



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**TO THE**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**18TH APRIL 2017**

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**Clerk to the Council**

**Tracey Coulson**

**Deputy Clerk to the Council**

**Sarah Jay**

**Open to the public - Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 2.30 pm**

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**Chairman of the Council and Mayor of the City of Ely is Councillor Ian Lindsay  
Deputy Chairman of the Council and Deputy Mayor of the City of Ely is Councillor Richard Hobbs**

## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The City of Ely Council is, in fact, a Parish Council and so is in the lowest tier of Local Government. It has few statutory duties, but has powers to engage in a wide variety of activities to help improve local amenities and services. What we are doing today is holding the Annual Parish or Town Meeting, which is a meeting of the electorate that is held between 1st March and 1st June, and for which there is no prescribed format. It allows an opportunity for us to describe what we do, and for those present to ask questions. As you will see and hear, the work that the Council undertakes goes far beyond any statutory duty and so the following pages contain reports from our formal Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Groups and other organisations on which we have Council representatives. In sum, you should get a feel for the plethora of work, in which your councillors are involved and which together contributes so much to life in Ely and its nearest villages. Without that contribution I am certain that Ely would be so much the poorer as a place to live, but we must not take it for granted, nor should we rest on our laurels as budgets come under increasing pressure, thanks to the withdrawal of Central Government funding.

Beyond the work and events recorded over the next few pages, there has been a series of significant events over the year. In June 2016, sadly, one of our members resigned to be replaced by former Mayor, Cllr John Yates, following a contested election. This exercise in democracy, though very proper, cost us an unexpected and only partially budgeted £12,000.

We played our part in organising and administering the petition against the threatened closure of the Minor Injuries Unit at the Princess of Wales Hospital site, as well as attending and speaking at the open meetings arranged by the Cambridgeshire Clinical Commissioning Group. Wearing different hats, some of our members have been involved in the complex, but exciting and constructive plans to develop the services and the site to provide more comprehensive emergency care, out-patient cover and other services. We campaigned to mitigate a threat to reduce street gritting routes in the City, and to improve the lighting in the train of the County Council PFI initiative that led to a loss of street lights in our residential areas. This campaign is ongoing, but one notable success was to restore the levels of lighting on Back Hill. We continue to strive to maintain the presence of toilets in Barton Road car park. We support the Town Crier, and encourage the City of Ely Military Band by paying for summer band concerts in Jubilee Gardens as well as benefiting from its services at the annual Remembrance Day Parade.

As a Parish Council we are fortunate, in my view, to have a Mayor. It gives us a figurative head who is easily identifiable to our electors. A person who can represent their interests in a disinterested fashion, who can act as the leading citizen in an advocacy role or as a spokesperson or commentator. A person who ensures that the City is represented at a wide variety of important civic and ceremonial occasions in the City, in the Cathedral and throughout the County as well as City events such as Eel Day, Aquafest, or Apple Day. The office holder has a unique opportunity to meet and promote the activities of a myriad of people and organisations who do so much for the City and its people, whilst not seeking the limelight, and at the same time can help raise funds for local and national charities.

A lot of our work is collaborative in nature, whether, as at present it is with Cambridgeshire County Council, in developing cycle ways and road improvements in Cambridge Road; with East Cambridgeshire District Council in developing the Local Plan; or with voluntary organisations as in participating in litter picks. We act as advocates for our electorate, and contribute to consultations on local and national issues, such as electoral boundary reforms,

level crossing closures. We await to see what effects a directly elected mayor for the Combined Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Authority will have at our level of Local Government.

None of this could be achieved without a huge team effort. I would therefore like to close by thanking all the staff of the City Council, the Councillors and the myriad of volunteers who make everything happen. It has been a real privilege to work with so many people in a common cause of realising that vision of Ely as a successful, vibrant, attractive place where people want to live, work and visit.

Cllr Ian Lindsay  
Mayor and Chair of the City of Ely Council

### **PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

The Committee has 6 members, and always includes the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and the immediate past Mayor. It meets 6 times a year and reports to the Full Council. One of its major functions is to set the annual budget, which is informed by the Council's Business Plan that is itself developed through the workings of the Committees. This process will be central to setting future spending priorities, once CIL money starts to accrue to the City of Ely Council.

