

District Council Report – June 2009

Planning - At this months Planning Committee there was an application for permission to build a residential dwelling at 16 Silver Street. Officers had recommended the application for refusal due to inadequate access and concerns from the County Highways.

The application had previously been refused and also gone to appeal. The Inspector dismissed the appeal mainly due to the effect the development would have on highway safety.

At Committee it was agreed to go with the Officer's recommendation and refuse planning permission.

Internal Overview & Scrutiny - At last weeks O & S meeting we were asked to note the progress regarding the new proposed Leisure Facility. The proposal is to build a leisure complex to include two squash courts, a main pool and a training pool with a moveable floor plus water flumes.

It is hoped that the existing sports on the site will continue and hopefully create a sports type village.

The application is due to be submitted to planning at the end of the year.

The capital cost is estimated to be in the region of 12 - 15 million pounds and should be ready to open early 2012.

Lavinia Edwards

Report to Parish Council – June 2009

District Council

There has been a number of meetings at ECDC in June. Planning Committee included consideration of the application for a dwelling on Silver Street. This was refused on the grounds of highway safety.

Environment and Transport Committee also met and discussed a number of issues including moves to Civil Parking Enforcement (where ECDC will take responsibility for on-street parking from the police) and the waste contract. Ely and Soham currently have waste collected on a number of days in the week and recycling collected on other days. In order to simplify arrangements we intend to move both Ely and Soham onto single day collections for both waste and recycling. This will have knock-on effects in certain parts of the District, but not for us.

The allocation of Section 106 monies to parishes has finally been resolved after some years. I look forward to working with the parish council to ensure that money allocated to us is spent to the benefit of the local people as intended, and that we make best use of that money.

David Brown

Report to Parish Council – June 2009

County Council

Since the election I have attended a number of training days at Shire Hall.

The Annual Meeting of the County Council took place on Tuesday 23 June. Owing to a business commitment taken on before the election I was out of the Country and unable to attend that meeting. The agenda consisted primarily of electing Councillors to the different Committees and outside bodies. I have been placed on:

Environment and Community Services Scrutiny Committee;
Service Appeals Scrutiny Committee;
Adult and Communities Policy Development Group;
Local Government Association Rural Commission.

I am also a substitute on Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee, Children and Young People policy Development Group and the Political Management Policy Development Group.

I have the first meetings of these groupings over the next couple of weeks and will have more to report next month.

David Brown

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.

NHS CAMBRIDGESHIRE announced that the total number of cases of swine flu in Cambridgeshire is five. The swine flu infection has been mild and the advice to the public and health care staff remains unchanged.

The government are consulting on the Concessionary Fare Scheme. They want views on whether to move the administration and responsibility to a different tier of government, either county or government level.

As Cambridge is a bicycle demonstration town there will be a number of events taking place throughout Bike Week (13-21 June) including a Bike fair on Parkers Piece on 13th June.

The guideway beams for the Guided Bus are expected to reach the St. Ives Park and Ride site in early June. This site is nearing completion, as is Longstanton Park and Ride site.

Marshalls are working with a relocation sub group to pursue options for the airport other than Mildenhall.

RECAP have secured funding to train non-waste officers in other council departments, who make regular visits to local businesses. This will enable them to gather waste related information as well as giving advice. The initiative includes all local authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Cambridgeshire LAA target for Adapting to Climate Change is Level 1, the minimum level that local authorities should reach. This has been achieved by Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City and Fenland, South Cambs and Huntingdon have partially met level 1. East Cambs is level 0.