

## **A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 20 November 2019 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.**

### **Apologies:**

**Present:** Mr Barnes, Mrs Slator, Ms Newland, Mr Wheeler, Mr Brown, Mr Wenman, Mr Sole, Cllr Williams, the Clerk and one member of public.

**Minutes:** of the October meeting and November planning meeting were agreed and signed.

**Declarations of Interest:** None received.

District Cllr Williams gave a verbal report:-

**Zero Carbon Communities Grant:** A lot of interest in this scheme - the applications are being assessed and those being awarded grants will receive them in January 2020. Hatley has applied, hoping to obtain financing for solar batteries for the speed signs.

**Five year land supply:** There is currently only 5.3 years of land left for development. Once there is no longer five years of land supply, the speculative developments will start again.

### **Matters Arising and Village Issues:**

#### **Implementation Group:**

**Village Clear-up Day:** Much was achieved though attendance on this occasion was down, 7 in all. Nonetheless the roadside path through the village has been cleared of mud and debris so is again safe for walking. Also the overgrowth round the noticeboard was trimmed back and the lay-by along the High Street again cleared - much easier this time after the major job last time! In addition to all this, sad to say in a way, that a dozen black bags of litter and two quite large plastic drums were again collected. The thought is to once again ask SCDC and Heather Williams if any support equipment might be available particularly of a mechanised kind. (Cllr Williams said that available equipment is designed for larger villages with wider footpaths).

(Subsequently, Clerk was requested to order 12 litter pick kits, available from SCDC, and indicated in CCC report).

**Housing Needs Survey follow-up discussion 11 November:** Attended by Sophie Robinson - Hastoe, Mark Deas -ACRE, Ali Uzma - South Cambs. Mrs Slator, Mr Wheeler and two members of the IG. The purpose of the meeting was to hear about how Hastoe operates and hear the history of developments proposed in Croydon in the past.

Sophie explained that Hastoe specialise in small rural developments, some as small as three affordable houses. Land is the sort that can be acquired at non development prices. However it is sometimes possible to arrange a plot within a development that the landowner can develop as a market house. This all depends on the economics of the available land.

The next stage is to "walk" the village with Sophie and the Hastoe architect to look at suitable sites. This is a clean sheet review, looking only at suitability, rather than if the land is actually for sale. Once sites are identified Hastoe then contact the landowners concerned. If a parcel of land is available then it would then involve full consultation with the village as it goes through the exception site planning process.

We explained the history of the past developments, which never materialised. We also said it was still the ambition of the village to have some public space/play park if possible. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged to do the walk around before the end of November. (Now arranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> November)

**Speedwatch:** Cllr Williams intends to arrange a meeting of Speedwatch groups within her "patch" to network and discuss how this all works. It is hoped that the Croydon volunteers will attend and perhaps a co-ordinator will come forward after this meeting, which will be in the New Year.

**Website:** There will be a meeting on 10 December to establish the final specification for the new website. These will be sent to the two web designers with the most favourable quotations, so that their quotations can be modified if necessary. On receipt of the final costs, a decision on which one to employ will be made by Council.

**Clopton Village Site:** Clerk had received a reply from the landowner, stating that he intends to replace the current fence with another, and therefore it would not be a good idea to affix the Clopton Village site sign to it. He suggested that the sign is replaced in its original position in the adjoining landowner's field, on poles as it originally was. Mr Brown will endeavour to ascertain the owner of the land adjacent to the Clopton Village site, so that permission to do this can be requested. Cllr Williams said that it might be possible to obtain a grant for reinstatement of the poles and sign from the Community Chest. Three quotations to do this would be required before an application is made.

**Telephone Equipment in Clopton Close:** It was unanimously resolved to purchase the telephone kiosk from BT for £1-00, with a view to the installation of a defibrillator. A cheque for £1-00 was signed along with the contract, which the Clerk will send to BT.

**Connecting Cambridgeshire:** The Chair and Clerk met the Connecting Cambridgeshire ladies at the ACRE Local Councils Conference, and they confirmed that Croydon is indeed on the list of village halls requesting a broadband connection. Eventually the list will be sent to the Government - it is either all or none of the applicants that will be funded.

**ACRE Conference:** Both Clerk and Chair will be attended the conference on 8th November. Mrs Slator felt that it was not as good as the previous year, and the workshops the Clerk attended were more pertinent to larger parishes. Croydon was signed up to the Cambs and Peterborough against Scams Partnership. Clerk will receive notice of any new scams reported, and these can be immediately circulated to parishioners via Mailchimp.