Current estimates suggest that this will exceed over £2 million between 2018 and 2031, with significant sums starting to appear from around 2020. Sound financial management has been at the heart of all our planned activities and this has resulted in our achieving our objectives within the constraints of our budget, with only a small increase in the precept to meet next year's aims. The Committee advises the Full Council on the disbursement of its annual grants, totalling around £12,000 to local charities and other community organisations.

Both the new website and the new accounting system are well established, and we are edging toward on-line banking procedures. Within the constraints of a formal structure and Committee system, we aim to increase our use of social media over time and in an effort to reach more of our fellow citizens we organise a Community Forum. In an effort to recognise their contributions as volunteers, we hold an annual award ceremony and participate in the newly established Ely Hero Award Scheme.

There have been a number of changes of staff in the Estates Team and in the team at the Maltings over the past year, and these have been handled expeditiously and expertly by the Clerk and her team. All members of staff are the subject of an annual review.

We have an internal audit process that underpins good governance, and all our policies are reviewed annually to ensure compliance with changes in legislation or views on good practice. We develop new policies as necessary.

Cllr Ian Lindsay  
Chairman of Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee

## **PLANNING COMMITTEES**

The City of Ely Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications received by East Cambridgeshire District Council that relate to the area covered by the Parish of Ely. There are two planning committees comprising most of the Council members and they meet every two weeks. In the last year most of the 24 meetings have been chaired by the Mayor and on occasions by the Deputy Mayor.

Applications cover a wide variety of planning matters. On the whole, in accordance with national planning policy, there has been a presumption in favour of planning approval. However, the Committees have recommended that ECDC should refuse planning permission in a number of circumstances related to local issues. Mostly these centre around applications for development where there appear to be inadequate provision of off street parking places, less often to danger related to traffic flows, or proposed changes that adversely affect the street scene or amenity of neighbours.

Cllr Ian Lindsay  
Chairman Planning Committees

## **RECREATION AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

The aim of the Recreation and Cemetery Committee is “to nurture pride in the City of Ely by promoting and developing the recreation and play areas owned by the Council and developing Ely cemetery in co-operation with the citizens of Ely, local businesses and other organisations”.

### **Recreation**

Nine play areas remain the responsibility of the Council – all are regularly used and maintained to a high standard. Regular checks are carried out by the Estates Team to ensure the safety of the equipment and the cleanliness of the environment.

During the current year the play area in the Park has been upgraded and three new pieces of equipment have been installed including a toddler/parent tandem swing.

### **Cemetery**

The cemetery along with its roads and pathways has also been maintained to a high standard during the year. A major development has been the setting aside of an area to be used for the burial of parishioners from the Islamic faith tradition, following a request from that community.

The Committee is still hopeful that improvements can be made to the cemetery chapel to make it more attractive to visitors.

Cllr Chris Phillips  
Chairman of Recreation and Cemetery Committee



## **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

We have approved the introduction of a Geographic Information System, QGIS, to help manage the council's assets such as dog bins and street furniture.

We now operate a more efficient process for approving dog bin replacements which should reduce the delays between a bin being reported missing and it being replaced.

Street lighting has improved considerably since the County's decision to return lighting levels to 100%, and lights have been replaced on Back Hill. We will continue to monitor lighting and press for any essential improvements as it is replaced across the parish.

A memorial bench for Nigel Clarke will be installed on Barton Square.

The annual litter pick which took place on 2nd April was a success with a good turnout on a warm sunny Sunday morning.

Cllr Mal Lansall  
Chairman

## **ELY IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP**

The Working Group consists of Councillors and community volunteers, their aim is to enhance the City of Ely by planting floral displays in containers around the City centre. The Group budgets and works closely with the City of Ely contractors who plant and look after the hanging baskets, gateway entrances, barrier containers and three tiered floral displays. It is a group decision in deciding the colour combinations and plants for the winter and summer planting.

