



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,
8TH NOVEMBER 2021 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY.**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr S Austen, Mayor

Cllr M Rouse

Cllr I Lindsay

Cllr E Every

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr A Whelan

Cllr R Denness

Cllr V Ganivet

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr S Bellow

*County Cllr P Coutts
4 parishioners*

NOT PRESENT: Cllr M Downey

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr D Warman, Cllr A Arnold and Cllr K Wilkins and their reasons accepted.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 27TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AND
MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 27th September 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925 & 1926 refer.

Matters arising:- Page 1926, item 20 - Cllr Phillips requested that Councillors be kept up to date, on a regular basis on the progress of this project and in due course be appraised of the outcome of the success of the bid to the Combined Authority. Cllr Every confirmed that the CCTV Working Group would do so. Page 1922, item 19 – Cllr Lindsay confirmed he would be representing the Council at ECDC's Licensing Committee in relation to the Council's objections to this application.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman said she hoped that as many Councillors as possible would be able to attend the Remembrance Services on the 11th and 14th November.

6. QUESTION TIME

A parishioner, who was also the Chairman of the East Cambs Access Group asked several questions in relation to the digital signage planned for the City. The Clerk agreed to respond to these by email. A representative from the City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association informed Councillors, a response from the ECDC Planning Officer to the questions that were raised at the last Full Council meeting, regarding the allotments on the new development North of Ely, had still not been received. The Clerk had chased this several times and had been informed due to workload the response should be received by the end of this week.

Another parishioner asked Councillors what the Council was doing with regard to the Maltings Cottage. A proposal had been submitted some time ago from them and they requested the Council consider this. Cllr Rouse proposed this should be discussed at the next Assets Committee meeting. This was agreed.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Written reports were received from County Cllrs Coutts and A Whelan, ECDC Cllrs Every and C Whelan. Copies of which are attached to the minutes. Cllr Every requested that Cllr Coutts includes more information in relation to children and young people and education in his next report from County Council. He agreed to do so. Cllr Lindsay requested that the report be received earlier so Councillors had time to read all the information provided.

8. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended Thetford Council Civic Reception; the Pantomime launch; tree planting at Spring Meadow Infant & Nursery School; Rainbow play group open day; careers and skills event in the Cathedral, performance by Ely Choral Society, attended the Apple Festival and the High Sheriff's Justice Service.

9. PLANNING

A report of the Planning Committee meeting, immediately prior to this meeting was received.

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received and noted: -

Notification of Street Naming and Numbering:- Hawthorn House and Williams House, Soham Road, Stuntney, Ely; Sapphire House, 58 Old Bank, Prickwillow, Ely and Gamet House, 60 Old Bank, Prickwillow, Ely; Countess Free Church, 6-8 Chapel Street, Ely

Notification of Road Closures:- B1382 Prickwillow Road, Ely and Davison Road Ely – 1.11.21 – 30.4.22

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – Cllr A Whelan presented a report of a meeting held on the 11th October 2021, which was approved. It was noted that the Inclusivity Working Group have been in communication with local community groups and organisations and were advocating on their behalf. It was also noted that all staff members had received a letter regarding the staff pay and grading review, which was being undertaken by Human Capital Department.

(ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – Cllr Lindsay presented a report of a meeting held on the 4th October 2021, which was approved. The proposed budget for 2022/23 for this Committee was discussed and agreed. A request for a MVA to be placed on Lisle Lane had been received by County Cllr A Whelan. Unfortunately, this would not be possible until the lamp columns had been adopted by the County Council. County Cllr A Whelan will be asked if she can assist in the progress of the adoption. Cllr Bellow had reported the path that leads to the War Memorial in Prickwillow was in need of repair to enable it to be used by those with mobility issues. Prickwillow Village Council is currently trying to find out who owns the path. Councillors expressed the wish to benefit from the Queen's Green Canopy project and this was discussed. Cllr Lindsay thought it would be a nice idea to plant 15 trees in recognition of the Council's 15 councillors. This will be discussed at the next meeting of Climate & Environment.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