Report from the Conference:-

**Keynote Speech: Working together to better understand the priorities in our communities.**

**Speaker:** Mr Adrian Chapman - Communities and Safety, Cambs County Council

"Taking a *Think Communities* approach to providing support and resources to enable communities to decide how they wish to deliver their local priorities."

Mr Chapman spoke about the strain that will be put onto the public budget with the Government cuts and higher demand for services from the public. He suggested that costs could be taken out of the system by delaying demand and improving outcomes. The main thrust of the speech was about collaboration - all agencies interacting with each other to develop stronger and more resilient people, and the officers being aware of the differences in the people, places and communities they serve. This would supposedly focus on prevention rather than cure.

**Speaker:** Elaine Matthews (for Jason Ablewhite)

Ms Matthews is the Communities manager for the Police and Crime Commissioner. She said a lot of work is being done to prevent the many financial and pension scams that are currently circulating. She encouraged all Councils to sign up to the Cambridge and Peterborough against Scams newsletter (which Sue asked me to do for Council). The Clerk will now receive notification of any new scams and can immediately inform the parish via Mailchimp.

**Littleport Multi-Agency Community Plan:**

A Councillor from Littleport outlined what has been achieved in Littleport by all agencies working together. Problems that are currently being dealt with include Physical and Mental Health, Drugs, Alcohol, Safety and Emergency Situations. As with any new project, work is needed and participants must be ready to adapt.

**Support Cambridgeshire:**

This group project managed "I love Wisbech", but did need volunteers from the community to do this. They mapped existing assets, talked to the community and developed a "Love it, Hate it, Shape it" survey in order to discover what people liked, hated and wanted to transform. An independent community vehicle is required to do something like this, and funding is available from Support Cambridgeshire. It is important that the community group is totally representative of the whole population.

**NHS Services:** There should be provider collaboration from all the Health and Care agencies to improve services for local people. With practices being grouped together, doctors should be able to provide flexible hours for patients. The idea is to keep patients well and out of hospital. Be aware that medical professionals do not always know best! Listen to the community - one size does not fit all.

**Changing where we work and how we work with communities**

**Mr Chapman - Service Director for Communities and Safety - CCC.** Mr Chapman explained that with the sale of Shire Hall, the main Civic Centre would move to Alconbury Weald, and showed a wonderful artist's impression of the building. There will also be strategically placed Community Hubs around the county, and these will be accessible to all, and house officers to cover each of the services supplied by the County Council. There will be one in each of the five District Council areas, but he didn't know where yet.

**Question:** A Councillor from Over suggested that this collaboration project had already been tried, when it was called the Local Strategic Partnership and it didn't work then, so why should it work now? Mr Chapman replied that none of this would happen overnight, it would be an on-going project. He admitted it was a risk, but one worth taking.

**Henry Clark from CAPALC** spoke about the view from local Councils, but just read the slides that were on the screen. It was so memorable I have forgotten it!

A plea for foster carers in Cambridgeshire was made - funding and support would be supplied.

### **Afternoon Session - Workshops:**

#### **Mobilise your Community:**

#### **Diane Lane and Wendy Lansdowne - Community Engagement Managers - CCC**

Opening introductions were made and then a representative from Littleport PC reported on their ideas and actions.

**Littleport** is one of the most deprived areas in the area. There are 15 councillors on the Council and 7 of these were new at the last election. There has been an increase in anti-social behaviour. Council is supporting the community by:

- creating and supporting new facilities
- giving residents new opportunities
- supporting the most vulnerable
- ensuring residents benefit from planned growth

The way to do this is to involve residents in the decision-making process.

How to achieve this?

- Look inwards - are Councillors fit for purpose
- Streamlining exercise (Councillors)
- Adopt a pro-active approach when dealing with tiered Councils, Police etc.
- Use knowledge and contacts of District and County Councillors
- Work towards a Quality Council
- Make the best use of individual councillor's skills
- Be open and approachable

#### **Community Engagement**

- PC website
- PC Facebook group
- Hold PC surgeries
- Invite residents to join working groups
- Work with community groups (offer support, provide information, grants)
- Produce regular newsletter
- Run public consultation surveys
- Support adult training courses
- Set up a business partnership
- Network

#### **Community Engagement Projects**

- Community woodland garden
- Old toilet block - renovated for PC storage
- Allowed street artists to "brighten up" the old toilet block
- Rock project - children painted stones, which were then stuck on a large rock for posterity
- Food Box

- Community Hub
- Hate crime centre
- Community Eyes and Ears
- Country parks

Littleport has a population of approximately 10,000.

