

## South Cambs District Councillor report APM 2016

We have seen the first of the developments that were passed on appeal being built but that has come with problems and disruptions as many residents will be aware of. The digging up of the road to lay the services and the traffic lights, the interruption to the bus service, working outside permitted hours but a stop notice was served on Morris Homes to get them to conform to the conditions laid down with the planning approval.

The Local Plan review starts again in early June but Waterbeach will not be on the agenda until early 2017 and so it drags on, the Neighbourhood plan for Waterbeach is still being formulated which should help to shape the future of our village but help is still needed and we all know that there is a lot of knowledge amongst our residents so if anyone can spare some time come along to the Neighbourhood plan meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

The fishing lake is still high on the agenda for Waterbeach Angling Club to be able to access this, we did think this would be resolved sooner but the obstacles are proving harder to get round but I am sure that it will happen but just not as soon as we had hoped.

Car parking is very much a sore point in our village and I think it is fair to see that most of this comes from the users of the railway, I have been speaking to Network Rail for about three years now to see if the old goods yard could be used but they have now said they cannot create a business case for this to happen. On April 22<sup>nd</sup> I met Gavin Wood from Network Rail at the goods yard and although he said he could not see Network Rail creating a car park he would work out some figures for a lease on the site so that perhaps the County Council or Parish Council could be interested or maybe a private individual could operate this car park as a venture. I have no details of how much at this stage but maybe by the time this meeting is held I may have some figures. Initial figures are a rent of £12000 + vat but I would expect this to be a figure to be negotiable figure and when I am back home I will be in contact with Network Rail again.

Well we now have a pedestrian crossing in place after many years of campaigning; this will provide a safe place to cross for elderly and the mums with young children, the youngsters heading to the rec etc. I hear that many people say it is in the wrong place but that is not the case for everyone. We were dictated to by the County Council as to where it could be sited because it cannot be near a bend which stopped it being put near the Village Stores yet I know that was the preferred location. I personally have witnessed many people using it so that makes me think that all the hassle of getting it was all worthwhile.

Maple Court has been opened and the appearance of this new building is much better than the old Robson Court, the facilities inside the building are first class and I do believe that if people who have fallen on hard times are given a decent place to live while they get themselves sorted out then they tend to respect their surroundings.

Primrose Lane front section near to the High Street has been re-laid to a much better standard than previous as it was falling away at the edges and generally not fit for purpose, but the muddy edges have gone now and a smooth tarmac surface with no tripping hazards.

This year has also seen our Skate park come to fruition after much jumping through hoops, just when we thought everything had been done an archaeological dig was required, fortunately nothing was found and so the build went ahead. Judging by the many users of all ages and in all weathers this was money well spent, we still need to get a pathway from the rec footpath to the actual skate park and that is in the pipeline but it just takes time.

I hope everyone has noticed the new bench at the junction of Waddelow Road and High Street, there used to be one there several years ago but was vandalised beyond repair but there is now a new one in place thanks to Sanctuary and Hill Construction.

The drains in Station Road from the Salvation Army up to the Church corner were jetted on the 16<sup>th</sup> May but I have not received the full report yet but an initial report was that there was a lot of general rubbish in the drains and some tree roots but it seems that enough has been done to get the drains flowing freely again.

Cllr. Peter Johnson