



Lina Joseph
Cambridgeshire County Councillor
Hardwick Division

May Report 2018

Dear all,

First of all, I would like to welcome the new District Councillors for our Division and I look forward to working together on behalf of all residents.

I must say I am glad that the election is over and I believe many of you also. Election leaflets are in the recycling bin and we must continue to focus on daily issues that affect our villages.

This month we have a Mental Health Awareness campaign. I would advise you to take the free online suicide prevention training offered by the Zero Suicide Alliance, a collaborative of National Health Service Trusts, businesses and individuals who are all committed to suicide prevention in the UK and beyond. You can find out more here:

<https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/>

I attended this past month a panel where staff reviewed care packages for individuals that have a mental health, physical and social care condition. There was a member from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) from the NHS, lead officer for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT) and social workers. It was extremely interesting to observe and very moving as some residents have very challenging situations. However, very uplifting that staff do everything they can to support those in most vulnerable situations.

Mental Health

You might remember from my last report that we are working with PhD students and researching key areas. As the Mental Health Champion I believed it was very important to get a question included in the offer and so it happened.

In April I had a meeting with the researchers, transformation team officers and Cllr. Bailey, Chairman for Adults Committee. It was extremely interesting and we hope that the work they do will help us identify areas that need to improve, that could be more efficient, basically, that the whole experience for a person contacting us with a mental health issue is easy, accessible and what they need.

They have around 6 months for this work. I will let you know what the results are.

New Home Service Advice Launched

In a first for the East of England, a new service which offers specialist housing information and advice to older people is being rolled out by Cambridgeshire County Council following a successful 7-month pilot in South Cambridgeshire last year.



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HOOP (Housing Options for Older People) is designed to ensure that all older people have access to free information, advice and support to consider their housing options and where they live at an early stage to maintain independence and wellbeing.

Moving house into sheltered accommodation in Cottenham in January has made all the difference to Audrey Taylor who says she is now “just loving life”. The 82-year-old had lived in Cottenham most of her life including 57 years in the same house with her husband. But when he suddenly died six years ago, she felt she could no longer stay there and 18 months later moved into her son’s garden annex in Histon which he had adapted for her. However, moving away from the village where she had built up a network of friends had a serious effect on her. “There was nobody I could really make contact with,” she said. “I would sometimes go for 24 hours without seeing a human being, I would feed the birds and the squirrels - that was the only contact different to my own. I was getting very depressed.”

After contacting the County Council, she had a home visit from an occupational therapist and a HOOP project worker who helped her make a home link application and secure a bungalow in Cottenham.

John Galvin, EAC FirstStop chief executive, said: “Last year's pilot HOOP service in South Cambs showed the benefits of having just one place to go for information and guidance on later life housing options. We look forward to working with our new partners to roll the service out across the County.”

HOOP can be accessed online or by telephone and is free to us. For more information, call **0800 310 2031** or visit hoop.eac.org.uk.

Annual General Meeting Political leadership

We had our AGM and I can confirm that all political positions have remain the same.

Strategic Transport responsibility

The first deal of devolution included the responsibility for transport. The County Council has been dealing with transport during this last year while the Combined Authority got up and running. However, we do not hold this responsibility any longer.

I have been expressing my and of most residents’ concerns about the Girton Interchange and I will continue to push for the Mayor to get involve and sort it out.

Regarding the Greater Cambridge Partnership, this organisation now reports to the Combined Authority. I believe the Mayor has a vote which he has not used but could do any time.

Road Maintenance

As I have been mentioning, Cambridgeshire has been allocated over £1.6m for potholes. There is more money to make our roads safer. I have looked at the resurfacing plans for this year and



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a couple of the villages in my division will be getting their roads resurfaced. I know how frustrating it can be to see your road in need of repair and not happening. I will continue to work with officers and get more roads in your villages included in that list!

I am happy to report potholes and other issues for you, however, you can also do it here:

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

Area Champion for South Cambridgeshire

Unfortunately, I have to stand down as Area Community Champion for South Cambridgeshire due to the changes in the political scenery at the District. The Liberal Democrats will now have the opportunity to appoint a County Councillor who is a South Cambridge representative.

I have truly enjoyed this role, every day there is more meat in that role and the opportunity to do great things for our communities at a strategic level. I very much hope that they utilise this resource, contribute to it, help officers shape it and make the most of it.

Local issues

Caldecote

I would have thought that the process for relocating the Children's Centre in Caldecote would have been smoother, however, there has been some challenges regarding the two organisations that were meant to be working together in order to make the most out of that building.

I had a good meeting with officers and Cllr. Bywater, Chairman of the Children's Committee, and we had a positive view that a compromised was going to be able to be reached by both organisations. However, since then, I believe the school has concluded that it was not possible to deliver CareClub from the same location. I will continue to support the school and pre-school.

Cambourne to Cambridge

At the moment GCP projects are in stand-by. There will be an LLF meeting on June. Please let me know if you haven't received the invitation and I can forward it.

I had a really good catch up with Dr. Colin Harris, Cambridge Connect, and it was very good to hear that he continues to work with James Palmer, the Mayor, and the Light-Rail has not been crossed out! I believe this should be the mode of transport we should aspire to and I will continue to push this message loud and to as many people as I can!

Local Plan

I know that the Local Plan has been a concern for many residents. The District Council is now waiting for the inspector's approval. I also know that Bourn Airfield has been questioned due to sustainability. Now the newly appointed government (Liberal Democrat) at South Cambridge District Council can decide whether to remove Bourn Airfield from the Local Plan.



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My main concern is that if they decide to take Bourn Airfield from the Plan, speculative developments will continue. I know many Liberal Democrat Councillors were against it so let's wait and see what happens.

Greenways

Many residents are delighted about this project. Creating off-road cycle routes, connecting the South with the City. I know some parishes have raised concerns about this and the initial proposals. I have been raising the concerns with officers and we must continue working together in order for these projects to be a success locally. Not every county has the financial resources to invest in infrastructure like we do here but it has to work for everyone.

Bus prices

Some residents brought to my attention that some of the villages closer to Cambridge pay more than those further away. I believe this has been the case for over a decade. I had a meeting this month with an officer from the Transport team and Cllr. Bates, Chairman of Economy and Environment Committee, in order to look at this again. We are going to be looking at the whole of the county and putting that work together for Stage Coach.

As you might already know, the County Council does not have the responsibility for buses. Stage Coach and Whipped are the companies which decide routes, prices, etc. We will continue to make suggestions and work together as much as possible.

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 Joseph