#### **Wisbech Town Clerk:**

He said that every Council has to understand what the community wants, then has to adapt, support and react, taking the lead where possible. This does generate additional administrative work (he has 3 assistants) and community engagement should be part of every Council's culture.

Wisbech has a precept of £450,000. They recently held a Hallowe'een event over three nights and run entirely by volunteers. They will be providing Christmas lights using £30,000 from reserves.

Wisbech has a Seaside Day, where a seaside scenario is created in the centre of town. This is the closest to the beach that some of the town's children get. There is a Rock Festival (as in music, not stones) and an Unsung Heroes award. Local events supported by Council (funding and volunteering) include Armed Forces Day, International Food Day and a Christmas Fayre. All these are organised and delivered by volunteers and other partners. If there is a lack of community cohesion, it is not possible to run events like this.

Wisbech makes a series of annual awards in the form of grants. It is a competitive process and there are special grants also made. It is best to work collaboratively with professional partners and important to achieve links between the projects.

**Websites:** Do not allow people who are not councillors to make additions to a Council website. There should be Terms and Conditions of Use and a Disclaimer for pictures. No adverts should be included.

**Question:** A Councillor from Harston said how wonderful the suggestions were, but he had a problem communicating anything to the parishioners to get them to volunteer. One Council said they have an e-mail group (and the addresses are not Bcc'd) so there was some consternation about this. I mentioned our Mailchimp system, and how it had to be signed up to and was anonymous, and noticed several delegates taking note of this.

After more discussion, the ladies running this workshop thought that next year, an item on mobilising small communities should be included.

#### **Workshop - Data Protection**

##### **Cambs County Council Data Protection manager - Dan Horres**

There is no control over anything posted on Facebook, so it was suggested this is not a good communication option. 419 million users' information was "accidentally" leaked.

Brexit will change the European GDPR and a UK GDPR will take its place.

There is always too much information on any social media and this is perfect for cyber crime.

General Data Protection Regulations make good practice mandatory.

Mr Horres ran through what constitutes personal data - anything that relates to any living person and allows their identification and sensitive data - race, ethnic gender, religion, politics etc.

The principles of the GDPR are:-

- Lawfulness, fairness and transparency
- Purpose limitation
- Data minimisation
- Accuracy
- Storage limitation
- Integrity and confidentiality (security)
- Accountability

The GDPR allows individuals whose information is on record the following rights:-

- the right to be informed
- the right of access
- the right to rectification
- the right to erasure
- the right to restrict
- the right to data portability

- the right to object
- the right in relation to automated decision making and profiling

The lawful bases for processing are set out in Article 6 of the GDPR. At least one of these must apply whenever you process personal data:

**(a) Consent:** the individual has given clear consent for you to process their personal data for a specific purpose.

**(b) Contract:** the processing is necessary for a contract you have with the individual, or because they have asked you to take specific steps before entering into a contract.

**(c) Legal obligation:** the processing is necessary for you to comply with the law (not including contractual obligations).

**(d) Vital interests:** the processing is necessary to protect someone's life.

**(e) Public task:** the processing is necessary for you to perform a task in the public interest or for your official functions, and the task or function has a clear basis in law.

**(f) Legitimate interests:** the processing is necessary for your legitimate interests or the legitimate interests of a third party, unless there is a good reason to protect the individual's personal data which overrides those legitimate interests. (This cannot apply if you are a public authority processing data to perform your official tasks.)

All organisations must have a privacy notice, and a lot of the Parish Councils have a disclaimer on their e-mail correspondence. It seemed that everyone at the workshop had paid a Data Protection Fee. I said that our Council was exempt, but was told Council should be paying a fee. However, exempt or not, the principles of GDPR must be applied. The ICO website also states that if an organisation is exempt it may still pay a data fee voluntarily.

All Councillors are bound by the GDPR, so may not pass on any information that is sent to them as PC business; on no account must it be forwarded to anyone, and it should be deleted from their personal devices as soon as the matter is dealt with.

#### **Managing a Breach:**

Yahoo - managed to leak 500 million names, dates of birth and passwords.

