

## District Councillor's Report February 2010

Hazel Williams

Apologies for my absence at the Parish Council meeting but it is also the Budget meeting at East Cambridgeshire District Council.

At **Personnel Committee** there was particular concern expressed by UNISON over the consultation on **staff redundancies** and the feeling that decisions have been taken before responses have been received to queries by staff. There was also concern about the cost of staff involved in the erection and dismantling of **market stalls**, which was not clear from the paper. Questions were asked about which other routes for saving money on this issue had been looked at but answers were not forthcoming.

The **In Your Patch** meeting of County and District Councillors was poorly attended. It looked at the **County Council budget** with particular discussion on the increase in older people in the county and the need to work more closely with third sector providers. ECDC has withdrawn from the **'Making Cambridgeshire Count'** project (as have two other districts) because of the need to save money and the feeling that not all of the projects under this umbrella are relevant. ECDC will however continue to keep a watching brief over those that are relevant. The **Local Transport Plan 3** consultation was discussed and a report on **Neighbourhood Panels**.

I attended the **Local Strategic Partnership** as a representative of ECDC. Items covered included the **Future of Secondary Education in East Cambs.** where the main growth is in Ely and Littleport. Soham and Bottisham will probably have an increase in numbers. There is no intention to change catchment boundaries. There were also updates on all the items mentioned in 'In Your Patch'. The **Rural Strategy public consultation** was discussed as were the results of the **Comprehensive Area Assessment** – full results are on ECDC website. There will soon be a re-write of the **Sustainable Community Strategy** an consultation will take place at Burwell at Large.

**The Children's Trust** and began with training and discussion on the **Common Assessment Framework**, which is an early assessment of a child's needs where it is deemed necessary. This should promote co-ordinated service provision. We also looked at the improvement plan produced after the OFSTED inspection of the county on **Safeguarding and Looked After Children**. The other item of interest was the report on reducing the number of young people (16-18yrs) who are **Not In Education or Training**. Across the county there are 50 less this year than last year with Fenland noticeably higher than other districts.

  
23/2/10