(iii) **ASSETS** – Cllr Morgan presented a report of a meeting held on the 20th September 2021, which was approved. Councillors approved the price increase in the cost of the new equipment in the Park play area at a cost of £1268.28. Approval was given for the purchase battery operated trimmers at a cost of £3900 plus VAT. Two quotes had been obtained for the pathways in the new Sensory Gardens and a third awaited. Approval was given for the Deputy Clerk to place an order for the cheapest quote, which would be in the region of £12,000 and will be funded by CIL. The Local Needs Housing Scheme will be promoted in the next edition of the Elyi. Following the tendering process that LGSS had conducted on behalf of the Council via Crown Commercial Services for replacement retractable seating, it had been agreed to accept the tender submitted from Wagstaff Interiors Group at a cost of £106,898.00 with 20% of the cost to be funded from CIL and the remainder from a PWLB loan. An order will be placed, and the installation will take place in September 2022. Cllr Rouse proposed that Full Council approve £47,000 from the General Reserves budget in order to proceed with vital projects at the Maltings, these being replacement hall and foyer lighting, new windows, cellar door and a water softener. This was seconded by Cllr Phillips and approved, with 10 voting for and 2 not voting.

(iv) **TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE** – Cllr Every presented a report of a meeting held on the 18th October 2021, which was approved. The report from the Tourism and Town Centre Manager was noted and was very positive as income figures showed takings were up compared to pre-Covid. The Apple and Harvest Fayre was a huge success and had received excellent feedback. The proposed budget for this Committee for 2022/23 was agreed. The Christmas Shopping event at OCH would be taking place on the 28th November. The new Crime and Punishment Tour, which will be using Sessions House as part of the tour, had generated a lot of interest. Councillors agreed they will continue to look at the possibility of having the Ely Fair again, but a suitable location would need to be found.

12. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Members noted the notes of meetings from:-

Prickwillow Village Council – minutes of a meeting held on the 19th July 2021

City of Ely Allotments & Gardens Association – minutes of meetings held on the 18th August and 15th September 2021. Cllr Denness had agreed to attend the next meeting of the Association to see what would be required of her if she were to become the Council's representative. Cllr Rouse thanked the Association on behalf of the Council for maintaining the flower beds on St Mary's Green. He felt they always looked so good and it was much appreciated.

Ely Ribe Association – minutes of the AGM held on the 28th September 2021

Executive Review Group – notes of a meeting held on the 29th September 2021

Cllr Every informed members she had attended a meeting of the Padnal Internal Drainage Board. They are responding to the Network Rail Consultation with regard to Queen Adelaide and have agreed to copy the Council in on their response. Flooding of the Fens was another concern raised at this meeting and she felt the Council needed to have more information on this. She agreed to obtain this information and bring back to a Committee meeting for further discussion.

13. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON ECDC'S LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME PROPOSAL CONSULTATION

Councillors agreed to make comments on this consultation as individuals.

14. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE NEW DIGITAL SIGNAGE BOARDS

The Clerk had provided a written update on the new digital signage boards. It was understood that following consultation with the East Cambs Access Group that to ensure these boards were accessible by all that the project would also include an app that could be used with the boards.

15. PRESENTATION BY CLLR R DENNESS REGARDING 20'S PLENTY SPEED REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

Cllr Denness gave Councillors information on this scheme and it was agreed that as the Council already has this within the Climate & Environment Committee's Action Plan, the Council should move forward with this.

16. FINANCE

Members approved the following payments:-

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	923.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	948.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	279.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	1821.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	923.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	948.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	279.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	1821.00	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	695.29	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	383.70	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	383.70	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	168.49	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	193.73	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	156.00	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	98.88	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	98.88	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	388.08	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	408.27	Paid by direct debit
Plan Communications Ltd	116.99	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	72.00	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	1871.44	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	250.00	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	372.24	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	249.82	Paid by direct debit
Drax Energy Solutions Ltd	34.28	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	266.14	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	311.29	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	586.82	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	392.98	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	65.68	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	128.50	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	124.77	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	46.47	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	3339.79	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	1030.04	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit

