



Lina Joseph
Cambridgeshire County Councillor

Dear all,

This month it's been a very busy one. I have met with one of our education officers who specialises on vulnerable children. I am very keen on understanding how we can reduce the achievement gap between vulnerable groups of children and young people and their peers. I am now attending the steering group of Accelerate the Achievement of Vulnerable Groups of Children and Young People. It is fundamental that we work with schools and parents in order to eradicate this gap and support all our children to develop to their maximum potential.

I have been working closely with the Cabinet member for Housing, Lynda Hartford, South Cambridge District Council and the Home Improvement Agency. We identified the need to review some of the policies in order to best support residents who require to adapt their house and I feel confident that the recently appointed CEO will lead on resolving some concerns that a resident brought to my attention. Parallel to this work, County Council officers are trialling a project that I believe will benefit residents that have a disability and who need to adapt their home. Watch the space.

As you know I am very involved in tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. I have regular meetings with officers and this month we have been reviewing procedures and the importance of treating victims as victims. Women who have been abused must feel confident that we as an authority are there to support them and work with them. This seems obvious but sometimes victims do not see us in this way and I will make sure that we do. This month we have formally signed-up to the White Ribbon campaign and we have a to-do list in order to become an Ambassador. You may not know but Cambridgeshire County Council is a key partner of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership which works closely with organisations such as Police, Health, Probation and specialist support services to ensure that victims of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls across the county are protected and supported to recover from their experiences. Achieving accreditation by White Ribbon will demonstrate to partners our commitment to tackling this issue and would hopefully encourage others to sign up too. The Partnership is working on a new strategy and action plan to tackle violence against women and girls in Cambridgeshire. For more information see <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/>

I have been nominated to represent the County Council at the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in South Cambridgeshire. I have attended the first meeting and it was very interesting to see what each of the representatives were doing. For example the Fire Service is doing more work on how best to support residents who are hoarders, County Council has been working very hard to fight financial scams, and so on.

On Friday 17th was the Annual Parish Conference which I attended and the workshops were very interesting and useful. There is so much work happening behind the scenes. Gillian Beasley, County Council CEO, gave a speech and it was great to see so many PC attending.



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The Area Community Champions were introduced and I received a lot of support from clerks and parish councillors and I very much look forward to working with all of them.

Finally, you know that the consultation for the Cambourne to Cambridge is now open and I would urge you to respond as well as neighbours, family and friends. You all know that my position is that we should have a P&R in Scotland Farm and option 6 as a short term solution while the GCP and Combine Authority find a long term solution. We should aim for an option that will last 100 years, not 10. I would like to see technology incorporated in this, like driverless pods! Not far until they are commercialise.

Just to remind you that the public is very welcome to attend committee meetings.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Lina Joseph