

Within Haddenham the most contentious issue has been the potential development at Northumbria Close. I was pleased to be able to act in support of residents that felt the Village Vision process had not been transparent in terms of exception site developments. I have enquired in the planning department today about progress in the planning appeal by Sanctuary Housing and the appeal is in process and officers are not optimistic about upholding the refusal. I hope that some of the planning gain money derived from the development can be used to at least ameliorate the pedestrian and traffic conflicts in Station Road, however the administration is banking all available money towards Ely based infrastructure.

I broadly support low cost housing for local people and can see merit in exploring all avenues to provide more of it. However, developments especially out of envelope, must demonstrate that the community is aware of the impacts and is supportive of them. Evolving Council policy is to enable Community Lane Trusts across the District. The first is in Stretham and it will be interesting to see how benefit to the community is defined in a development area that is proposed to be approximately 25% of the size of the current built envelope, with large numbers of market houses supporting a small percentage of rented units. Definitions of affordability, genuine community ownership in perpetuity and transparent nomination policies are yet to be adequately explained. Where Stretham leads Haddenham may follow, I pray that the consultation on any proposals is better than the possibly misleading expectations of the Village Vision.

Many district across the country have alternate weekly waste and recycling collections, indeed all other districts in Cambridgeshire do so without any obvious negative effects, they enjoy recycling rates above 60%, ours is a paltry 36%. In its wisdom the coalition government has made grant aid available to maintain weekly collections, extra cash to reinforce inefficiency! ECDC has bid successfully for five million pounds to purchase new trucks with lifts and 70,000 plastic wheeled bins for the new service. The black bag has been saved for now but the infrastructure is in place for a County wide alternate weekly service in future years, this is openly discussed at Council.

As yet there is no decision on car park charging in Ely, we have a statement from the Council Leader that rejects charging but formally the decision to charge or not, to defer or cancel has not been made. It will be interesting to see what is on the next Transport Committee agenda as a recommendation.

The Bill to allow extensions without planning permission in back gardens has moved on this week, despite some MPs voting against it. If this Bill becomes law the role of Parish Councils in many applications will cease, to be replaced perhaps with a new responsibility for neighbour dispute resolution.

## 7. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

**Aldreth Community Association:** Mike Wells, Chairman reported that 2012 had been a quiet year in terms of activities in the Village Centre. Unfortunately they had to cancel both the normally popular Waterbeach Brass Band Concert and the Quiz Night due to unforeseen circumstances and a clash of dates. The Produce Markets were also cancelled due to the weather not being good enough to produce any spare produce. The annual Carol Concert was held and the Centre also benefited from a performance of Romeo & Juliet held in John Shippey's garden.

The main fundraiser for the year was undoubtedly Blossoms & Bygones, which followed the 1940s theme of last year and although not as well attended still proved a great success.

The Centre still manages to keep profitable with existing regular hirers' income covering day-to-day expenditure. This has been achieved without the need to increase hire fees.

It has been encouraging to have received so much support this year from residents too numerous to mention individually but Mike wished to thank the Committee, the Blossoms & Bygones Committee, the residents who helped in clearing the scrub in School Lane, which will hopefully lead to a new path down to the Recreation Field, the group that provided, erected and maintained the Christmas tree in very windy weather and to everyone who has helped in any way towards supporting events and the maintenance of the Village Centre.

**Haddenham Library:** Moira Goddard, Chairman reported that they continue to pick up books from Huntingdon store and are still accepting good quality donations either to replace old copies or for re-sale during fundraising. Another small kinder box for children's books has been purchased, which is used a lot.