

## CCC Report April

1. The northern section of the guided bus project should be open in late summer but no date has been set for the southern section. The contractor BAM Nutalls and the County Council are still in dispute over the contract and the Cabinet has met in closed session to discuss the situation. Toads have not it seems used the crossing tunnels supplied and are being killed on the concrete busway.
2. According to figures released this week, the East of England has had the lowest level of public spending per head of any region in England for four of the last six years. Councils and public services in the area receive just £6,555 per person from the Government compared with an average of £7,353 for England as a whole. Particularly badly hit are Cambridgeshire police, with spending on public order and safety put at just 74 per cent of the England average.
3. Cambridgeshire will run a pilot 20mph scheme in Cambridge to see how well it works.
4. In the run up to the election on June 4<sup>th</sup> all press releases will come from officers and not members.

## ECDC Report

1. I have attended the External Partnerships meeting (CAB report). David will comment as chairman.
2. Area Joint Highways was very short and apart from a Littleport issue only updated us on highways schemes. Burwell and Swaffham Prior (as we know) are complete.
3. Licensing committee has formed a working party (I am one of three members) to meet with the Taxi and Private Hire firms to put forward suggestions for new conditions. This was after a feeling by the committee that the suggestions given by officers did not address all the issues.

## Burwell Parish Council Report – April 2009

April has been another relatively quiet month for me at East Cambs District Council. Planning Committee was cancelled on the grounds of lack of business.

I attended the South Neighbourhood Panel, held at Kirtling. I attended a meeting with the National Trust at Wicken Fen, where it was agreed that a joint Neighbourhood Panel meeting should be arranged in early summer devoted to the Wicken Vision.

Further details will become available.

I visited the construction site for the new Waste Treatment Plant at Donarbon, Waterbeach. Work is going well building the plant and some equipment has now been installed. It should be fully operational later this year and will treat all our domestic waste.

I chaired a meeting of the External Partnerships Review Committee, where we received a presentation from Beverly Howard, who is manager of Ely Citizens Advice Bureaux. It is clear that the economic downturn has significantly increased their workload, particularly regarding debt and benefits advice. The Burwell outreach service we are helping to fund is starting to pick up although there is still capacity for the Cab to see more people at Trinity Church on Monday mornings.

There has also been a meeting of the Joint Area Traffic Committee, although there was little of direct interest to Burwell on the Agenda.

David Brown

April has been a fairly quiet month concerning committees at East Cambs District Council. There was no planning this month due to lack of business.

Licensing - The committee was asked to approve proposals relating to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. Prior to carrying out a consultation exercise there were various options recommended to reduce the signage and lighting on vehicles and not display words like taxi or cab on private hire vehicles.

Three representatives from local taxi firms spoke of their concern with these proposals saying it could cause safety issues particularly at night when people might know whose vehicle they were getting into.

Also the cost of altering the lettering in this present economic climate was another issue with the taxi firms.

The committee decided it could not approve any of the options as they were too restrictive. It was decided to form a subcommittee of three members of the licensing committee and consultation to be carried out with the hackney carriage/private hire trade and report back to committee.

I attended a meeting of External Partnership Review Committee where a presentation was given by Beverly Howard the manager of Ely Citizens Advice Bureau. We were told that the work load due to the economic downturn had increased with people having to wait up to six weeks to get an appointment to see a debt advisor.

The Burwell outreach CAB at the Trinity Church was proving a useful service but was surprisingly seeing only about three people a week.

Lavinia Edwards