Talk Talk - 157,000 customers' details leaked and were fined £400,000, resulting in £77 million in lost revenue.

HM Revenue and Customs - leaked 25 million child benefit recipients' details.

A personal data breach is accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration unauthorised disclosure or access to personal data. Breaches must be reported to the ICO within 72 hours of occurring.

Personal information must be securely stored and iCloud is recommended.

In case of a breach you need to know:-

- the data breached
- what the data is
- who is affected
- how much are they affected
- impact on the individuals
- how to mitigate the breach
- media interest
- is the person involved aware
- prevent any further breach

Any individual whose data is breached must be informed. Risk must be managed and a Data Protection Impact Assessment is required where a type of processing is likely to cause an impact on personal details. It only applies to personal details, not corporate details.

At the start of the Conference, delegates were given the opportunity to collect 20 counters, and place them into receptacles marked with matters of concern. These include local transport, opportunities for training, availability of social opportunities and clubs, policing, wellbeing and many others. Chair and Clerk completed this and hopefully, will eventually hear the results of the exercise.

### **How to make use of data in Cambridgeshire Insight.**

Cambridgeshire Insight is a website which is a shared research knowledge base for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area; it allows users an easy way to access and share information and research a deeper insight into the local area.

Information is grouped by theme and quick profiles are available for the areas within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough down to parish level. You can also draw an area of interest on a map to access that information.

The website can be found at <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk>

This data which is not 100% precise at the parish level but can be used for planning services. It can be very useful in the application for grants because you can use the data to support the information you have on particular groups within your community, for example, of deprivation or numbers of children and young people.

### **Understanding your carbon footprint and developing a climate change strategy.**

The idea of this workshop was to explain what a carbon footprint is and how an organisation such as the Parish Council might measure it.

This also allows you to consider how you could reduce your carbon footprint.

A carbon footprint is a measure of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere the most common one being carbon dioxide but also includes methane and nitrous oxide. Carbon footprints can measure a geographical area, or an organisation, or a product or activity.

We were shown a chart of the different carbon footprints of the local area. Cambridge was the lowest with Huntingdon being the highest due to the A14 route. Oddly we were told that the carbon footprint of the area would rise dramatically within 12 months, not because it's physically changed but it has been decided internationally that Peat areas should also be included. East Anglia as one of the highest proportions and Peat in the UK.

In terms of organisational carbon footprints three areas are included.

- Scope one is emissions that occur directly from sites or assets you own or control such as gas or oil for heating buildings and petrol and diesel for vehicles.
- Scope two emissions from purchased electricity, heat or steam.
- Scope Three is in emissions that occur due to the organisations activities and services but not owned or controlled by them such as emissions from business travel by air or sea and employees cars and public transport.

To calculate an organisation's carbon footprint, decide on the scope you want to report on, collect the data and calculate using the government's carbon conversion factors and then report.

Cambridgeshire County Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to developing a climate change and environmental strategy action plan. Its overall target is net zero by 2050.

A public consultation will be run between December 2019 to February 2020 on how this can be achieved. In the question and answer session at the end the council was asked why it was not mandatory to have renewable energy and insulation efficiency in all new build homes in the area and why the regulations still made it difficult to modernise listed buildings to reduce energy waste.

**Remembrance Sunday:** Clerk thanked those who gave so generously during the door-to-door collection for the British Legion, and the Councillors who were able to attend the observance at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Clerk has not yet been notified of the total for Croydon, but felt it was considerable.

### **County Councillor's written Report - Cllr Kindersley**

**Litter Picking:** South Cambs District Council is pleased to offer parish councils free litter picking kits which have been funded as part of the Government's High Streets Community Clean Up programme. These kits include: litter pickers, bag hoops, Hi Viz vests and gloves. You can have up to 20 kits delivered; you can keep and store them to use as you wish, thereby avoiding the need to request these

on an ad hoc basis. Please can you respond to [Waste.Enquiries@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Waste.Enquiries@scambs.gov.uk), with the subject line of Litter pick kit - your parish name. Probably a good point to thank those residents who go out on a regular basis and collect the rubbish thrown onto their roads and streets by idiots.

**Waste and Bin Matters:** The district council has been conducting a leaflet distribution and door to door visits targeting properties with regularly contaminated bins. Contamination costs a huge amount of money. Please wash things you put in the blue bin and avoid putting in any fabric or food. It is still the case that 50% of waste put in black bins could be recycled. Much of this is food waste but 17% is plastic and paper which goes in the blue bin.