16. FINANCE CONTINUED.....

Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	212.58	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	78.60	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	140.55	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	71.82	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	77.18	Paid by direct debit
Liquidline Ltd	217.86	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	101.58	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	4055.72	Paid by direct debit
Cambridge Art	1232.16	Paid by BACS
Cheffins	152.78	Paid by BACS
R Neale	51.94	Paid by BACS
Shefs	264.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Central Heating	90.00	Paid by BACS
S Blake	858.00	Paid by BACS
J Jackson	21.63	Paid by BACS
J Peck	148.80	Paid by BACS
Beau Business Media Ltd	234.00	Paid by BACS
D Holt	50.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	96.00	Paid by BACS
M Routledge	600.00	Paid by BACS
Mayor's Charity Fund	60.00	Paid by BACS
ECDC	180.00	Paid by BACS
HC Electrical	771.52	Paid by BACS
Ely Museum	9474.25	Paid by BACS
Warren Access	258.60	Paid by BACS
Gordon Harrison	54.54	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	105.60	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	300.00	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage	234.00	Paid by BACS
Mile Tree Brewery Ltd	412.13	Paid by BACS
Allens Skip Hire Ltd	120.00	Paid by BACS
Shefs	748.80	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed Ltd	300.00	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	300.00	Paid by BACS
Arco Ltd	120.00	Paid by BACS
J&A International Ltd	55.00	Paid by BACS
Zurich Municipal	199.63	Paid by BACS
Prickwillow Village Council	120.00	Paid by BACS
Prickwillow Village Council	120.00	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	66.96	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	66.96	Paid by BACS
London Hearts	857.00	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	300.00	Paid by BACS
Warren Access	1304.40	Paid by BACS
Cranbrook Plants	2717.91	Paid by BACS
Cambs Turf Nurseries	90.00	Paid by BACS
Lauren Rouse	20.00	Paid by BACS
M Routledge	840.00	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	374.62	Paid by BACS

16. FINANCE CONTINUED.....

Jewson Ltd	3.42	Paid by BACS
S Blake	1039.50	Paid by BACS

The following invoices had already been paid prior to the Full Council, due to due date of payment with the approval of the Chairman

Soham Pest Control	99.00	113856
Millennium Pest Control Ltd	66.00	113857
ESPO	317.22	113858
Ensign Solutions Ltd	303.96	113859
Securitas Security Services Ltd	58.80	113860
ADeC	1000.00	113861
Stuntney Village Council	250.00	113862
Isle of Ely Rowing Club	1000.00	113863
Stained Glass Museum	750.00	113864
Prickwillow Engine Museum	1400.00	113865
Cllr A Arnold	40.91	113866
Thomas Ridley & Son Ltd	432.26	113867
ECDC	2550.37	113868
CoolerAid Ltd	55.28	113869
N&C Glass Ltd	108.64	113870
Ellgia Ltd	16.80	113871
City Cycle Centre	44.09	113872
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	12.48	113873
Anglian Water	43.00	113874
Anglian Water	46.45	113875
A Bennett	53.55	113876
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	160.75	113877
E Ratzko	27.89	113879
Cllr A Arnold	31.50	113878
G & J Peck Ltd	22.31	113880
Bacon Lightning Protection & Maintenance Ltd	498.00	113881
D A A Halsgrove Ltd	211.02	113882
Pulse Cashflow Finance (MK) Ltd	150.00	113883
Fen Farm Supplies	122.40	113884
Sue Aldridge	56.00	113885
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	44.00	113886
ECDC	1021.67	113887
Anglian Water	40.02	113888
Allens Skip Hire Ltd	190.00	113889
CoolerAid Ltd	41.28	113890
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	213.40	113891
ATS Heritage	10500.00	113892
ESPO	38.34	113893
Aztek Services Ltd	28.42	113894
AmeyCespa (East) Ltd	215.66	113895

16. FINANCE CONTINUED.....

The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

Anglian Water	71.93	113896
Mr J Hannaford	200.00	113897
Local Media Publishing Ltd	180.00	113898
Ensign Solutions Ltd	295.56	113899
B Richardson	14.79	113900
We Are Blueshed Ltd	444.00	113901
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	231.38	113902
RGP Security Services Ltd	316.80	113903
Warren Access	2304.00	113904
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	113.94	113905
Meltemi Ltd	68.04	113906
CoolerAid Ltd	4.74	113907

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 27th September 2021

Salaries and wages	£27,413.48
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£8,043.94
Pension fund payments	£8,718.65

Members noted and approved the bank reconciliations against the accounts for the periods ending 30th September 2021 and 31st October 2021