The Group did come across some vandalism to the displays within 2016. The Ely in Bloom team was very appreciative to the support parishioners gave to them via comments, papers and social media.

Ely in Bloom's yearly competition in July had a presentation which was held in the Maltings with good attendance. It was decided by the Group to include in this year's July competition, general religious buildings as a category. The Working Group's colour scheme for summer 2017 are pale blues, mauves and pinks.

Within actively identifying areas to enhance our City, the group purchased two more wooden tubs that extend the floral displays at the bottom corner of Forehill and planted crocuses in the grassed area where they are sited. Other sites have been identified and are being examined.

As Chairman I wish to thank all members of the Group, Council office staff and the Estates Team for all their help and support, it is much appreciated.

Cllr Alison Arnold  
Chairman

## **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE**

The Christmas Lights and the Switch-On event is a City of Ely Council Committee, members consisting of Councillors and Co-Opted community volunteers. They organise and provide the yearly festive light displays around the town and Christmas Tree in the Market Place. With the Committee's Switch-On Team organizing the entertainment for the evening in and around the town centre.

Within the Committee there is a leader of the Lighting Group, who coordinates this team throughout the year on the maintenance of lights, fixtures and fittings. They also decide on the displays which they erect and dismantle and any new lights and features that may be required. December 2016 saw some of our pre-ordered features not arrive, however, our resourceful team used their artistic skills and initiative to adapt and generate new features. The lighting team have pre-purchased new lights for 2017, which will hopefully arrive in September. Balfour Beatty have supplied and fixed some electric connection to the lampposts in the Town Centre and we are still waiting for the rest to be completed with these in the Market Street.

The Switch-On Team leader coordinates this team for the evening's entertainment. Throughout the year the team plan and decide the layout of the event, raise sponsorship, negotiate acts and entertainment, charity and trade stalls. Also within the Group's responsibilities, they coordinate and direct the itinerary on the night with also timing the Mayors opening speech and being in position to Switch on the Christmas Lights and Tree. 2016 saw Forehill incorporated into the festive events of the Switch-On Team.

Both teams of volunteers work very hard throughout the year, putting in many hours, sometimes in appalling weather and unsociable hours to give the Parish of Ely a splendid evening to start the beginning of the Christmas festive season, with their allotted Councillors on each team.

The City of Ely Council Christmas Lights Committee also has a stall on the evening of the Switch-On. This is manned by Councillors and volunteers to raise awareness and monies for the Christmas Lights Committee.

I wish to thank all the Committee councillors, co-opted community Committee members, volunteers, last but not least the City of Ely Council office and Estate Team staff for their patience and continued support.

Cllr Alison Arnold  
Chairman Christmas Lights Committee



## **ASSETS AND ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE**

The Committee meets up to 6 times a year under the Chairmanship of the Mayor and has 6 members. It considers matters related to the Sessions House, the Maltings, the Maltings Cottage and reports to the Full Council.

### **The Sessions House**

The Council moved into the Sessions House in February 2015 following completion of Phase 1 of the renovation plan. Phase 2 of that plan has been the responsibility of a 7 person Working Group of councillors, officers and a representative from the East Cambridgeshire Access Group which has been chaired by Cllr Lindsay who reports to the Committee. An account of the progress is included at a later point of this document.

### **The Maltings**

Since the City Council become tenants of the Maltings in September 2014, Cllr Every has acted as the Council representative and champion for the ongoing commercial development of the Maltings, whilst retaining its use as a highly valued community asset. The staffing structure is now in place, and appropriate accounting procedures have allowed us to establish the true running costs of the venue. There is a healthy booking diary for its use as a wedding venue, the local theatre companies once again are able to hold all their productions in the building, it is serving as a location for civic events, for open meetings, and ADeC are able to screen a wide range of films and other live events. Within a tight budget there have been improvements to the flooring in the Kempen Room, improvements to the lighting in the foyer, a new website has been developed and the sound system made fit for purpose. There is an ongoing refurbishment programme. There is now provision of outside seating with facilities for pop up cafes and tea parties, and we look forward with confidence to a virtuous circle of improvements and increasing financial stability.