There is still confusion over poor quality clothing being put in black bins compared to sending to charity shops. Charity shops can usually recycle most things so please do not bin any clothes. If you are disposing of shredded paper, please put it in a paper bag or envelope before putting it in the blue bin. The shared waste service which South Cambs runs with the City Council is trialing Electric Vehicles over the next year in anticipation of replacing the entire fleet. This will save money and reduce our carbon footprint. The Council is also reviewing the current properties across the district on a refuse bag collection. This is carried out every 2 years to see if properties now no longer require the service and can be issued wheeled bins. Refuse bags currently cost around 60k a year which we would like to reduce where possible. If you use paper sacks please respond to the letter you will soon receive – thank you!.

**Planning Matters:** The District Council has supported an outline planning application to provide a further 150,000sqm of space for employment, conferencing and supporting facilities at the Wellcome Trust's Genome Campus in Hinxton. There will be up to 1,500 homes for campus-based staff, 30% of which will be affordable. The Wellcome Trust want to build on the scientific foundations of the campus to become the international centre for scientific, business, cultural and educational activities arising from genomes and biodata. It is estimated that around 4,300 new jobs will be created by the expansion of the campus.

The proposal also includes land for new schools, a nursery and community facilities and provides public open spaces and allotments. There will also be shops and food and drink outlets, new cycling and walking paths, road crossing points and alterations to local roads including a new roundabout on the A1301. A fitness centre and health centre are also included in the plans.

Cutting-edge genome and biodata research is carried out by around 2,500 people who currently work at the campus, which the Wellcome Trust says is now getting full. The site currently has around 75,000sqm of employment space and conferencing facilities. The campus is proposed to be opened up to provide public access, which would enable surrounding communities to use a range of open space and facilities.

**Bassingbourn MOD Site:** We have recently been informed about changes to how the Bassingbourn site is going to be used in the near future in that it has been reclassified as a security site, which means that it will not be open to the public in the same way as it has in the past and the only entrance being used is the front entrance. Some 2,000 extra personnel will be relocating to the base in 2020/21 (ish) from Henlow and Chilwell (there are currently 140 personnel living on site (approx. 36 families). There will be an additional 1,000 personnel visiting the site per month for training purposes (classified as confidential training).

**Barclays Bank:** Many residents contacted us with grave concerns about Barclays Bank's decision to give notice that customers would no longer be able to take money out of their accounts over the counter of the Post Office. Bridget immediately contacted the Local Government Association and it is a great relief to us and to all those residents completely reliant on this service that Barclays have had a rethink and shelved these plans for now. We shall be keeping a close eye on things in future to ensure that residents (especially the elderly and those without access to a car) are not discriminated against and disadvantaged by such inexplicable proposals.

**Bus Services:** The Combined Authority is launching a survey about bus services on 4 November. Whether you are a regular bus user or not they would like to hear your views on transport services for 2030. They will be interviewing people/passengers on the street and there will be an online survey at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FutureBus> - if you would prefer to complete the survey over the phone call 07377 001512.

**Levelling Up:** Rather extraordinary to note Government has written to the Mayor confirming the PM's "commitment to levelling up the powers of city region mayors and their combined authorities across the country." What does this mean for us? It means that the Mayor is being asked to take on a number of extra powers. These include (but are by no means limited to): Local authority duties and functions relating to young persons or young adults being in education, employment or training, Duty for provision

of shops and recreation grounds, Strategic planning, Functions of Homes England including powers of land acquisition and disposal, Promotion of road safety, Functions to improve public health – the list goes on and on.

Some issues with this: firstly, devolution was supposed to bring power to the lowest common denominator i.e. us the people. Here the Mayor is being offered a wide range of duties currently run by the County Council. As more and more powers are invested into the hands of one person our local democracy can only wither and disappear. Secondly the County Council is investing huge quantities of public money into a new HQ at Alconbury Weald. Why? It should be clear by now that there is no longer a future for County Councils. And lastly, how is one person – even if they were brilliant and efficient – able to have at their fingertips full control of all of these disparate and complex issues in order to make decisions that up to now have required a full democratic process.

