



Lina Joseph
Cambridgeshire County Councillor
Hardwick Division

Report 2019

Dear all,

I very much hope you all had a fabulous Christmas and wishing you a great start of a new year. As you may know my family is scattered around the globe and I spent a few days in Germany with one of my sisters and mother. It was a very nice break.

Children's Centres

More than 9 out of 10 of people responding to a survey say they like the way we've reshaped our Child and Family Centres.

In our recent Child and Family Centre survey 93% of the 330 people who shared their views online and at activity sessions agreed that provision was helpful.

The survey ran from September to November 2018 to give families the opportunity to feedback on the new service, which aimed to bring services closer to more vulnerable groups; and invited citizens to tell us how they felt the transition period felt.

The results showed:

- more than a third (36.67%) said they have attended a session in an outreach venue
- Facebook was the most popular choice for people finding out about activities (68.6%) , but people also praised the new look 'What's On' guide
- 6 out of 10 (62%) said they had only started using the service since April

https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/new-look-child-and-family-centres-get-seal-of-approval/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Greenways

I have been receiving much correspondence about this project. I have been raising the concerns with officers and will keep a close eye to how the new proposals develop after the analysis of the consultation. It is imperative that officers listen to residents and include their local knowledge about the area before taking any decisions.

Cambourne to Cambridge

As you know the Greater Cambridge Partnership is looking at analysing two alternative routes to the currently proposed. In the next few months we will have further detail of how this is developing. However, I am concerned that the current route will be maintained. The consultant from Arup is a leading figure in these types of transport schemes and the Mayor as well as officers have been listening to her conclusions about the most cost/effective route.

Human Trafficking

The Home Office has launched its consultation into the role of "First Responders" to modern slavery. These are organisations that can refer suspected victims of people trafficking and modern slavery to the proper authorities, which includes councils. The review is focusing on which organisations should be First Responders and how staff at these organisations are trained to perform this role.



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If you have any experience with being a First Responder please do get involved. The consultation is in the form of two online surveys (one for [First Responders](#) and one for [“non-First Responders”](#)) and will run until late January 2019.

Future Places

Future Place is a new programme aiming to unlock place-making potential at local level through quality in design, future thinking, and knowledge sharing.

For the first phase, local authorities are invited to put in writing their overarching vision (emerging or finalised) for an area and how they are currently working across their programmes to deliver the wider ambitions of the local authority by creating great places.

Joint submissions from adjoining local authorities are welcomed. The deadline for the first phase is 22 January 2019 – more information can be found [here](#).

Housing

The House of Commons Library has published a [briefing paper on housing delivery in England](#), which contains best practice examples of the innovative work councils are doing to deliver homes in their areas.

The House of Commons Library regularly publishes briefing papers that are topic for those working in local government, so it may be useful to [sign up](#) to receive these briefings online.

News



More than 20 organisations are signing up to a new partnership to intensify the fight against scams and to make Cambridgeshire and Peterborough a scam-free county.

Led by Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire Police, the Against Scams Partnership unites more than 20 organisations, including Peterborough City Council, Trading Standards, Age UK, Neighbourhood Watch and NatWest Bank, who will work together to raise awareness of scams and to support victims of scams.

According to Action Fraud, 53% of people aged 65 or over have been targeted by scams and criminals. Being a victim of this crime can have devastating impact. These crimes are often targeted at people in our communities that are vulnerable for a variety of reasons, including poverty, isolation, frailty, disability, cognitive impairment, and by the very nature of them being specifically targeted.

Anyone can be a scam victim, regardless of age, gender, education or economic background; partners are committed to act on the Against Scams Partnership four key aims:

1. Improve awareness of scams
2. Increase protection for everyone, and especially vulnerable people, against scams



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3. Implement consistent recording of scams and improve referral processes
4. Improve support for potential victims of scams

Cllr Steve Criswell, chair of Cambridgeshire County Council's Communities and Partnership committee said: "The impact of scams on a victim can be devastating, in some cases people lose their hard earned life savings and are left emotionally and financially unable to continue to live independently. We need to increase the awareness of how to spot a scam and share that knowledge with friends and neighbours."

