

Lavinia Edwards – District Council Report May 2009

Planning - At the May meeting there was an application from Turners (Soham) Ltd., they wanted planning permission to build a building suitable for frozen goods. They had already started the work prior to permission as they had to have the work completed by October, 2009 to secure the contract.

Permission was granted subject to tree planting and the management of lorries waiting along the road.

Another application was for a wind turbine at Witchford this was also approved although concern was raised regarding the councils policy in respect of wind turbines.

Council - Committee Memberships were announced at the Council's Annual Meeting. My committees remain the same for the coming year with Licensing, O & S, Planning and Personnel and Personnel sub Committee.

I recently attended a meeting at Over for Speaking Up among the items discussed was the problems handicapped people have in relation to keeping safe when out and also wanting to stay out late.

They said that they would like longer appointments at doctors and hospitals because it takes them longer to explain what they are there for.

May meetings have also included Licensing, Personnel and O & S.

Burwell Parish Council
May 2009

Planning Committee considered a number of applications. These included an application to extend cold storage at Turners of Soham. The extension was approved (and has nearly been completed) subject to a number of conditions regarding painting and landscaping schemes and avoidance of lorries 'stacking' on the road outside. An application for a wind turbine in a garden at ~~Haddenham~~^{Haddenham} was approved, but Committee agreed that ECDC needs to develop a policy regarding wind turbines in villages. The Committee confirmed the direction notices for the Burwell High Town and North Street Conservation areas. After discussion the Committee agreed that the Review Panel should be discontinued in light of applications and officer's case reports becoming available on the Web, together with the ability of elected members to 'call-in' to full Planning Committee any application where there is material planning concerns. We asked that clearer guidance be provided to Parish Councils on what constitute material planning matters.

I was unable to attend the Annual Council meeting last week, where Peter Cresswell and Anthea Davidson were re-elected as Chairman and vice-Chairman respectively. I was re-elected Chairman of External Partnerships Review Committee.

Councillors were given a guided tour taking in different aspects of the horse-racing industry by the Jockey Club in early May. Much of the horse-racing infrastructure around Newmarket is in East Cambs and it was a n opportunity for us to learn more about the economic and social significance of the industry.

David Brown

CCC report

Cllr Hazel Williams

The Central Library contract has been terminated and Coulson Building Group have taken it on. It will be ready 18 months later than expected – now September 2009.

A Lowry painting belonging to Cambridgeshire Schools Arts collection was sold at auction yesterday for £450,000. The proceeds will be used to support cultural activities across the county. When bought in 1935 it cost £31.50.

At the last full council meeting before the election there was disagreement about holding the discussion on the guided bus as a confidential item. Everyone agreed that information should not be released which would prejudice any case that the council might take against BAM Nuttall who are constructing the guided busway but it was felt that there was too much secrecy on the issue.

A scheme where waste cooking oil is collected at Cambridgeshire recycling sites has collected 2,000 litres of oil in its first 6 months. It is converted into clean, renewable energy which feeds into the national grid.

The Children and Young People's Plan for 2009-2012 that sets out the priorities over that time, has been agreed.

The Sustainable Communities Act has been adopted. This promotes much more of a 'bottom up' approach to government.

ECDC Report

The full council report will no doubt be given by David or Lavinia.

I attended a Community Services committee that dealt with the Ely Country park proposals, AdeC funding and business plan and recommendations of the Leisure Centre Review Group on the facilities suggested for the proposed pool. It was also agreed that Burwell Sports Hall should receive £5,100 in revenue support grant.