

Burwell Parish Council - J. Brown
March 2009

March has been relatively quiet District Council-wise.

Planning Committee considered 2 applications – one to relocate a builders yard from the centre of Ely to a redundant farmyard, which was refused and another to consider conditions on a new petrol station and shop at Littleport.

I attended an Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, in my capacity as lead member for waste and recycling, which had been called to review the first 12 months of the new waste and recycling contract with Veolia. The meeting was frustrating at times, with much discussion of historical events leading up to the decision to award the current contract. A number of useful points were made for improvements to the contract, including the need for enhanced training of the Veolia workforce, especially casual/agency staff, signage at recycling sites and further work on implementing bulk deliveries of plastic sacks.

I also met with the National Trust Regional Director at Wicken Fen earlier this month to discuss the Wicken Vision. The National Trust has agreed to make a presentation to a special meeting of the Neighbourhood Panel in early summer to discuss progress with their plans with local residents.

Discussions continue with Sanctuary Hereward over official representation by East Cambs District Council in the management of our local social housing. I suspect the discussions will continue for some time.

A number of Burwell representatives, including the Chair of Burwell Parish Council as well as County and District Councillors, attended the ECDC Chairman's Civic Reception held at Dalham Hall.

County Council report March 2009 - H. Williams

1. Following the restructuring of senior staff at the county council Mike Davey (who has been attending our Neighbourhood Panel meetings) has been promoted to Service Director for Community Engagement (Fenland). Rod Craig has been appointed as Executive Director, Community and Adult Services. Three directors will be retiring.
2. The County Council has been awarded Beacon Status for 'cutting red tape: delivering real economic and social benefit through better local regulation. This was led by Trading standards.
3. The Older People's Strategy was approved by Cabinet before coming to the Council meeting
4. Funding has been secured from the Regional Funding Allocation for a new station at Chesterton. As well as funding for the guided bus to continue to the station from Milton Road. At present 70% of travellers from the present railway station come from the north of the city.
5. The Transport Innovation Fund consultation continues. If it goes ahead the road from Quy roundabout into Cambridge (which converges into one lane at the moment) would be two lanes.
6. Primary accommodation in the Soham area will be very tight unless more is built.
7. Cambridgeshire Archives gave an update on the difficulties of storing the archive materials and their search for a new venue. I also took part in a tour of the archives.
8. Horizons gave an update on the implications of the economic downturn on the development of new communities.
9. I attended the LGA Fire conference and was able to hear about new initiatives across the country as well as problems with regional Fire Control Centres.

East Cambridgeshire District Council report March 2009

1. I attended a one day course on taxi licensing as ECDC is responsible for this and members hear appeals
2. The overview and scrutiny committee looked at the waste review

BURWELL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – Lavinia Edwards 31st March, 2009.

Planning – At the March committee there was just one application which came from Salmon Bros Builders, Ely. They wanted planning permission to move their existing yard from the centre of Ely where they have planning permission to build six new dwellings to West Fen Road, Ely.

Planning Officers had marked the application for refusal.

The proposed site was a derelict farm yard close to the A10. Concern was raised regarding the additional traffic which would be generated and it was also outside the development envelope.

The application was refused.

There is no planning committee in April.

Community Services – I recently substituted at a meeting where it was agreed to give Ely Musuem funding of £30,000 to meet the building costs and develop a program of events and exhibitions to encourage more visitors.

It was decided to reject a Pathfinder Play Scheme project in Jubilee Gardens. A grant of £42,000 from the County Council was available. The requirement was that the play equipment had to include a water feature. It was felt that this would attract the ducks which would cause an unhealthy problem. Also concern was raised over the cost of maintaining the equipment.

Discussions were due to start shortly on the refurbishment of the Maltings Cottage which will be used for holiday lets.

Work on the Maltings is now complete and will be open for a promotions evening on the 2nd April while the cinema will open on the 5th April.

Domestic Violence Awareness Event – This was a whole day event and proved to be very interesting. We were told that due to the recession there was already a high increase in reported domestic violence cases but funding was not keeping level with the increase and more funding was urgently needed. At the moment it costs the country £23 billion per year.

Licensing – There has been one exempt taxi licensing sub committee hearing.