The meeting closed at 8.39 pm

County Councillors' Report

Cllr Alison Whelan, Ely North

Councillor Piers Coutts, Ely South

November 2021

Summary

- Covid-19 Cases and vaccination in schools
- Covid-19 Enhanced Response Area
- 'Peer Challenge' review of County Council
- Councillor Parental Leave Policy
- Watercourse reinstatement grants
- Queen's Green Canopy
- Climate Strategy review
- Waterbeach waste plant
- Gully Cleaning
- *This Land*
- County Council Biodiversity
- County Council's New Shire Hall, Alconbury
- Community Heat Initiative project
- New Chief Executive for CCC
- 20 mph speed limit scheme process
- Active Travel Schemes
- The Cambridgeshire Pension Fund
- Ely Area Capacity Enhancement consultation
- Council Structure
- Information
- Contact details

Covid-19 precautions in Schools

Term restarted on 1 November. Community Covid rates for school age children had declined from the previous week due to the holiday but we expect this number to rise this as they return to school and mixing commences. Early years cases remain low. From the 29th October to 4th November, we identified 885 cases of Covid-19 across 223 settings. Whilst a reduction from the 1,240 cases reported in the last week in school, it is the second highest weekly rate we have had throughout the pandemic and the highest number of affected settings.

Following the designation of the County as an Enhanced Response Area, the following measures put in place on the 6th October will continue until the 10th December. These are –

- Face coverings for staff and secondary school students in communal areas
- Staff socially distance and recommend staff meetings are virtual.
- All visitors to schools must wear face coverings in school buildings.
- All non-essential events where parents visit schools are moved to being held virtually.

- Promoting and monitoring uptake of twice weekly LFD testing in secondary schools (staff and students) Primary school (staff).

Vaccination in Schools

We are working hard to increase vaccination of school age pupils. Discussions with the provider were undertaken this week and included bringing forward risk schools and looking at wider options for accessing early vaccinations. Consent remains low and we intend doing further marketing to encourage sign up. Queensgate shopping centre in Peterborough will be operating a walk in session on Saturday and Sundays 8.30am- 4pm, and also on Thursdays 4.30- 7.30pm. There will be other sessions across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in the coming weeks. The position in terms of take up on the 2nd November was:

Area	12-15 vaccination uptake	16-17 vaccination uptake
Cambridge	34.1%	53.0%
East Cambridgeshire	35.7%	77.1%
Fenland	20.6%	62.2%
Huntingdonshire	39.8%	71.5%
South Cambridgeshire	29.6%	75.3%
East of England	28.5%	61.7%
England	24.2%	56.6%

Enhanced Response Area status vital to protect NHS and vital services

Enhanced Covid Response Area to protect NHS

Following an approach from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils, the Government has agreed that both areas will become an Enhanced Response Area for tackling the Covid pandemic from Monday.

They have pledged to use it to push for additional measures and resources to drive down recent rises in Covid-19 infection and to protect vulnerable people, the NHS and other vital services as the winter months approach.

Rising rates in older people coupled with pressures on local health and education services led to the Councils who are both responsible for public health to ask Government to grant the whole area 'enhanced response area' status for at least five weeks from Monday November 1 - to bring down infection rates which are currently higher in most areas than seen in January's peak.

The ERA status allows us to push for additional support to:

- Accelerate and target 12-15 vaccination roll out where infections are highest

- Accelerate booster vaccinations for eligible groups who have had their second vaccination more than six months ago
- Increase vaccination rate in areas with the lowest uptake
- Recommending people wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed areas
- Reminding people to get their vaccinations, test regularly, meet with others outside their households in well ventilated spaces and wash hands regularly and well.

Cllr Richard Howitt, Chair of the Council's Adults and Health Committee: "Our vital public services – not just the health services, but the education of children in our schools - are starting to be severely affected by the rising rates of infection, with children missing their lessons or schools needing to close classes or even whole year groups because there aren't a safe level of adults present due to isolation."

Peer Challenge

The County Council invited the Local Government Association to send in a Peer Challenge team to look at how the council works. The team's report has now been published. The team found 'there are positive early signs that the joint administration in Cambridgeshire County Council is working collaboratively and there is a strong willingness to work together and create strategic plans to deliver against the future challenges and political ambition'. The team's main recommendations are as follows.

