

District Council Report September 2010

September started with a Planning Committee meeting. The main item of local interest was the application by the National Trust to build a low bund on Burwell Fen to create a wetland habitat. Following close questioning by the Committee, and in particular assurances from the NT that the land could be returned to arable production if necessary, the Committee approved the application.

I attended the Strategic Development Committee as a substitute member. The Committee received a presentation from consultants on a draft investment strategy for the District and also on the Community Infrastructure Levy. Following debate the Committee accepted the documents in principle, pending further detailed work. On the Local Development Framework Site Allocations consultation the Committee heard that there has been around 2,000 response which will be considered in detail at the November meeting. In the interim the Committee agreed a revised statement on the need to provide gypsy and travellers sites across the district, reducing the numbers to be provided until detailed assessment work has been carried out.

I represented East Cambs District Council at the RECAP waste and recycling partnership. The partnership agreed further work on joint procurement of recycling collection services from bottle banks etc and also agreed to further work to increase the effectiveness of the partnership. This will be done by tendering for services to strengthen the partnership to improve efficiency across the County in areas such as publicity. We also reviewed the draft annual report, which will be published shortly.

As Chairman of External Partnerships Review Committee I attended a meeting of equivalent committees across the County. This meeting was to ensure, as far as possible, that different district councils and the county council are not duplicating work with partner organisations such as the police, to avoid unnecessary and costly waste of time and resources.

David Brown