**'BIG CONVERSATION'** : Bit of a worry, because it's so important and yes – we did write about it last month too – but this is a reminder!. The Clinical Commissioning Group, which commissions our NHS services, is asking for our priorities in a climate of extreme financial pressure. In their words:

“The CCG is responsible for NHS healthcare provision to 980,000 people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and has around £1.3 billion available each year for this. Although £1.3 billion may sound like a lot of money, this works out at just £1,125 per patient. A single trip to A&E costs the NHS £73, a GP visit comes in at £46, and just one night in a hospital racks up a cost of £1,722 – meaning the CCG faces big financial challenges in trying to commission all of the region's NHS healthcare at just £1,125 per capita.”

You can go on-line to find out more and provide your views - until December 20th.

<https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/the-big-conversation/>

**NHS SERVICES ALONG COUNTY BORDERS:** Thank you to all those Gamlingay and Hatley residents who have supplied details of how they have been discriminated against by the NHS because they live in Cambridgeshire but access health services from a Medical Centre domiciled in Bedfordshire. We've raised this in the past as this issue makes access to specialist services a bureaucratic challenge. If you find yourself caught out, please feel free to get in touch and we can help direct your concerns. Your anonymised case studies are now the subject of an investigation by the Integrated Commissioning Board so we will report back findings.

**Charging for Care:** Cambridgeshire County Council is once again consulting on proposed new charges for people receiving adult social care services—in some cases the same charges it consulted on two years ago, which service users overwhelmingly rejected. The consultation runs until Sunday 15 December 2019: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/chargingforcare-yoursay](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/chargingforcare-yoursay)

**Road Safety:** In the build up to Road safety Week (18th to 24th November) the police are asking your views on where the road safety black spots are. During the week officers will be out in force targeting these areas and those offenders. Complete the survey here to submit your views:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CKKQ8XH>

**Innovate & Cultivate Fund:** The next deadline for applications is 1st February 2020. A pre-application advice session will be held on 10th December. The aim of the fund is to support initiatives that strengthen our communities and reduce pressure on County Council services, thereby giving a return on investment. Council services that are inviting applications are adult social care and children & families services.

The fund is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. There are two funding streams: a 'Cultivate' fund for smaller projects that build community support networks and an 'Innovate' fund for bigger, bolder and more innovative initiatives.

We've developed guidance on starting Cultivate Seed Fund Projects that can help people to remain independent and active within their community, encourage volunteering and complement more costly Council services. Projects include Timebanks, Good Neighbour Schemes, Dementia-Friendly Communities and Men's Sheds. Do you want to talk through your ideas before you submit your application? Bookings are now open for our Innovate & Cultivate Fund Advice Session on Tuesday 10th December, 9:30am-12:30pm at the William Collyn Community Centre in Girton. Cambridgeshire Community Foundation can answer questions about applying for the Fund [info@cambscf.org.uk](mailto:info@cambscf.org.uk).

**Buses:** A new report from the Campaign for Public Transport has found that funding for buses in England is almost £400m a year lower than it was 10 years ago. The Local Government Association (of which Bridget is a Board member) is lobbying for the need for local authorities to receive adequate funding in order to protect existing bus services and to reinvest in new local services.



Cross-border bus services: Excellent contact has been established with North Herts District Council's transport officers on a range of common transport concerns, including bus, train and cycle links. South Cambs and North Herts colleagues Cllr Susan van de Ven and Cllr Steve Jarvis and I will be meeting with council bus officer representatives from both sides of the border to ascertain if and how we can pool resources to improve cross-border bus services – especially of importance to residents of the Mordens.

**Speed Watch:** Hurrah for Speedwatch! The scheme is marking its 2000th volunteer in the County and enormous thanks to all those volunteers who go out in all sorts of weather to build up evidence of speeding issues in their Parishes. This data is often used by the Police to target key areas – and sometimes individual repeat offenders. It is also important evidence for those Parishes who are submitting bids to the County for funding to install speed reduction measures. Anyone interested in starting up a scheme should visit the website: <http://speedwatch.info/>.

**Police & Crime Commissioner:** It would appear that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire has resigned. Jason Ablewhite, who was elected into the role in 2016 quit the role and his office has confirmed that he had been referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), although it declined to say why. Before today's announcement he was attempting to take over the governance of the county's fire and rescue service from the Fire Authority - which the FA was resisting with repeated Judicial Reviews.

**Facebook:** Facebook is increasingly used as a quick and easy way to for people to communicate; and the vast majority of it is very useful - promoting local events, finding lost pets, celebrating things that have happened locally, asking for information and so on. A small proportion is not quite so positive. We have a clear position with regard to negative or aggressive posting: we don't feed the trolls.