### **The Maltings Cottage**

It is planned that Highfield's School will use the property to develop pop-up catering facilities as part of their education programme. Work continues to complete the assignation of the lease.

Cllr Ian Lindsay  
Chairman Assets and Acquisitions Committee

## **YOUTH FORUM**

Cllr C Whelan took over as Chair in August 2016. At the last meeting, it was felt that it was important to continue with the Forum and to try and form an alliance with the Police who had formed a youth group to discuss what was needed in the City.

Cllr C Whelan met with Sgt Priestley to discuss how the City Council could be involved. He has a brief and funding for pulling together all local agencies and groups, including youth groups.

Sgt Priestley outlined their plans for the Youth Group. He reported that this was going well and there was an open invitation to City Councillors to attend the meeting of the Youth group.

The Police are very keen to have the City Council involved in their activities.

The Youth Forum although a valuable part of the City of Ely Council has had problems with meetings and has not met as much as we had hoped. This has been due to finding a time when everyone can meet because of other commitments.

Ongoing projects for the Youth Forum.

1. Young person of the Year Award
2. Post-16 debates
3. Involvement with Ely Police Community Group
4. City of Ely Council's Community Forum invitation to younger members from the Youth group.

Cllr C Whelan  
Chairman of Youth Forum

### **CCTV PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP REPORT**

The CCTV Partnership comprises the City of Ely Council, Soham Town Council and the Police.

We have moved from a cable system to a wireless system when enabled the CCTV system in Ely and Soham to be financially viable in the long term. It is anticipated that these savings will amount to thousands of pounds per week.

As some of the cameras are getting old now, we are undertaking a review of the efficiency and effectiveness of each in order to identify a phased replacement programme.

The volunteers continue to remain very loyal and we could not work the system without their teamwork approach, expertise and good will. We are delighted that we have recruited a new cohort of volunteers who received their training recently.

The whole system is now operational including an additional camera in the Country Park and in Soham. We believe the benefit of converting of wireless will result in financial saving and more flexibility in the siting of temporary or further permanent cameras in the future.

We know the value that our residents and Police place on the service and the deterrent that we believe it provides.

Cllr Lis Every  
CCTV Working Group

## **ELY-RIBE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE**

The year began appropriately with our trip to Ribe at the beginning of June to celebrate the 60 years of twinning between our two lovely cities. We were joined with a town from Germany and another from France, both of whom were celebrating 25 years of twinning. As usual we were treated by our hosts to a lovely few days culminating in a very enjoyable social evening combining good food and drink, some memorable speeches by representatives of all 4 twinning Associations, including those by our Chairman Gareth Hughes and Mayor Ian Lindsay, and some hearty and occasionally tuneful singing by everyone. The highlight of the evening was an appearance by the Ribe Nightwatchman who entertained us with numerous amusing and interesting anecdotes.

At the end of August the SingChoir! Ely spent a long weekend in Ribe taking part in several concerts, including one at a local refugee camp and finishing with a joint concert with a local choir. Many friendships were forged during this time and the Ely-Ribe Association is proud to have initiated contact between the two choirs.

This was followed by a rather more turbulent period in the life of our Association. The Chairman and Secretary, Gareth and Win Hughes, had both already given plenty of notice that they intended to step down from their respective positions after about 20 years, but the AGM failed to come up with any replacements for them. An Extraordinary General meeting was called and the Mayor sent all Association members a letter explaining what would happen if no-one was willing to replace them. After much debate at the EGM my wife Ann and I volunteered to take on the roles of Secretary and Chairman respectively which has enabled the Association to continue.

The current Committee's brief is to try and increase individual membership of the Association and also to try and establish links between similar organisations in the 2 cities. I am pleased to report that membership now stands at 33, an increase of 3 from the previous year and we are in the process of establishing links between the Golf Clubs and Rowing Clubs, with a view to holding annual competitions in both these sports. We are hoping that an inaugural Golf tournament will be played in Ely later on this year with the Isle of Ely Rowing Club hosting its inaugural competition sometime in 2018. An important aspect of these competitions is that visiting competitors will stay with host families, following the tradition set many years ago by the Twinning Associations. An event already organised for the beginning of November this year is the visit to Ely by Ribe Kammerkor, who will perform a lunchtime concert in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral on the Friday and take part in a joint concert with Ely Choral Society in the Cathedral on the Saturday evening. Our Association is planning to help host a post-concert reception on Saturday evening and we hope that there will also be an official welcome by the City Council to our guests from Ribe on Friday afternoon.

