

4 Clerk's/Chairman's report

Graffiti service - a new free graffiti removal service is now available in South Cambs. Probation Services will be working in the district on a Thursday and will be able to remove graffiti providing an indemnity form has been completed and returned to this office. Probation Services have been providing a graffiti removal service the same as this in other districts for some time. They remove graffiti from most surfaces but find if it is on fences/wood it is better to paint over it rather than use the high pressure washer. We hope we will be able to work with Parish Councils to help remove any graffiti, as it can have an impact on the fear of crime and how people feel about where they live. I have attached the indemnity form for this service and hope Parishes will sign the disclaimer to give permission for graffiti to be removed regularly from areas which are their responsibility, for example bus stops and skate parks, so permission will not have to be sought for each individual piece. If Probation Service then happen to be in or go through your village and spot some graffiti they may be able to remove it there and then.

Land adjacent A14 - I wrote to the Enforcement Officer thus: "..... in which you stated that you had given "Balfour Beatty 28 days from 11 January to clear the site and revert it to its former state".

One of our Parish Councillors spoke with Balfour Beatty today and was told that the material was being stored on site in readiness for the work on the Cambridge City riverside bridge.

As more than 28 days have passed since your letter dated 11 January we look forward to enforcement action being taken to return this land to its former state."

Do we want to make an official complaint about the way this has been handled? If so please work out the exact wording for me to send.

War memorial – has been cleaned. The invoice will be sent in April.

Gate Chesterton Fen – gate is being installed 2 March.

Bus services – following consultation the CCC has been able to save 13 services out of the 15 under review. The 19 Sunday service to Wisbech will be replaced by a reduced level of service on a commercial basis.

Crime – updates from Eric Spoelstra received. The next Histon Neighbourhood Panel Meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th. March 07. Starting at 7:30pm. Doors will open at 7 o'clock for you to have a chat with your Neighbourhood Police Constables and PCSO'S. The venue will be at the Visitor Centre, Milton Country Park.

Signs – Jolly Brewers - the Enforcement Officer promised to talk with the landlord.

Colts football – letter from the secretary of the colts football club received thanking Council for the donation "very much appreciated and is a great help towards the running costs of our pitched outside Milton".

Mobile Library – the number of mobile libraries will be reduced from 8 to 6. Consultation on the revised routes will take place in June. Changes will take place in January 2008.

Office electricity – I believe that I have now sorted out the controls of the storage heaters in order to keep the electricity costs as low as possible as it appears to be during night time that most of the electricity is used. We are spending about £70 per quarter on car park lighting.

Environment Agency – Residents have expressed concerns about the type of material being buried in the golf course Ely Road. Paul Clark of the EA has investigated and is happy with the material going into the site. Some plastic must be picked out and some road planings taken off site.

Edmund Green - a fence has been erected adjoining Edmund House and Parish Council owned land known as Edmund Green and on land owned by the Parish Council. I have written to Gary Simcox, Cambridge Mencap.

Community Care grant – I am pleased to report that the CCC have awarded us £3,000 for 2007-08 towards our Community Care Scheme.

Grass cutting – County Council budget for verges will remain the same in 2007 – £1028.74.