

The District Council has been offered the equivalent to a 2.5% council tax increase from the Government but unfortunately the administration decided not to accept this and instead increased the council tax by 2.95%. The difference was only £18,000. There was a surplus of £600,000 at the end of last year, which has been put into a special reserve in case things get bad. We have argued that £10,000 of that reserve could have been given to Dial-a-Ride.

The possibility of a traveller's site in Hod Hall Lane has now been removed from the Local Development Framework, however, yet another planning application has been received. This is clearly against the East Cambs plan.

The new Audit Sub Committee was set up last May and it will be removed after just one year. However, the government's abolition of many quangos, including the Audit Commission has resulted in a reduction of East Cambs audit fee from over £94,000 to £56,000.

A working party was set up to devise a new system of monitoring East Cambs performance and risks. I was elected chairman of this group and we have suggested new systems much simplified from the complex requirements of the last Labour government, but still adequate for our needs.

Although only a substitute on the planning committee I have attended four meetings out of the twelve this last year, which included the planning application for the new Sainsburys.

County Cllr Bill Hunt had sent the following report:

The County Council priorities are to protect the vulnerable in the County (increased funding for Adult Social Services, etc.). To act on a policy of "Cambridgeshire is open for Business" (Introduce Superfast Broadband, build new mainline railway station at the Science Park in Cambridge, improve the A14, build a new southern link road in Ely, maintain and improve major roads. To keep the authority's finances strong and able to support residents during the current tough times (look at smart ways to do things, eliminate waste and reduce red tape). Promote localism with Parish Councils and other groups taking more control of their lives.

Activities as a County Councillor have included:

Acting as Chairman of the Witchford Recycling Centre Liaison Committee to develop and open the new centre as a "team" with the Council, local businesses and local residents (still ongoing).

Helping to make the roll out of County street lighting sensible and flexible.

Promoted and pushed for new railway station at Cambridge Science Park and link to Guided Bus system.

Prevented imposition of "blanket" 50mph limit on A10 between Ely and Cambridge but pushed (with success) for 50mph limit introduction for about half a mile of A10 to help protect Little Thetford junction.

Achieved minor road improvements at Ely Road, Little Thetford (bus stop), Witchford Main Street (bus stop) and managed to have drain cleared out a Broadway in Wilburton.

After a long struggle managed to have 300 yards of 40mph restriction established at Station Road, Haddenham to protect dangerous junction to Grunty Fen and Steam Engine Rally entrance. Displaced 30mph warning signs re-erected at southern approach to Wentworth.

Still working on flexible approach to fares on school buses and 40mph limit on A1123 between Wilburton and Haddenham.

Thank you for your continued support.

8. Other Reports

A. Aldreth Community Association

Activities for the year included our annual quiz, carol concert, Waterbeach brass band concert, a choral/piano concert, a Lindy Hop dance demo and lessons, a vintage film night and our summer "farmers markets". However the highlight of the year was undoubtedly Blossoms & Bygones when the