Several other organisations have expressed an interest in linking up with similar groups in Ribe – these include Witchford Voices, Rocking Ukeles, Ely Sailing Club and the Littleport Rioters (who visited Ribe with the Twinning Association several years ago). We are also considering trying to develop links between local shops/businesses such as Cupcakes and the Ely Gin Company with similar enterprises in Ribe, perhaps by having a Danish or Scandanavian Market.

The Committee is also seeking ways of promoting the Association by developing and updating its website, having a stall at events such as Aquafest and through local publications such as Ely Magazine, the Residents' Handbook and the local press. We are also hoping to hold more social events for members and other interested individuals and organisations. I would like to say a big thank you to both Gareth and Win for the many years of dedicated service they have given to the Twinning Association. They continue to be active members and I am very grateful to all the help that Gareth is giving me as I seek to get to grips with my new role within the Association.

Finally on behalf of the Ely-Ribe Association, I would like to thank the retiring Mayor for his great support for our activities over the past year, and to the City of Ely Council for its continuing financial contributions to the hosting of guests from Ribe.

Mr H McMillan  
Chairman

### **CITY OF ELY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

The Association has had a very special year, at our Awards Evening in September, it celebrated its 25th birthday, and we were fortunate to award certificates to several of our plot holders who were there at the commencement in 1991 and are still with us today.

The last six months of the Allotment year have been an exceptionally busy period with, for the first time in my memory, work and future projects involving all five of our sites.

The money that we received from the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme has been spent and the installation of a water supply to three of our sites completed. We very much appreciate the work carried out by Mani Contractors, Littleport, who agreed to carry out the installations on a cost only basis.

The Official Turn-On of the water supply will be held at Upherds Lane Allotments on Saturday 6th May, performed by the Mayor, with smaller such ceremonies carried out at the other two sites, on different dates.

The Ely Southern Bypass has finally started and this means that there will be alterations to the Bridge Fen site, which include the construction of a new entrance and car park. We are working in close partnership with the Cambridgeshire Highways representative to carry out this work with minimal inconvenience to the plot holders.

The North Ely development has also moved forward and we have seen the plans for the first part of the housing and the area, in this section, which has been designated for allotments. We have worked throughout the year to keep the waiting list to a minimum by creating smaller and hence more manageable size plots, especially for tenants who are still at work, but the interest in having an allotment is not decreasing and there are still 15 people on the list.

### **BRIDGE FEN: Number of Tenants – 98**

The incidents of theft and vandalism, this year, have again been few and it is hoped that the installation of street lighting on the bypass roundabout adjacent to the site, that these will decrease further.

The site achieved success, this year, with the awarding of the cup for the best small plot, in Ely, to Darius Kokoszko and Stewart and Teresa Bye were runners up for the Best Plot in Ely.

After discussion with the long-term plot holders it was decided that installation of a piped water supply was not necessary because of the high water table.

Some work in preparation for the bypass has been carried out. The top section of the site, adjacent to the A142, has been cleared as this is where the new car park will be created.

The creation of a new vehicular entrance to the site has been agreed with Highways. This will be via a bridge across the dyke from the adjacent drove and will include fitting a new gate.

Further work will be required to link this entrance to the existing centre roadway.

This is now the only site with vacant plots. Often it is the distance from the City which deters new tenants.

#### CANTERBURY AVENUE: Number of Tenants – 9

Although this is a small site it was felt that the tenants would benefit from the installation of a water supply.

Since the work has been completed a successful work day has been arranged, with the tenants getting together to tidy up the sit. Another one is planned for the near future to mow and realign the paths, thus completing the job.

The site is fully tenanted.

