

County Council Report October 2009

Full Council met on 13th October.

The main agenda item was the proposed bid for over £510 million to the Transport Innovation Fund to tackle congestion in and around Cambridge City. After much debate it was agreed that the County Council would go ahead with the bid on a phased to relieve traffic pressure from the north of the city. This will be followed up by a number of infrastructure improvements over the next 5-7 years including improvements to cycle-ways, dualling Newmarket Road from the Quay roundabout into the city and relocating the Newmarket Road park and ride. Should the planned improvements not limit congestion to an acceptable level (a level to be agreed over the next 12 months as part of the final bid), then the County Council accepts the need to bring in a congestion charge – with details to be discussed over the coming months. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan was agreed for public consultation after some discussion. Council also debated a motion concerning climate change but agreed to defer decision pending further work on the implications of signing up to the so-called 10:10 Scheme calling for a 10% cut in carbon emissions by 2010.

Council received reports from the Police and Fire and Rescue Authorities and had the opportunity to question representatives on non-operational issues.

Council also considered annual reports from the pensions and audit and accounts committee.

On **waste issues**, the new county-wide waste handling facility at Donarbon, Waterbeach is now operational and undergoing test runs. It will be officially opened on 9 November. Permission has been granted for a new, enclosed, household waste recycling centre at Witchford.

The Joint Area **Traffic** Committee met to consider, amongst other issues, applications for the jointly funded minor highways improvement scheme for next year. It was agreed to fund improvements at the Lode crossroads and works in Soham, Cheveley, Littleport and Witcham. Sutton requested inclusion in funding schemes but the Committee felt that the scoring had been undertaken equitably and rejected the request to change the scoring.

I had a site meeting with County officers, fellow County Councillors and Quay parish Council about the Quay traffic calming measures. As reported previously, Quay parish Council is adamant that it wants to keep traffic calming. We discussed some changes to the road markings to try to assist the flow of traffic amongst other ideas. Officers will cost various options and I suspect that the argument over removal of the current measures will continue for some time!

There have also been a number of meetings regarding the early stages of the **budget** process. The County Council staff at managerial level and above has had a pay freeze this year and it is quite clear that we will have to be very careful in setting budgets for the next few years.

I also attended the **Neighbourhood Panel** as a County Council representative.

David Brown