

District Council Report October 2009

I am sure you will be aware that **Planning Committee** met earlier this month. Two applications of local interest were on the agenda. The proposed shop off Parsonage Lane, and the National Trust Bridge over Reach Lode. The application for the proposed shop was rejected by all Committee members who voted, in spite of Officers' recommending approval, on the grounds that it was not a suitable location. It was stressed that the Committee is not against new retail activities in Burwell or elsewhere in the district. The bridge was granted approval by a majority of the Committee.

I chaired the **External Partnerships Review Committee** on 15th October when we received a presentation from Chris Banks, Chief Executive and Andy Vowles, Director of Strategy and development at Cambridgeshire PCT. It was an interesting meeting where we explored the PCT plans for health care in East Cambs over the next 5 years, with much discussion over the Princess of Wales hospital in Ely and how that might develop in future. We also discussed the role of voluntary groups such as the First Responders, cross-border links with Suffolk and Norfolk, the financial position of the PCT and the current consultation on out-of-hours GP provision.

Full Council met on 20th October. Items for consideration included: confirming various conservation areas in Ely and Stretham, new off-street parking orders, the report of the inspector into the local development framework, and findings of the independent remuneration panel and committee reports. It was a meeting dominated by the amount of paper included with the agenda!

A member seminar was held looking at the ongoing work regarding the **Infrastructure investment Strategy** and the Community Infrastructure levy. This system will enable Local Planning Authorities to charge a levy on all new developments to help to fund much needed infrastructure from April 2010 (provided the Government passes the primary legislation in sufficient time). East Cambs D C has commissioned consultants to undertake the groundwork to enable us to start charging the levy and this was an opportunity for them to explain how they are going about their work and how they will advise on a suitable level of charge. They are at a very early stage at present and there will be more to report over the coming months.

Sunday saw the East Cambs D C Civic Service at St Mary's Church in the village.

I fielded a number of enquiries from the press following complaints from Ely residents over their changed rubbish collection day – which I found a little ironic since the change was made as a direct result of requests from Ely residents.

David Brown