



Lina Nieto
Cambridgeshire County Councillor
Hardwick Division

September-October Report 2018

Dear all,

I hope you find this information useful. As always I am here to serve you, so please get in touch.

Large planning application: Bourn Airfield

As you all know the Local Plan under the new administration in South Cambridge has been approved- so for those who expected a radical and different outcome after much criticizing the plan, the Liberal Democrats approved the plan- didn't rebelled as many expected them to. This application due to its size will come to County, particularly to the Economy and the Environment Committee, for consideration. Local members have asked the committee to extend the time for local residents to make any comments on the plan. I would like to encourage you to take part and raise any concerns you have with this planning application.

Details are as follow: 3,500 dwellings, mixed uses comprising employment, retail, hotel, leisure, residential institutions, education, community facilities, open space including parks, ecological areas and woodlands, landscaping; etc.

If you would like further information please do let me know.

Communities & Partnerships committee:

I believe this committee is forward thinking and I can see other Councils following if they are not already. It is my opinion that as a local authority we must listen to what residents want, they should shape the services they want us to provide and for us to support them along the way.

Officers are working on a draft single shared approach to community resilience called 'Think Communities'. It has been developed collaboratively between eight partners - Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire Police. Further information [here](#).

The proposed priorities based on People, Places and System include:

- Taking a shared approach to work in areas of high risk and vulnerability
- Understanding and removing barriers for community led activity
- Building capacity for communities to work together for the benefit of all our services
- New Communities and growth areas and hidden communities are priorities for all of us and could benefit from a shared approach
- Introducing system changes, taking a broader view to recognise the complexities and allow multi agency conversations with communities
- Supporting communities to develop and deliver their own priorities which will address our needs to reduce, delay or prevent the need for costly public service involvement and which may include and go beyond public sector plans



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Transport

Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough James Palmer has stepped in to prevent the loss of two 'vital' town centre bus routes serving St Neots.

Bus operator Whippet was preparing to pull out of the town's 61 and 63 services because they were making a loss. After hearing the services were under threat, Mayor Palmer agreed to provide funding to keep the routes going until March 2019.

The routes are seen as important for people getting to and around the town, for its economy and its attractiveness as a place to live and work. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority in June this year approved [£4.1 million of funding for the St Neots Masterplan](#), a comprehensive and wide-ranging blueprint for the future growth of the county's biggest and fastest growing market towns. The Mayor's intervention will keep the routes going while the Combined Authority awaits the results of a review of bus services for the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The report and its recommendations are expected to be finalised in November.

Combined Authority

Latest meeting took place yesterday which main subject was Housing. Across the Combined Authority there is a target to build at least 100,000 new homes, including 40,000 affordable new homes and to accelerate their delivery by 2037.

To support this, last year the Combined Authority received a commitment from central government for the receipt of £170m to bring forward 2,500 homes by March 2022. To deliver this there are effectively two sub programmes running. £70m is allocated to Cambridge City Council to deliver 500 additional affordable homes, the balance of £100m is allocated to the rest of the Combined Authority area to deliver an additional 2,000 homes. We will work with partners to deliver on this ambition.

For further information please click [here](#).

Budget:

Increased demand for services this year has seen Cambridgeshire County Council's current budget gap leap to £5.2 million – with a predicted additional £20.7m to find in 2019/2, Members of the council's General Purposes Committee will hear next week (Sept 20).

Work is also continuing to increase and boost the income the council makes from its commercial activities, which will see £4million returned to the council this year, £10 million next, and more in future years.

The Council has already raised its historical underfunding issues with all Cambridgeshire MPs, through a national consultation on the government's funding formula and direct with Ministers at the MHCLG and through its Fairdeal4Cams campaign, highlighting:

- Government funding (RSG) to Cambridgeshire County Council has fallen by £50m in the past four years, from £53m a year in 2014/5 to just £3m this year
- This sum is set to go negative next year – meaning Cambridgeshire will have to send £7m of Cambridgeshire tax payers money back to government to spend elsewhere in the UK
- Cambridgeshire was the only Combined Authority area last year not to be given a business rate retention pilot project – costing the council an estimated £8m



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During the autumn Cambridgeshire County Council plans to continue:

- Raising its situation at the highest levels of government, with Cambridgeshire MPs
- Working with the County Council's Network to continue campaigning on the general underfunding of County Councils across the UK
- Developing a business rates retention pilot bid with the Combined Authority and districts
- Looking at all planned spending, and considering further reductions or postponements
- Considering all external contracts due to come up for renegotiation to look for further savings
- Freezing all non-essential vacancies

News

Cambridgeshire County Council has secured a silver award in the Ministry of Defence's employer **recognition scheme for showing support to the armed forces** and their families.

