

County Councillor report September 2019

Highways

The quarterly highways meeting was held on the 20th September. The Parish Chair, Clerk and myself, discussed all our highway issues with the highways team.

On the 7th September I encountered the somewhat large humps on School Lane without any warning signs. Streetworks were immediately informed who inspected them and spoke to the contractors. These will be repaired and meantime warning signs have been put up. Also the muddy Rampton Road and pavements have been reported along with the dip on the High Street across from Mitchcroft Road.

At long last, we are in receipt of pedestrian crossing warning signs for the crossings on the B1050 Northstowe phase 1.

The pot holes around Magdalene Close and Thornhill Drive have been repaired.

Visit from the Housing Minister



It was a pleasure to meet and speak to Esther McVey, the Housing Minister, at Northstowe on the 23rd September. We met many residents who spoke about their experiences living within the building of a new town, and working in the local area. We also spoke and agreed that it is essential that the required infrastructure is in place before any occupations in all new and future developments within our area.

A new plan agreed to reduce falls

A new plan to help older residents improve their health and stay independent, by reducing their risk of a serious fall. The aim of the Falls Prevention Programme, agreed by the County Council's Health Committee, is to prevent any increase in the rate of serious falls and improve quality of life and health outcomes. Worth more than £800,000, the new plan will focus on hotspots where falls and hip fractures amongst older people are most prevalent. The programme is forecast to reduce falls by up to 26 percent - that's around 1,000 falls over the three year period. The Falls Prevention Programme is part of the County Council's investment in prevention services to keep people well, healthy and independent in their own homes. It builds on a two year programme including the Stronger for Longer campaign signposting people to strength and balance activities, and the introduction of integrated high quality assessments of those at risks of falls across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Cambridgeshire schools on the up!

In the week that applications for primary and secondary schools open there was good news about Cambridgeshire's schools. Four years ago, less than 50% of our schools were graded as good or better by Ofsted. This figure today sits at 93.5% of schools meaning that Cambridgeshire is ranked 16th out of 150 local authorities nationally. And this year saw improvements in results at both Key Stage 2 (end of primary school) and GCSEs.

Recent green issues and initiatives instigated by CCC

I have been asked by some residents to show what the County Council are doing, or have done, to help with our environmental issues. Below are a few I have managed to put together along with links for more information.

On 14 May 2019 Cambridgeshire County Council declared a Climate Emergency.

A [unanimously supported motion](#) put before Full Council by the Leader of the Council, outlined the council's significant track record of success in this area, leading to it becoming [acknowledged as a national leader](#) recommended steps to move further faster in recognition of the need for urgent action. This was also acknowledged in an article by **Friends of the Earth**, reporting that other upper tier authorities should be following Cambridgeshire's example.

The Council already has a significant track record of success in taking positive action to address the environmental challenges and impacts through its:

- [Corporate Energy Strategy](#); reducing carbon emission reductions, improving energy efficiency and investing in renewable energy to displace fossil fuels.
- [Development of a Plastics Reduction Strategy](#); to eliminate single use plastics to protect the biodiversity of our oceans and marine life.
- **Commitments to the [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Nature Partnership](#)**; managing and protecting our County wildlife sites and their biodiversity.
- **Waste management services**: reducing greenhouse gases, promoting recycling and the composting of household food and garden waste. www.recap.co.uk
- [Adopted Minerals and Waste Plan](#); that promotes the waste hierarchy and ensures that that all proposals take account of climate change and the need to reduce carbon emissions, whilst exploring opportunities to use decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy.
- **Supplementary planning guidance on [Flood and Water Management](#)** which seeks to improve land use planning practice across Cambridgeshire that minimises flood risk, reduces water consumption and improves biodiversity.
- **Adoption of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy** which supports better natural management of flooding and improved community resilience to flood risk from climate change.
- **Environmental stewardship advice and support** for Natural England's farm payments schemes to manage historic assets, create new woodlands and support arable reversion and peat management.
- [Connecting Cambridgeshire Programme](#) which delivers improved digital connectivity to the County, allowing the Council and others to reduce the need to travel and reduce air pollution and carbon emissions.
- **Significant investment in designing and delivering [cycle schemes](#)** to reduce carbon emissions associated with transport.

Cambridgeshire County Council's [Corporate Energy Strategy](#) was approved in March 2017 with a view to invest in clean energy projects on its assets to generate income and make savings for the Council. The strategy also supports using the Council's assets to facilitate school and community energy projects plus work to develop the broader low carbon economy including the electrification of transport, housing and delivery of smart communities.

There are four Energy Investment programmes which cover:

- **The £1million Energy Efficiency Fund for [corporate buildings](#)** - e.g. LED lighting upgrades.
- [The Schools £10 million Energy Programme](#) - commencing its fifth year of investment (2019/20). Of the total number of existing schools in Cambridgeshire, 21% of schools have

taken up energy performance contracting of which 56% of all secondary schools are included in the programme.

- **The £46.4 million [Energy Investment Programme](#) comprising four significant projects - [Babraham Park & Ride](#), [Woodston Closed Landfill](#), [Stanground Closed Landfill](#) and [North Angle Farm Solar Farm](#) (work currently in abeyance at Trumpington Park & Ride).**
- **A Community Energy Programme, building a future project pipeline** – projects include: [St Ives Smart Energy Grid](#) and [Swaffham Prior Community Heat Project](#) (the Council has been approached by a further three parishes to discuss opportunities to progress community heat projects including Great Staughton (Huntingdonshire), Reach (East Cambs) and Wicken (East Cambs). Further communities are expected to also come forward during this year).

Along with our significant investment into renewable energy schemes, including the 12MW solar farm in Soham, we purchase 100% renewable electricity for our corporate buildings. These two actions combine to help mitigate the Council's corporate energy-related carbon emissions.

The Council works with local communities to establish and manage a number of [Local Nature Reserves](#) for the benefit of people and wildlife. All of the reserves are open to the public.

We also have a number of corporate strategies which deal with specific environmental challenges, including a new [Plastic Strategy](#), and are currently working on creating an overarching Climate Change and Environment Strategy in the coming months.

More information can be found here: <https://www.mlei.co.uk/climate&environment/>.

Note: An updated Corporate Energy Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough councils has now been approved by both Councils. This is the first time that the two councils have produced a joint energy strategy.

Peter Hudson
County Councillor
Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick, and Over