



Lina Nieto
Cambridgeshire County Councillor
Hardwick Division

March Report 2019

Dear all,

I trust you are all well.

I would like to start by mentioning that if your parish or a resident has a particular concern or something they would like to discuss with me, please do not wait until your next parish council meeting. You can call me any time and I can come and see you any time too. A text works best for me but you can call me on my mobile, landline or email me. You can also reach me on Facebook and Twitter!

This month I attended one of the first road-shows of the second part of the Cambourne to Cambridge consultation. I must say that I am embarrassed by the way officers have been handling this. You would think that by now they would have got grip of how to run a consultation.

I still think that all the alternatives have not been flushed completely in-depth and now with the Rail project shadowing our area it brings more doubts about the project. All these transport projects should be aligned and although the route of the East-West rail has not been completely decided and there is an inclination for the south, they should be talking to GCP and making sure that projects align as much as possible. Otherwise what a waste of time and money.

I will continue to press officers and colleagues regarding all the issues raised by residents. We must get this right!

Children's Centres

As you know we too the decision to transform this part of the services we provide to children and their families. I am currently liaising with officers as I want to know what exactly is happening in our district and how families are responding to the changes. Once I have more information about this I will come back to you but I wanted to let you know that I am on it!

South Cambridgeshire

As a local resident it is very concerning the latest pay-off of South Cambridgeshire District Council CEO. The council has spent over £202 k towards her retirement. She is under 60 years old and what is concerning is the lack of transparency around this. It has been very difficult to find out any information of what really happened and councillors have been made to sign a confidentiality agreement and not disclose anything. I really do not understand why there is so much secrecy.

I believe this is a huge sum and residents should be enquiring about this. This is tax money that will not be used in providing services for you.

Combined Authority

Government has committed £11.5 million of funding to support Adult Education in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The funding represents the first tranche of [Adult Education Budget](#) (AEB) funding that has been allocated to Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority for the 2019/20 financial year as a part of its Devolution Deal.

By devolving funds to the local area, the Combined Authority can better ensure the delivery of quality adult education across the local area that targets local skills gaps and joins up the skills system. This



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includes delivering on Government's commitment to provide fully funded qualifications at Levels 2 and 3, English and Maths and the future Digital entitlements for learners.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority has been awarded £11,513,052 for the 2019/20 financial year by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). There will be further funding for continuing learners from the ESFA in the Autumn once our share of a £32 million national pot is distributed.

The AEB Team at the Combined Authority are in the process of allocating the funding to local colleges, local authorities and training providers and anticipate finalising these allocations in the Spring.

To find out more about the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority's AEB Programme, click [here](#).



Meeting local businesses:

This year I will be going around and visiting more local businesses. I believe we should buy local and support them. Otherwise, local businesses will close down and will be dearly missed. They play a very important role in our communities and it's a responsibility of all. However, it is also about sustainability. Local businesses are much more sustainable than larger corporations. If you haven't heard about Cambridge Sustainable Food then please take a look at their website. I am involved with them indirectly and they are fantastic! <https://www.cambridgesustainablefood.org/directory/>

You might not know, but due to my experience in starting up a business, I get approached by residents who would like to start-up a business and would like a sounding board. This is something I do on a regular basis. However, I must say, it's not only for businesses but also for fundraising and community projects. As much as possible I try to connect local projects with local businesses. I believe in generating win-win situations. Starting any type of project is really exciting and I enjoy being at the start and seeing it develop and grow. So if you know of someone who might be thinking about starting up a business, social enterprise or a community project, do pass on my details. I would love to help!



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Cambridgeshire County Council is inviting residents to view and comment on plans for its new Headquarters in Alconbury Weald, prior to the submission of a formal planning application

Designs will be shared on the Council's website, and members of the public also invited to attend an Information Event in Alconbury Weald on Thursday, 28 February.

A decision taken by Full Council in May 2018 set the wheels in motion for the Council to move from its costly six acre Shire Hall site in central Cambridge, and move to a smaller, more flexible purpose built building in Alconbury Weald.

The new two-storey headquarters, which aims to be 'bright, efficient and flexible' will incorporate a private wing for staff housing around 350 desks, and a public reception area with informal meeting space.

Council and Committee meetings are set to be held in a multi-use 90 seater space, which can be split into 3 rooms, and offering potential for future community use.

Even after taking the cost of the new building into account, the move is set to save the Council in the region of £46.5m over the next 30 years, savings which will be reinvested back into public facing services.

Planning permission will be submitted in late spring, with construction set to begin towards the end of 2019, and completion due by December 2020.

"Throughout the last year we have carried out extensive engagement with officers, councillors and local community groups to shape the plans that we are sharing with the wider county residents today," said Cllr Joshua Schumann, Chair of the Council's Commercial and Investment Committee. "These conversations have been invaluable, and by working alongside special interest groups such as our Equality & Diversity Group, I believe we will be able to create an efficient, flexible and collaborative space that truly works for staff, councillors and the public alike.

"The County Council has a long-standing association with Shire Hall, but with running costs in the region of £900,000 per year just to maintain the site, we must face facts and look at ways of investing money back into essential services", he added.

"The building of the new and smaller HQ is part of a much wider plan to base ourselves closer to our communities, and make better use of our own assets and those of partners across Cambridgeshire," said Chris Malyon, Deputy CEX and Chief Finance officer. "The Council will always retain a presence in Cambridge city, but will now be more visible in other areas across the county too".

Find out more

- **A Public Engagement event** will be held between 4pm- 8pm on Thursday, 28 February, at The Club Building, Alconbury Weald, PE28 4XA. Representatives from the Council and the design and build team will be on hand to talk through the designs and answer any



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questions. This event is an opportunity to showcase some main principles of the new Hub but many of the detailed design elements are still being considered. We will continue to work with stakeholders in order to create a building which meets our present and future needs

- Following this, the designs will be on display in Shire Hall from 1 - 13 March.
- You can also view designs today via the County Council website (<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/public-invited-to-view-council-plans-for-new-hq/>) and comments can be submitted using the email address provided

Local proposals/events:

Madingley: Parish Council has applied to close permanently the Avenue off.

Coton: some councillors will join the GCP technical group to work on the proposals.

Hardwick: Highways officers have met with the Parish Council and visited the area where the footpath improvement will take place. Making sure the money is used where people want it to be!

Most of my parishes now have defibrillators. If you are in the process, I am sure one of your neighbouring parishes can help with information and advice on what has worked for them.

Local Natural Partnership Board

As you may already know I represent the Council in this outside body. You have over 10 organisations represented and it's always active, trying to push the natural agenda forward and upwards. Recently we have been able to launch a new website, please take a look at it. This is a very exciting milestone. www.naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk

Events

Please take a moment to review the diary and contact me if you have any questions in regards to any of the events listed or if you are aware of any other events that are taking place that are not listed.

All events can also be found on our webpage at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/highway-events/>

Funding portal

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

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

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/>



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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

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.

Kind regards,

Lina

Representing the villages of: Harlton, Barton, Great and Little Eversden, Caldecote, Kingston, Madingley, Hardwick, Coton, Grantchester and Comberton.

Mobile: 07402351821 E-mail: Lina.Nieto@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk Facebook: [Cllr Lina Nieto](#)