#### NEW BARNS: Number of Tenants – 58

This was the first site to have a water supply installed, and on the weekends when it took place several plot holders were present to assist in the work of back filling the trench and fitting of the tanks. The reparation work on the site is still continuing, with seeding and turf laying, on the main path to return it to its original condition.

There are still some incidents of trespass and minor vandalism, despite the repairs to the boundary fence between the site and the cemetery, but there have been no reports of items being stolen.

The recent winter was relatively dry; thus, the flooding of previous years did not occur. The situation will continue to be monitored and, should it become necessary, a land drain will be installed along the low side of the site, adjacent to Clayway.

The site also continued with the success of its plot holders, Colin & Olive Bowles again winning the A J Fenn Cup, for the best kept allotment in Ely, and Stephen Foot winning the Best Newcomer Cup.

There are plot holders from many different countries and the community spirit on site remains high and there are no problems in arranging groups to carry out general site maintenance and even collecting loads of manure.

The site is fully tenanted.

#### UPHERDS LANE: Number of Tenants – 45

This site continues to be one of the most popular, and now with the water supply and new pathways it is proving to be even more so, with new applicants denoting it their preferred location.

The water installation was going to be a problem as none of the existing paths were wide enough to accommodate a mini-digger, so it was agreed with the contractor to install three new main ones. This involved disruption to several plot holders in the moving of sheds, water



butts, compost bins and even some crops, but the community spirit prevailed and the work was carried out on the prior weekends, so that the contractor could start on time. The process to finish the tidying up of the site is continuing and it is planned to have the Official Turn-On of the water supply on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Despite damage to part of the boundary fencing, which is the responsibility of Cambridge Housing, there have been no incidents of theft. The site is fully tenanted.

**BACK HILL: Number of Tenants – 2**

This the smallest of our sites, but none the less important, and normally does not get much of a mention. In fact there are, probably, many people who are not aware of its existence, making it one of our best kept secrets. However, this year, the condition of the fence between it and the neighbouring property, has been brought to our attention. Following discussions with the City Council it has been agreed to replace the fence, and the work will be undertaken in the near future. The site is fully tenanted.

Mr G Bond  
Chairman

**SESSIONS HOUSE WORKING PARTY**

The working party comprises 5 councillors, 2 officers and the Chairman of the East Cambridgeshire Access Group. It has worked on the requirements to develop a Council meeting chamber that is accessible to all. To this end it has investigated the type of lift that will be required to gain access to the first floor, where the old juvenile court will be converted to use as a Council Chamber. Using the services of the highly-regarded firm of Purcell Miller Tritton, it has obtained planning permission, has developed tenders for the work and is about to award the contract for building to start within the next few months. Once there is unrestricted access to the first floor, the viewing gallery for the courtroom, and the magistrate's room will also become fully accessible. The group will develop plans to maximise the use of these facilities, and will also consider the longer term restoration of the court room.

Cllr Ian Lindsay  
Chairman Sessions House Working Party



## **TRAFFIC WORKING GROUP**

It was realised that having a full Transport Policy at Parish Council level was far too ambitious, and that we should instead act more along the lines of a pressure group.

In that role, we have had some success applying our local knowledge to the County's proposed cycling schemes for the City. The New Barns one way scheme now runs away from the City centre, with traffic calming and a lesser impact on parking spaces, and the Lynn Road crossing has been expanded to include a cycle crossing.

The Working Group will continue to monitor the development of the District and County Transport Strategies for the area, which are persisting with out-dated and harmful proposals for closing High Barns to through traffic and installing a bus gate on Brays Lane.

Cllr Mal Lansell  
Chairman Traffic Working Group

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS WORKING GROUP**

The new website is now established and working well. We are still pursuing the appropriate use of social media and how this might be managed safely and effectively.

The Community Forum continues to provide a platform where local residents can engage with the Police and other agencies who regularly attend. Local issues are discussed and answered, where possible, through the newsletter. We bring guest speakers to the Forum on specific current issues. Our current aim is to increase the participation in these meetings and meet the needs of a wider audience.

