, but this took place on a Sunday night/Monday morning, so the fire brigade were first on the scene and took time to undertake a risk assessment and secure a water supply.

It was noted that the public had been updated via social media.

Since the last liaison meeting there had been a number of odour incidents reported by residents but the EA Officer did not have the data to hand to compare with Village Log reports. As a result it was not possible to determine the likely source of odour.

Following reports from the EA about their reporting system, we were advised to report odour incidents directly to the FCC weighbridge, instead of to EA. This contradicts previous advice about how best to report to the EA. This seemed very retrograde step. When the Minutes have been approved by FCC they will be submitted to the parish council for approval, as normal.