**Pavement Parking – Further Update from the Police:** The Police have written to confirm that they will not - unless it is dangerous - be interested in pavement parking issues. The Police position is there is no longer an ethical case to focus police resource on parking when there are immediate and growing violent crime and safeguarding issues to tackle. PCSOs are often perceived as having very simple front line roles, this is not the case, a good deal of their time is spent helping officers tackling priority issues such as risks to young people, the elderly and vulnerable.

The 22 recent interventions across the area were positive, but it proves the rather useless nature of enforcement, as over time the Police have shown without doubt that enforcement makes no long term difference. Whilst seeing tickets on windscreens is satisfying for a moment in time a new way must be found to tackle this issue. The Police need to be firm and continue to remind communities of the very real and serious issues that are present in their own streets which they do not see. Government was due to legislate for pavement parking and we must wait for that to happen.

**Lupin Field Gamlingay:** We are aware of residents concerns about the 'Lupin Field' now that the vegetation has been cleared - for the second time. However, as yet there is no planning application on this site so there is nothing we can do other than to monitor the situation.

**Blythe Way & School Close Gamlingay:** By the time you read this the Dragon Patcher should have been in Blythe Way mending the uneven surface and potholes – this is largely as a result of feedback from residents. Urgent works on the pavement outside 8 School Close have been ordered – despite first logging this in June.

**1st Orwell Scouts: A10 Litter Pick:** Thanks to the First Orwell Scouts who did a big litter pick along the A10 cycle path from Foxton Level Crossing south to Fowlmere Road, Shepreth, on a rainy October 26 afternoon. They want to do it every year!

#### **Correspondence:**

**Electoral register:** No alterations received.

**Greater Cambridge Partnership Planning Policy update:** Circulated to Councillors.

**Highways England A14 update:** The new 12 mile by-pass from Ellington to Swavesey will be open to traffic from Monday 9 December. This is one year ahead of schedule.

Bus User Survey: Please complete the survey, whether you currently use buses or not. The survey can be accessed at:- [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FutureBus/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FutureBus/)

**NHS - the Big Conversation:** Please get involved in this important request for your priorities in the NHS.

<https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughhccg.nhs.uk/get-involved/the-big-conversation/>

**Electronic Correspondence:** Nothing arising from the circulated information.

**Planning:**

**S/3770/19/FL** :Unit 3 Clopton Farm - Alterations and extension to existing Commercial Unit (Use Class B1), 1 including conversion of existing parking carport to additional multi-use Meeting Room/Passivhaus demonstration & training space plus alterations to external parking layout and associated soft and hard landscaping.

Mrs Slator reported that she had reviewed extensively the information for this site on line, and it appeared to be a retrospective application for work that was commenced in January 2019. The applicant was advised to submit an application by a SCDC Officer. Councillors discussed the application and it was proposed by Mr Wheeler and seconded by Mr Sole that a response of No Recommendations should be submitted. All in favour - Clerk to action.

**APP/W0530/W/19/3227130:** Brickyard Farm, Lower Road, Croydon. An appeal was made against SCDC regarding permission to convert a redundant farm building to a dwelling. An appeal for costs was also made. The appeal was successful and the building is allowed. The costs were not awarded.

**Finance:**

**Bank Statement:** Current Account balance - £ 7355.25.

**NS & I:** Following the transfer of £10,000 from the current account, the balance in the Investment Account is £21,866.05

**Solar Farm:** No reply received from Push Energy. Clerk checked back through the minutes and in October 2014, it was reported that Cllr Kindersley was going to approach the company to see if a more favourable deal could be brokered. In the November 2014 minutes, it was reported that Cllr Kindersley advised Council to accept the offer of payments for five years. It is believed that Cllr Kindersley was unable to better the company's offer and It is therefore unlikely that there will be any further finance from them.

**Royal British Legion:** An invoice for £17-00 was presented for the Royal British Legion Poppy Wreath, which was laid at the memorial in the village. It was resolved that, in pursuance of the power conferred by Section 137 (4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and being of the opinion that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that section, the Council approves the payment of the sum of £17-00 in respect of a wreath for Remembrance Sunday. All in favour, and a cheque for this amount was signed and will be delivered to the Orwell representative.

**Items for the next agenda:** None put forward.

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 18th December at 7.30pm in the Reading Room.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 8.43pm

Signed .....

Date .....