Engagement with the young people in Ely is important and several councillors ran a session recently for all Year 9 students at Ely College on local democracy. We also used the opportunity to consult with them on what how they would like Ely to develop as a place where young people enjoy living.

A review of the Working Group is planned.

Cllr Lis Every  
Chair of the Working Group

## **REPRESENTATIONS ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

### **NEEDHAM'S FOUNDATION**

The Needham's Foundation Trust was founded from the estate of Mrs. Catherine Needham who died in 1730 leaving enough money in her will to build and maintain a school for poor boys in Ely. The building which still exists in Back Hill functioned as a school until the 1950's when it moved to Downham Road. The Governors of the Foundation bought the school back from the Local Education Authority in 1995 and after extensive renovation the building was leased to the King's School.

After the passing of the Charity Act of 1909 Needham's Charity was permitted to give financial assistance to schools within the City of Ely and to individuals who were either born in Ely or educated in the City.

The charity is managed by Governors representing the Bishop of Ely, the Dean and Chapter of Ely Cathedral, St Mary's Church, Cambridgeshire County Council and the City of Ely Council, and Co-opted Governors who currently are Old Boys from Needham's School. Councillor Richard Hobbs and I represent the City of Ely Council and with the other Governors supervise the management of the charity's property and the distribution of grants to local schools and individuals.

Mrs Tracey Coulson is Clerk to the Governors and we are indebted to her for her sound guidance and efficient administration.

More recently the Foundation received a legacy from the estate of Mr Bernie Parker, a well-known horticulturist in the City, and the Governors have used this bequest to encourage an interest in gardening in our local schools by staging an annual competition which currently has been won by Ely St. John's Community Primary School.

I am standing down as Chairman this year and I would like to record my thanks to my colleagues on the Governing body, the assistant gardening judges from Ely and District Horticultural Society and the Heads of our local schools who are doing a marvellous job with limited resources.

Cllr Sheila Friend-Smith

### **PARADISE CENTRE**

A single Council representative attends regular meetings of the Management Board of the Paradise Centre and reports back to Full Council. The Centre is enjoying a particular busy year, with some of its exercise classes attracting waiting lists. It is open from early morning to late in the evening each day of the week, and offers facilities for a huge range of activities involving all ages. It also hosts the Annual Horticultural Show and some other events.

As an organisation it has been able to deregister from VAT and received a significant refund from earlier overpayments. It is now in a particularly strong financial position and is undertaking a comprehensive refurbishment programme. Once the swimming pool closes, we will still have a City centre facility offering a range of indoor facilities that will entirely complement the new East Cambs leisure centre, with its pool gyms and outdoor pitch that is

currently under development. The people of Ely will soon have truly 21st century facilities for indoor and outdoor sport and physical activity.

Cllr Ian Lindsay  
City of Ely Council representative

### **PRICKWILLOW VILLAGE COUNCIL**

This community group serve its community of Prickwillow, by raising issues of village residents to authorities that may be able to resolve them. The Prickwillow Village Council produce a village newsletter which informs the community of events, meetings and advertisements, which is delivered to all properties.

The Village Council's speed watch team have had good results with collected data. This will now be put forward to relevant authorities to assist and help gain further calming infrastructure to reduce speeding in the village.

There had been some issues with the dog waste receptacles, overgrown foliage, grass cutting and encroaching grass on pavements, but these were resolved.

Flat spring back bollards were installed on Putney Hill green by the Highways Department to deter vehicles using the green. Further to this the Committee are actively seeking if it is viable to adopt the green as a village green. The village sign that has been on order, will be made by a local sculpture and will be sited on Putney Hill green. This will hopefully be installed late this summer with an official unveiling.

The majority of Prickwillow now seem to have gained broadband with the odd few exceptions.

Cllr Alison Arnold  
City of Ely Council representative

### **PARISH REPORT ON STUNTNEY VILLAGE COUNCIL**

Following receipt of grants from East Cambridgeshire District Council the Stuntney Village Council continues to work on the enhancement of the Village through a number of initiatives well supported by the local residents.

