

# Monthly update for parish councils: January 2012

## County Council and Cabinet meetings

There was a Cabinet meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January. CCC will work closer with Peterborough as a waste partnership. Park and Ride sites are to be competitively outsourced. There was a report on older people's mental health. CCC have received a European grant £800k to mobilise local energy investments in public sector projects totalling £18m.

They met again 31<sup>st</sup> January. This was mostly about the budget (see below). After ten years of houses being built, finally a new secondary school for Cambourne was approved. It has been reported in the press that Cambridgeshire County Council, Northampton County Council and Norwich City Council will pool Finance and IT resources in a partnership called LGSS <http://tinyurl.com/6q2857m> The next Cabinet Meeting is on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

The County Council meets on 21st February 2012, and the budget will be the primary topic. The 24<sup>th</sup> Feb has been set aside for further business.

The budget as proposed is to increase spending in adult social care, invest in improving roads, transport and broadband, provide more school places as well as boosting business and housing. <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CMSWebsite/Apps/News/Details.aspx?ref=441>

The proposed raise in Council Tax will be 2.95 per cent so that for Band D, that corresponds to a £30.87 increase on last year. This means rejecting the one-off Government payment to freeze Council tax (the "Pickles money").

The proposals include £630 million of capital investment over the next five years and the planned reduction of up to 154 full time equivalent posts from the County Council as announced to employees in November. Prudential borrowing will be £246m over the next 5 years.

There will be an increase of £6.4 million for Adult Social Care in 2012 – some £188.5 million will be spent on Adult Social Care in the next 5 years.

Capital investment of an extra £90 million over five years has been announced to improve the road network, increase safety, £33 million to be spent this year.

Children's services will spend £77 million, mainly on providing additional school places.

More unusually the budget includes a £20 million investment in superfast broadband, £26 million for Chesterton Station and £29 million for the Ely level crossing problem.

Other money is allocated to libraries ( just under a million).

£1.5 million investment is targeted at local transport schemes but subsidised services are reduced completely over the next 3 years

David and Sue are working on an alternative budget with the Lib Dem group.

One of the things we disapprove of is the inclusion of £100K for allowances increase for County Councillors. There is a survey to complete (at <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/involved/allowances> )

The external body meets to decide our allowances so that this can be put forward to the next Council meeting. There will be a public meeting on February 27 at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge from 6.30pm.

Send written comments to Jim Milne, Cambridgeshire County Council, Box No. Res 1109, Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP or email him at [jim.milne@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:jim.milne@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
Environmental Services

Work on the B1049 cycleway will be finished soon and work on Kay Hitch Way is due to start at the end of February.

Our local subsidised routes 106 and 110 are still undecided. Cambridge future transport has not had a good start and there are no further pilots like Sawston and Duxford planned. I am very concerned that this has been reported to have £120,000 with another £40,000 committed for one passenger who travelled 3 times and didn't pay as it was not registered as a bus route.

Gritting: the main routes seem to have held up well. Secondary routes tend to be school bus routes – these are only done when resources allow ( usually Monday – Friday).

The gritting routes can be found at:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/winter/grittingroutes.htm>

I have had inquiries about clearing pavements - the message from the Government is that it is a good idea to clear paths and not to be put off by the fear that someone could be injured and then sue, as this is most unlikely: further information can be found at

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG\\_191868](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/NI1/Newsroom/DG_191868)

Parents have now received their letters in Oakington regarding the withdrawal of school bus places that live under three miles from IVC, as it expected that they can use the guided busway.

**Histon Police Panel** met 12<sup>th</sup> January at CVC: topics included new signs for Orchard Park and extra patrols around Water Lane Histon following antisocial behaviour – probably associated with late night revellers + review of street lighting and nearby derelict building. In Cottenham, parking on the Co-op corner still causes problems.

**Jubilee Street and other parties:** these need 12 weeks notice to close the road - see

[http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/trafficmanagement/events/ontheroad/street\\_parties.htm](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/trafficmanagement/events/ontheroad/street_parties.htm)

### **Forthcoming meetings and events**

3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2012	Surgery: Oakington
17 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2012	Surgery: Orchard Park Community Centre 7pm
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2012	County Council Meeting
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2012	Reserve County Council budget
27 Feb 2012	Allowances public meeting Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge from 6.30pm
29 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2012	Cambridge Traffic Management Area Joint Committee
29 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2012	Northstowe Parish Forum 7pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar 2012	Surgery: Rampton Village Hall 7pm
6 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2012	Cabinet meeting

Both this monthly report, and the ones for previous months are on our website <http://www.chilibdems.co.uk/>

Sue Gymer on behalf of Sue Gymer and David Jenkins  
County Councillors for Cottenham, Histon and Impington

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