1. Devise a strategic approach to financial strategic planning for Cambridgeshire as a place.
2. Ensure the budget planning process for 2022/23 addresses the medium-term budget gap and incorporates contingency planning.
3. Develop a member/officer strategic forum to consider the overarching picture of progress and outcomes across the organisation.
4. Take action to recalibrate member roles, behaviours and conduct.
5. Sustainable capacity in the Chief Executive role needs to be established for Cambridgeshire.
6. Embrace the opportunity to reset, clarify and rebuild the different roles for the Combined Authority, the Greater Cambridge Partnership, Cambridgeshire County Council, and District and Town and Parish Councils in place shaping and place delivery, and take the lead where appropriate.
7. There is a need to review 'This Land'.
8. Review the effectiveness of the new Committee system arrangements, including the role of scrutiny, in six months.
9. The use of short-term additional capacity should be considered to ensure that there is the necessary capability to both develop and deliver the savings programme and strategic financial plan.
10. Develop some shared services to deliver greater efficiencies through shared data and client record systems and a shared service Target Operating Model where appropriate.
11. Further develop the current organisational resource to better support wider transformation and innovation.

There were also some recommendations about the future of shared services with our partners. • <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/Cambridgeshire-County-Council-Corporate-Peer-Challenge-Report.pdf>

Parental leave policy

The County Council's Constitution & Ethics Committee voted to recommend to the Full Council a new parental leave policy. The policy would allow six months maternity leave to councillors giving birth, adopting, fostering for adoption, or becoming surrogate parents, and two weeks paternity leave for biological, adoptive or surrogate fathers. The proposal is the result of a recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel, highlighting the positive benefits it could bring to attracting a more diverse group of people to become councillors.

Watercourse reinstatement grants

The County Council has agreed to offer grants from a pot of money set up to ensure watercourses across the county are properly maintained. Applications may be made by established community flood groups and parish councils where a watercourse needs to be reinstated, and the riparian owner* either cannot be identified or genuinely cannot afford the works to reinstate their watercourse.

*A riparian owner is anyone who owns a property where there is a watercourse within or adjacent to the boundaries of their property. A watercourse includes a river, stream or ditch. A riparian owner is also responsible for watercourses or culverted watercourses passing through their land.

The Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee has set criteria against which applications will be considered. It is expected that the work to bring the watercourse back up to standard would be one-off in nature, with them being regularly maintained thereafter.

Queen's Green Canopy

The Queen's Green Canopy initiative will see thousands of trees planted between now and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next summer. 70 special trees, one for each year of her reign, will be given to schools in cities across the UK, including Spring Meadow in Ely. Local individuals, schools, businesses, community groups, councils are all being encouraged to plant trees where appropriate to do so.

The County Council's website includes advice on this, and the national Queen's Green Canopy website will soon include a map on which residents can mark the trees they have planted as part of the scheme. In Cambridgeshire, the initiative is backed by the Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire Julie Spence. The County Council will be identifying some land in its ownership on which to plant trees.

- <https://queensgreencanopy.org>
- <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/climate-change-energy-and-environment/improving-the-natural-environment/trees-and-woodland/queens-green-canopy-project>

Climate Strategy review

The County Council is beginning the process of reviewing its Climate Change and environment strategy, which will come to the Environment & Green Investment Committee at the end of this year. The new administration has committed to move the Council's climate change targets forward towards 2030 where it can.

Waterbeach waste plant

The Environment Agency has issued updated permits for the in-vessel composting facility for garden waste, and the mechanical biological treatment facility for residual waste, at Waterbeach. These include new conditions to limit odour emissions in line with the Industrial Emissions Directive. If the facilities fail to comply with the Directive's Best Available Techniques conclusions by 17 August 2022, the facilities will need to shut down until they are compliant. The facilities at Waterbeach are operated under a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract between the Council and Donarbon Waste Management (now Amey). Under the contract, which ends in 2036, the costs of ensuring compliance fall to the Council. The Council has therefore approved additional prudential borrowing* in this financial year to enable the facilities to become compliant.

*Prudential borrowing is the set of rules governing local authority borrowing in the UK. Under prudential borrowing, the amount of debt and other liabilities most local authorities can incur is no longer capped by an upper limit. Instead borrowing must conform to the Prudential Code which (among other things) requires that borrowing be affordable and prudential.

There will clearly be some disruption to waste treatment at Waterbeach during these works—at cost to the Council and to Amey.

Gully Cleaning

The frequency and regularity of the gully clearance programme had been reduced under previous administrations. Our new administration has sought to remedy that by assigning new resource and budget to implement a 24-month rolling programme to clear all gullies across the County.