Launched in 2014 by the Prime Minister, the prestigious initiative was created to recognise and reward UK employers for their support and commitment to Defence.

The Council has been recognised for demonstrating its support for the Armed Forces community, this includes helping Reserves, Service leavers, Armed Forces veterans, the wounded, injured and sick, Cadets, military spouses or partners and their families.

The award scheme involves bronze, silver and gold awards for employers that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to Defence and the Armed Forces Community.

By winning the Silver award the Council has demonstrate their support by employing at least one person from the armed forces community and actively communicating and projecting a positive image of defence to their employees. They also support Reservists by giving them the flexibility needed to plan and fulfil their annual training and mobilisation commitments.

Cambridgeshire County Council employs a number of staff who have connections to the Armed Forces. The authority is also a lead signatory to the Cambridgeshire Armed Forces Community Covenant, which ensures that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly within the community.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Vice-Chairman and Armed Forces Champion, Councillor Mac McGuire: "I am delighted that we have received this prestigious award, it shows all the hard work that has been put in by many people.



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“I’m proud to be part of an organisation like Cambridgeshire County Council which is so passionate and dedicated towards our armed forces communities and has the policies and practices in place to ensure that we as an employer can create a supportive environment for ex- service personnel, serving families and reservist. We will continue to work closely with the military community to support them.”

Commenting on the announcement of the 2018 Employer Recognition Scheme Silver awards, Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans, the Rt. Hon. Tobias Ellwood MP said: “I am delighted to congratulate the recipients of this year’s Employer Recognition Scheme Silver awards. A Silver award recognises the fantastic efforts of employers throughout the UK who have both elevated their commitments under the Armed Forces Covenant and provided actual benefit to the Armed Forces Community.

The winners should all be proud of the life-changing impact and fresh opportunities they are providing to our Reservists, veterans, wounded injured and sick and their families. We’ve seen a record number of winners this year, which shows that the Armed Forces family talent pool is also providing tangible business benefit.”

Funding portal

Please do share this link with community groups that wish to find funding pots.

<http://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/supportcambs>

Highways

A reminder that you can report road maintenance issues here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/>

Hedges

If you have an issue with hedges then they would be advised to log their complaint on our website

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/>

Roadworks

I had calls from residents regarding roadworks. If you would like to know what is happening in your area you can check in this website.

www.roadworks.org



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Local issues

Barton:

I was contacted by a residents who raised concerns regarding the parking of the school buses. A lead officer attended the school and met with the Head Teacher, they discussed the concerns and on the day that she attended she thought the buses were parking in the right place. However, she will speak to the company and make sure this procedure is follow by all drivers.

Highways: Mailes Close and Allens Close in Barton are being surface treated next month as part of CCC's 'micro-asphalt program'.

Hardwick:

I believe there was an abandoned highways "A" frame with a sandbag outside a resident's house in St Neots Road. The officer has been aware of the issue and flagged it up with our contractors. It has taken a bit longer than usual but I believe it has been picked up this week.

Please do report any issues like this on our website and the highways officer will be on it!

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/>

Caldecote:

I am glad to see how communication is flowing between the Parish Council and Anglian Water. Just to provide other parishes with a short briefing in case they encounter a similar situation. There was a breakdown in communication with Anglian Water, however, I made contact with the organisation and organised a meeting which allowed to restore communication and now councillors have a direct contact who they can approach when raising queries about their local area.

If you are experiencing a similar issue with a utility company or other organisation please let me know.

Harlton and The Eversdens:

There has been a change of officer in the Highways department, however, the new officer who is handling the junction A603 has made contact and is on it. Is my understanding that officers are considering the possibility of including this issue as part of a larger scheme for the future. In the meantime, the road will be surface dressed next year and this will provide an opportunity to revise the lining which can make a difference and avoid the parish spending any money on it.

I will continue to work with the Cllrs and officers in order to achieve the best result.

Coton:

In their last Parish Council meeting, the local plan was discussed and one of the Cllrs. raised a point about the local plan and the direct impact on an off-road route. I will continue to support the Parish Council as I have done in the past. However, now that the Local Plan has been approved and there is a bigger pressure of delivering a reliable transport strategy, I believe it limits the options. Having said this, I believe the best option is to have a *metro* and will continue to lobby on behalf of residents for this to be the case.

Just to remind you that the public is very welcome to attend committee meetings and Full Council. You can find all the details [here](#).

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



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Kind regards,

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