

County Council Report July 2009

I attended my first full meeting of the County Council on 21 July.

Council was angry at the news from Central Government that the Housing Growth Fund Grant to Cambridgeshire has been cut by £6 million from the £13.8 million we had been told to expect, with the money being diverted to other parts of the country. This seriously jeopardises much of the needed infrastructure associated with new developments in the County. Council resolved to try to do all in our power to have the cut overturned.

Council agreed a motion to investigate re-opening the "Bramley Line" railway at Wisbech. The Lib Dems proposed a motion that Policy Development Groups should meet in public in future. This was defeated. PDGs are designed to allow policy to be influenced at an early stage. The Lib Dems are currently boycotting PDGs.

At the conclusion of Council we received a presentation from the Independent Cambridgeshire Transport Commission on the findings of their research. The Commission has concluded that the County Council should consider putting in a Transport Innovation Fund bid for £517 million to fund a wide range of transport improvements to tackle congestion in and around the city (including moving the Newmarket Road park and ride further east and dualing Newmarket Road to Quy roundabout). It recommends that the bid should include a commitment to introduce a congestion charge after 2017 if the improvements have not held congestion at an acceptable level. I am sure there will be lots of meetings over the next few months while we decide what to do.

I attended a meeting of the Adults and Communities PDG where the main items for discussion were developing a community engagement strategy and discussions around adult education in light of cuts to the Learning and Skills Council budgets.

A number of papers from the 17th century relating to the draining of the fens came up for auction in London recently. The County Council was successful in bidding for them (with grants from the V&A and others).

I attended a meeting of the Joint Area Traffic Committee as a substitute. The review of speed limits on A and B roads continues across the county. Burwell to Fordham is the first section to be done this year and Burwell to Quy will be done later this year. This will involve survey work on current speeds and the road environment. Any suggestions for changes will be made towards the end of the year and would then have to be consulted on prior to implementation. Each district is to have a trial 20mph area and it was agreed that this should be the Soham High Street area in East Cambs. It is hoped that funding has been secured to upgrade and keep open the land being used as a layby at Barway and it is planned to close the parking area near the bridge at Ely railway station.

I have also attended a number of training/induction days in July.

illuminated folded aluminum fascia with fret

cut text and logo

09/00496/FUL

Mr R Langham – 11 Kentwell Place
Proposed single storey rear extension

09/00550/FUL

Mr Stuart Hunter – 2 The Leys
First Floor Extension

9. Presentation by Locality Youth Worker regarding the employment of a Youth Worker for Burwell
10. Health & Safety
11. Finance :-
 - Payment of fees for Gardiner Memorial Hall
 - Thank you for donation to Voice Recorder for Speedwatch scheme
 - Consideration of payment date for August
 - Consideration of funding for Youth
12. Correspondence :-
 - The Youth of Today – Local Councillor Shadowing Programme

Lesley Reader (Mrs)
Parish Clerk