

**District Councillor Reports****Annual Report 2013/14****District Councillor Pauline Wilson**

The Ely Country Park continues to take shape and is well worth a visit. Over the next few months there is going to be an improved children's play area. Grants for communities and Section 106 and CIL money are available and Aldreth Play Park is to be refurbished very soon. This year saw the introduction of wheelie bins and most people have found they are a real asset to improving their recycling. Recycling has increased from 35% to 54%. The Maltings is to be divided into two businesses and a new restaurant operator, La Razza due to open shortly.

Neighbourhood Panels have now ceased due to lack of public members attending and a new forum, a Parish Conference to be held once a year at ECDC. Shape Your Place is a Website for anyone to use and raise any issues. You can always contact Gareth and I, either by phone 740617 or email paulineawilson@btinternet.com

We continue to assist residents with planning problems. This involves meeting with residents and helping them through the process, including consulting with planning officers at ECDC and attending planning meetings to speak either for or against the planning application on their behalf.

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**District Councillor Gareth Wilson**

The Administration is proposing a radical reorganisation with the possibility of about twenty staff redundancies and a complete reorganisation of the committee system. A number of Conservative Councillors are very upset about these changes with one resigning his council seat and two defecting to become independents. I proposed an alternative, which got some support but unfortunately lost by just two votes. This was particularly disappointing as East Cambs made a surplus of £226,000 in 2013/2014 and without any cuts is budgeting a break-even budget for 2014/2015. The following year the forecast deficit is largely caused because the current council leader wants to put one third of the "New Homes Bonus" into a special reserve instead of accepting it, as part of central government revenue funding along with the other two thirds.

The Coalition Government has offered a Revenue grant to East Cambs equivalent to 1 percent council tax increase. This year this was accepted so there will be no increase in the East Cambs portion of your Council tax.

I have continued to represent East Cambs DC on the Haddenham Drainage Board.

Haddenham's village vision along with those visions of all the villages in East Cambs has been inserted into the East Cambs Local Plan. This has now been to the Government Inspector and is in the process of a few revisions before it can be approved.

East Cambs was successful in obtaining a government grant of £5million, which was used to provide wheelie bins and the vehicles to use them for recyclable waste and green waste. The new system seems to be working well.

I am a member of the East Cambs District Council Planning Committee, which meets on the first Wednesday of each month. I am therefore able to assist people with advice on how the planning system works and what is likely to be accepted or rejected, but I leave it to Pauline to fight a case because if I either support or oppose an application I would not be able to vote if the application comes to the Planning Committee.

Cllr Gareth Wilson