This will not solve the problems overnight, and the frequency and severity of storm events means that our historical drainage systems are going to be found inadequate more often. The capacity of those gullies has been found lacking twice already since July and in December we had the third highest rainfall event since records began.

This Land

This Land is Cambridgeshire County Council's arm's length property development company. *This Land* pays commercial rates of interest on the loans of approx £113m advanced to it by the council and the expected net income council is due to receive in the current financial year is £6m.

So far this year the company has repaid a loan of £2.04m and made interest payments totalling £1.06m. However, concern has been expressed about this project. For example, are the assumptions that *This Land* has made in its latest business plan reasonable and deliverable? Is there a clear understanding about the exposure to risk, particularly in the medium term? How could the firm quicken the pace of housing delivery and are there examples from other local authority related housing companies? Does *This Land* have the right skills, capabilities and expertise compared to a typical housing development company of this type? A review of *This Land* has therefore been commissioned and this will be complete later this month.

County Council Biodiversity

The new administration takes Biodiversity very seriously. Councillors have agreed the investment of a further additional £109k in seasonally dependent biodiversity projects to speed up progress on our climate change commitments.

The need for extra resources in year has been identified as a result of recent increased use of public open spaces (including several council-owned scheduled monuments) as more and more people have taken to the outdoors to enjoy what the county has to offer during the pandemic.

The requested £109k is to be used towards staff capacity and to undertake urgent and seasonally dependent site repairs and maintenance, plus beginning a biodiversity audit across the council's land which will help with the countywide 'doubling nature' agenda and the council's commitment to 20% biodiversity net gain.

County Council's New Shire Hall, Alconbury

Construction of the 'New Shire Hall' building HQ for Cambs County Council, a project commissioned by the previous administration, is now complete. The building has opened in a phased return to work plan and Council committee meetings have taken place there. Based at Alconbury Weald off the A1 toward Peterborough, there are no viable public transport connections from most parts of the county, so travel by car is currently necessary. A positive feature is the provision of solar panel carports over the parking spaces, which will supply renewable energy for the Hall and for electric vehicle charging.

The 'Multi-function Meeting Room' in the New Shire Hall is not large enough to hold a Covid-compliant meeting of Full Council, so for these meetings suitable venues still need to be hired.

New Shire Hall stands directly adjacent to the 'IMET' vocational training centre, a £10 million project launched by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority in 2018, which has now collapsed and is closed, largely due to the lack of public transport access.

Community Heat Initiative project

An electric bike ride from Cambridge to Swaffham Prior, to highlight a landmark retrofit scheme took place on 21 October, to mark the global climate change conference COP26. The event was organised by Cambridgeshire County Council and the CP Combined Authority. Riders picked up e-bikes from Newmarket Road P&R and cycled the nine miles to Swaffham Prior, nine miles away. The bike ride was held to highlight the efforts being undertaken in Cambridgeshire to make the county net carbon zero, with riders using either an electric or conventional bike.

The village is set to become the first in the UK to switch off oil and move onto zero-carbon heating, through ground source and air source heat pumps to heat homes.

The county council – which declared a climate emergency in 2019 - has set a target to cut 50% of its own direct carbon emissions by 2023 and it is on track to achieve this. For the wider Cambridgeshire area, the intention is to work at bringing the net zero target date closer towards 2030.

The project at Swaffham Prior includes an energy centre being created on adjacent farmland and a network of heating pipes under the village streets. The council is working with its technical partner Bouygues Energies & Services (pronounced "Bweegs").

Ground source heat pumps will be used to extract heat from the ground through a series of underground pipes. In warmer seasons, air source heat pumps will be used to absorb heat from the outside air which is then absorbed into a fluid. The fluid is passed through compressors (like a fridge in reverse) that increase the temperature, which in turn is used to heat the building and water circuits. I joined the group for the village tour.

Councillor Lorna Dupre, Cambridgeshire County Council's Environment and Green Investment Committee chair, said: "With so much focus on the environment for COP26 it was great to be able to showcase some of the innovative work being done in Cambridgeshire to tackle the climate emergency.

New Chief Executive for CCC

Candidates for Chief Executive of Cambridgeshire County Council were interviewed on Thursday and the preferred candidate will be recommended to the Full Council on Tuesday.

20 mph speed limits areas

The process of and conditions required for creating new 20 mph zones is currently quite restrictive. A review of this process is underway with the aim of making it more straightforward.