Jason Ablewhite, Police and Crime Commissioner said: "Each year fraud costs the UK economy between £5 and 10bn and it's believed that only 5% of victims actually report the crime. It's vital that we stand together to tackle this issue head on. We all need to work together to achieve the same goal, which is a scam-free county."

Join us in our Friends Against Scams campaign by taking part here :
<https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/elearning/Cambridgeshire>

If you think you or a relative, friend or neighbour have been the victim of a scam or fraud or you are concerned about a possible scam or fraud, please report it to the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 04 05 06 or Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

South Cambridge District Council

Tackling loneliness. It is great to see this administration continuing with the work that Conservatives started before them. Cllr. Sue Ellington, who was the portfolio holder for Well-Being then, put a lot of hours into tackling loneliness and was spearheading this project. The idea is for a new toolkit that can give practical help to communities to tackle loneliness and social isolation – which can be as bad for you as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

According to the Campaign to End Loneliness, there are nine million lonely people in the UK and four million of them are older people. Furthermore, according to Age UK, half a million older people go at least five or six days a week without seeing or speaking to anyone.

Now, South Cambridgeshire District Council has published an online reference guide containing tangible advice on how local groups can set up projects like community cafes, mobile warden schemes and mental health and wellbeing groups.

Crucially, it sets-out how communities can access funding from a variety of sources to get their ideas off the ground. This could include applying to the Council's Community Chest scheme, which provides funding for grass-roots projects, especially those that work to reach people who are lonely or socially isolated. It gives pointers for staying on the right side of health and safety rules, advice on publicity to spread the word about a new project and outlines how groups can measure whether their efforts are working and making a difference.



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Combined Authority



The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority have shown their support for a collaborative approach to deliver new homes for disabled adults in Cambridgeshire.

Work has officially kicked off at the site of a former agricultural garage in Chatteris to build fifteen new apartments and three bungalows at the site on Huntingdon Road. The £4m scheme, called Barber Gardens after two young brothers from the town who perished in World War 1, is expected to be completed in summer 2020.

It is being delivered by specialist supported living developer HBV who collaborated with Chatteris Town Council, Fenland District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council to get the scheme started.

Mayor of Chatteris, Councillor Bill Haggata and Roger Thompson of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority officially opened works at the site in a special ground-breaking ceremony which included parents of prospective residents.

Councillor Haggata, said: "I'm delighted to start work at this site in the heart of our community. We need to ensure that the most vulnerable in our society are well cared for and looked after in suitable accommodation. This development will put a lot of smiles on a lot of people's faces when it is completed next year. I'm looking forward to visiting the site when it is completed and meeting the new residents."

Roger Thompson, director of housing and development at Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, said: "This development is a perfect example of collaboration between the private and public sector and is a tangible demonstration of real teamwork. Barber Gardens is set to be a fantastic example of what can be achieved through innovative partnership, working not only between statutory, not for profit and private sectors, but importantly between the NHS and Adult Social Care Teams. We're proud to support this scheme and the best bit is yet to come; welcoming the residents into their new home. We are looking forward to exploring further ways we can support such projects in the future."

Alastair Sheehan, Business Development Director at HBV, said: "We have had tremendous support from the planning team at Fenland District Council and the adult social care officers at Cambridgeshire County Council. Along with positive guidance from local ward councillors in Chatteris and engaging with the local community we are delighted that everyone recognises the need for specialist supported living accommodation for some of the local community's most vulnerable people."

Local Natural Partnership Board

As you may already know I represent the Council in this outside body. You have over 10 organisations represented and it's always active, trying to push the natural agenda forward and upwards.



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Recently we have been able to launch a new website, please take a look at it. This is a very exciting milestone. www.naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk

Events

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

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

Funding portal

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

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

Highways

A reminder that you can report road maintenance issues here:

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

Hedges

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

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

Roadworks

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

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

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

Kind regards,

Lina

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

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