Plans continue to improve the 'well kept' look of the Village with an emphasis on keeping the environment tidy. The 'Stuntney in Bloom' competition in the summer results in the local gardens looking increasingly colourful and well managed. White side gates are now in place which mark the entrance to Stuntney.

A bid for approximately £6,000 from ECDC was successful and the improvements to the Village Hall are nearly completed.

Cllr Lis Every  
Council representative on the Village Council

## CITY OF ELY COUNCIL

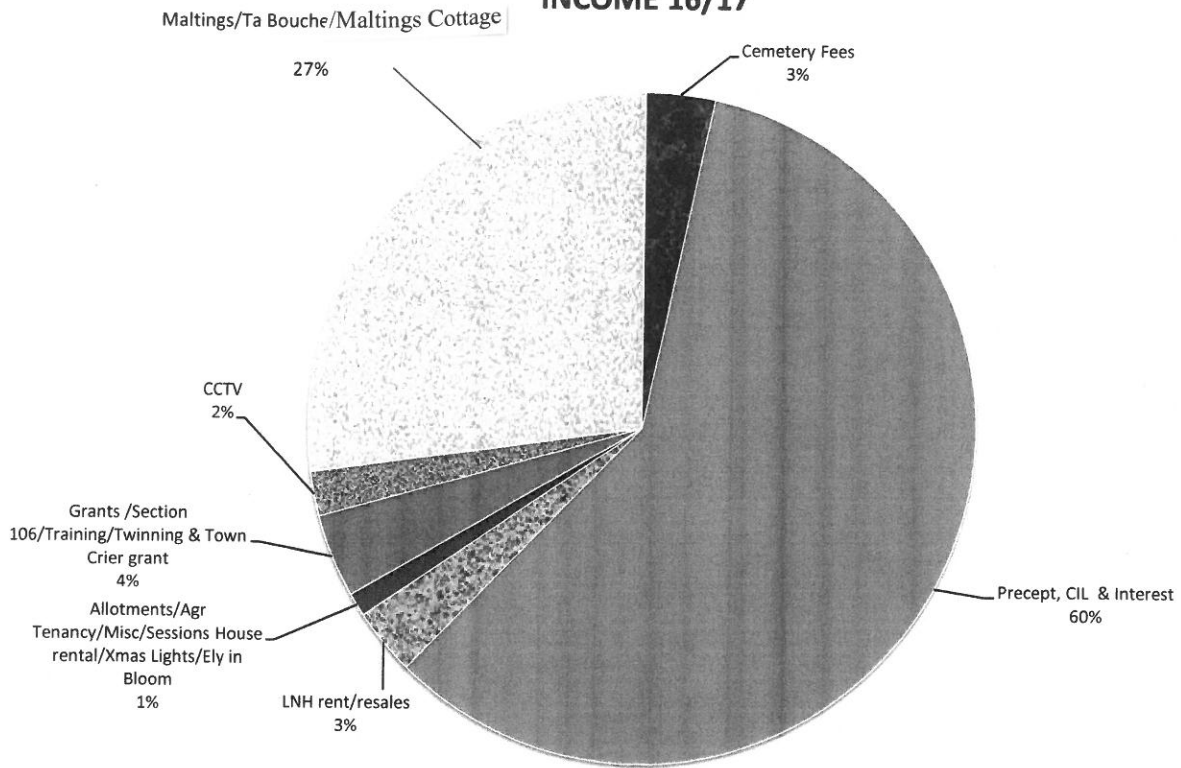
### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2016/2017

Due to the insufficient time between the year-end on the 31st March 2017 and the publication of this report for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 18th April, it is not possible to produce the year end accounts summary. Therefore, information is provided in the form of pie charts, which show the income and expenditure of this Council.

A detailed summary will be available shortly from the Clerk.

	2016/2017	2017/2018
	£	£
Gross Expenditure	716,532	745,875
Income	236,560	240,806
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>479,972</b>	<b>479,972</b>
ECDC's parish contribution	56,218	72,839
(includes reserves/ECDC contribution)		
<b>Amount of Precept</b>	<b>423,754</b>	<b>432,230</b>

## INCOME 16/17



## EXPENDITURE 2016/2017