Active Travel Schemes

Highways & Transport Committee on Thursday agreed to make permanent the no-parking policy on Station Road Ely. The cycle lane can now extend from Back Hill through to the station roundabout. Seven other active travel proposals were also made permanent, including six schemes in Cambridge, where these will in future be supervised by the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

The Cambridgeshire Pension Fund

The Pension Fund has recently undertaken a major review of the Fund's Responsible Investment Policy, which considers a wide range of risks including climate change. The review included engagement with both Pensions Committee and Local Pension Board Members in respect of their Responsible Investment (RI) beliefs and from this developed a significantly enhanced RI Policy which is included in the Fund's Investment Strategy Statement.

To support the commitment, the Fund is undertaking regular monitoring of the Fund's portfolio to understand such metrics as the carbon intensity of the holdings, estimated carbon emissions and implied temperature rise, as well as the impact on the portfolio of alternative warming scenarios. This will enable future decarbonisation plans to be formulated and climate risks to be quantitatively managed.

Ely Area Capacity Enhancement consultation

The Ely area capacity enhancement (EACE) programme is a proposal to upgrade the railway to allow more trains to run through Ely bringing better connectivity and reliability for passenger services while meeting the demand for more rail freight between the Port of Felixstowe the West Midlands and the north to support sustainable, long-term economic growth.

Benefits:

The aspiration of the EACE programme is to provide additional capacity through Ely which can facilitate a combination of additional passenger and freight services from the current off peak 6.5 trains per hour (tph) in each direction to 10tph off peak in each direction.

The next round of the Ely Area Capacity Enhancement consultation has been launched. This focusses on the implications for Queen Adelaide and includes various options for road schemes associated with it. The consultation closes on 28 November; details can be found at:

<https://consultations.networkrail.co.uk/communications/ely-area-capacity-enhancement-scheme-phase-3/>

Council Structure

There are several different levels of local government within Cambridgeshire, and the following guide may of help.

County Council
Responsibilities: Education, Transport, Highways, Heritage, Social care, Libraries, Trading standards, Waste management, Maintaining their estate.
District Council
Responsibilities: Council tax payments and benefits, Household bin collections, Housing and housing benefits, Council leisure facilities, Environmental health, Residential planning
Parish/ Community Council
Responsibilities: Looking after community buildings, Open spaces, Allotments, Play Areas, Bus shelters
Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP)
Partnership between Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, University of Cambridge
The Combined Authority, Cambridge and Peterborough, our elected Mayor. CPCA
Responsibilities: Business support, skills, housing, transport strategy-liaising with Department of Transport, environment, international, digital connectivity, resilience, research and strategy.
Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge and Peterborough
To support and challenge the Chief Constable to provide effective and efficient policing services for the area.
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority
Responsibilities: delivering a fire and rescue service to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is made up of Cambridgeshire County Councillors and Peterborough City Councillors.

Information:

Report a Highways fault
If you see a problem; blocked gully/ drain, pothole or other Highways issue please report it here: https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults
Adult care assessment
Call centre: 0345 045 5202 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm on Saturday https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/organising-care-and-support/care-needs-assessment

Contact Details

Councillors and residents are welcome to contact me on any issue which is concerning them:

Cllr Piers Coutts piers.coutts@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Cllr Alison Whelan alison.whelan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

CITY OF ELY COUNCIL

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE. 8 November 2021 East Cambridgeshire District Councillor, Ely East – Cllr Lis Every

Community Safety Partnership Board (CSP) and the ECDC Youth Strategy

The CSP Delivery Group are working with the officers of the ECDC Youth Strategy to identify the youth provision (or lack of) across the District. There is a zoom meeting for all District Councillors and other stakeholders on 16 November to identify where there is provision to support preventative work and what the barriers are to achieving this elsewhere. This is identified as a key in supporting the well-being of young people and to provide the positive interventions that might prevent them being persuaded into crime and/or drugs. Funding can be available for youth workers (as it is in Littleport) and we are working on a strategy with our councillors for effective youth working in their areas.

We are also working on obtaining further funding from the new PCC to increase our capacity to deal with anti-social behaviour.

Road Safety is a key theme for the PCC and he will be supporting measures for this through the CS Partnership working. It is hoped that Parish Councils will 'buy in' to measures to increase awareness of road safety issues. Funding may be possible.

Bus, Walking and Cycling Project Working Group

This cross-party Working Group which has undertaken extensive research and analysis covering East Cambridgeshire to determine priority routes across the District continues to meet.. Parishes have been putting together their input. Although the process at the moment is far from clear, this work is really important.

It is anticipated that there might be another Transport consultation but at a recent Youth Advisory Board Political Question Time when questioned by young people from East Cambridgeshire and Fenland, the CPCA Mayor acknowledged that the work done by East Cambridgeshire was very thorough and it was clear we knew what we wanted. He agreed to work with local MPs to lobby Government for more funding for transport for both East Cambridgeshire and Fenland. The young people had written excellent questions – very polite but focussed. Just a reminder that the East Cambridgeshire YAB is one of the groups we use to learn the views of our young persons.

Skills and Economic Development Network

The wider consultation on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority place-based District Skills and Employment Strategy has been completed. The new strategy will be recommended for approval at the CPCA Skills Committee meeting on Wednesday 10th which I will be attending as Skills representative. Following consultation, the next steps for East Cambridgeshire was an inaugural meeting of business and skills stakeholders 2 weeks ago where our business representatives, DWP, library, adult skills service, cultural representatives and our Economic Development Officer met to discuss the current skills situation and plan for the local skills strategy that will be included in the

CPCA overarching one. Ely College and Bishop Laney Sixth Form are also part of this process.

Planning Committee

On Wednesday the third Phase of North Ely was discussed at the above. It was unanimously recommended to take to the next stage. It was generally felt to be a really good scheme and there had been excellent collaboration between Linden Homes and the ECDC Planning Department to bring forward a scheme which included much landscaping, access to electric car charging and a new country park.

7.11.21

Report from District Council

The full council took place at the Littleport Community Centre at 6pm on 21-10-21.

This meeting was itself was not pleasant and some very concerning events happened during this meeting.

There was a presentation from Superintendent James Sutherland. He outlined the plan for a new pilot scheme regarding combining speeding with community parking enforcement. Questions were asked by members, and it was confirmed that the scheme is the first of its kind and that it was unknown at this stage whether this trial would be successful,

The scheme would initially involve 4-6 volunteers at the start of this scheme throughout East Cambridgeshire who would be trained in parking enforcement and issuing parking tickets. He said that there may be more people recruited at a later stage.

A motion was put forward that this scheme be implement. There was a debate on this where amendments to the motions were defeated and the outcome of the motion is as follows.

i) that the Cambridgeshire Police Pilot Scheme to integrate community-based enforcement of speeding, anti-social and illegal parking under Section 38 of the Police and Crime Act 2017, be supported.

ii) that the proposals from Cambridgeshire Police to target identified 'hot spots' in the district with enhanced on-street enforcement in 2021/22 be supported.

iii) that Superintendent James Sutherland, Cambridgeshire Police (or representative), be invited to a future meeting to report on the evaluation of the pilot, when appropriate.

iv) that the Operational Services Committee be requested to review the effectiveness of the enforcement activity in 'hot spots' by October 2022.

v) that necessary support be provided to Cambridgeshire Police (when requested) to implement the above initiatives.

There were 3 questions from members of the public which did not follow procedure as these were directed to individual councillors and not the Chairman or the Chairs of the committee. these were questions were allowed to be read out by the members of the public.

The three questions were about the CLT's. The first 2 questions were answered with out incident, but the third question from a member of the public entered into a tirade of abuse at one of the members of the council which then continued to be directed at another member of the public. The chairman of the council was unable to control the meeting and the whole incident was not only a threat to the council members and officers but also to the public in the meeting.

The whole incident was not only unpleasant but shocking especially in light of the recent events of the murder of an MP.

The member of public was allowed to remain in the meeting until the end of the council meeting which again was extremely concerning.

There were further reports given, the decisions which can be found on <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/declists/211021%20Council%20Decision%20List.pdf>

The full agenda can be found on <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/fc211021%20Agenda%20Revised.pdf>

The draft minutes of the meeting have not been released yet.

Operational Services Committee meeting will be held on 15th November 2021 at the ECDC Council Chamber at 4.30pm

The Finance and Assets meeting will be held on the 25th November 2021 ECDC Council Chamber at 4.30pm

Christine Whelan

District Councillor Ely West