

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**  
**held on Monday 30 April 2018 at 7.30p.m in the Bowl's Pavilion, Coles Road, Milton**

**Present:** J E Coston (Chair), R J Farrington, H M Smith, A Bradnam, A Horne, D Owen, D Wildman,  
S Corder, Clerk  
4 members of the public

1. **Introduction by Chairman and apologies for absence:** The Chairman extended a warm welcome to everyone present at the meeting.  
Apologies: T Leavens – personal, R Summerfield – personal,
2. **Introduction of Parish Councillors:** The Parish Councillors introduced themselves. The Chair reported that the council now have 8 members of the 15 needed and made an appeal for new members to join.
3. **To confirm minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2017:**  
HMS Proposed to accept the minutes, AH Seconded. **All AGREED.** The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on the 15 May 2017 were approved and signed.

4. **Chairman's Annual Report including draft accounts 2017/18**

The Chairman's report was circulated and included information on the following:

Joint funded speed indicator – soon to be in operation, war memorial cleaned, Youth Club is now being run by the Connections Bus Project, A10 trees next to Parish Council allotments – who is responsible, Trolley Bus, community care, maintenance, planning, Waterbeach new development, new website, MPC  
Milton Parish Council has gained grants and donations totalling £99,697 to cover the cost of replacing the play area by the Community Centre in Coles Road. *'This project will provide a real boost to the people of Milton. It's fantastic that WREN (part of the Landfill Communities Fund) has awarded us this money and we're really looking forward to our play park taking shape in July'. 'We are also very grateful and acknowledge the grant we have received from the Amey Community Fund (part of the Landfill Communities Fund) which has contributed towards the cost of this project'.*

This is a fantastic achievement and is all down to the work of a small group of volunteers who joined the Parish Council Play Working Party in 2016. This summer we will see the installation of this new exciting play area. Well done and thank you to everyone involved.

**Future challenges**

- Updating play equipment – finding funding, planning and consulting on replacement equipment
- Sourcing additional recreation space – we are still under the standard for land for sport activities
- Spending £50,000 of ring fenced arts funding from a developer on an art related project(s)
- Waterbeach development including roads and infrastructure pressures - considering the planning details and responding
- Continuing to provide services over and above the minimum

JEC thanked the Parish Councillors, including those who stood down during the past year and those who have not sought re-election, for all they had done over the last year and recent years as it had been a very busy time. JEC also thanked our Tree Warden, Bob Waters, who has been of great help over the years and those who manage Milton Community Centre and Recreation Grounds. JEC also made a plea for more people to join the Parish Council.

5. **Charities' Report - Report for the Year to 31/12/2017**

A report was received from Andy Gray, Clerk, Milton Parochial Charities as follows:

A total of £2,892 was received in rent from tenants who farm on land owned by the Charity.

Investment Income amounted to £513.

The Charity administers 3 Lifeline Alarms for Milton residents although this service is being wound up.

The Charity donated £500 during the year to the Parish Council Community Care Scheme, £2,000 towards the cost of tree maintenance within the village and £4,000 towards the new boardwalk and bridge at Tomkins Mead.

Q: How many committee members are there?

A: 7



## **6. Milton Community Centre Report**

Milton Community Centre report received from Andy Gray, Community Centre Manager as follows;

### Bookings

These continue very much as in previous years, with the main building being used most of the time during the day and every week day evening. Weekends are also very busy, even though Saturday night parties are not so popular.

The Annexe continues to be used by Kids-R-U's, before and after school or all day during school holidays. It is also used every evening Monday to Thursday + Saturday mornings by various different groups. Children's birthday parties are held on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, on average twice a month.

The Youth Building hosts the Youth Club on a Tuesday evening, Young Carers use the facilities every other Wednesday afternoon and Cavalry Chapel use it in the evening on the first and third Friday of the month.

North Lodge Pavilion is used on Wednesday and Thursday mornings by IVC for an adult French Class and Inland Waterways use it every couple of months for evening meetings. It is also used by Milton Colts Football and Milton Cricket Club at weekends.

### Maintenance and Improvements

The following work has been carried out during the last year:

- The Community Centre floors in the main hall and lounge have been refurbished
- The Community Centre main hall and lounge have been decorated
- The Annexe children's toilets have been replaced
- A footpath has been constructed linking the Bowls Pavilion to the Doctors Surgery
- The fence around The Sycamores play area has been removed as this had fallen into disrepair and it would have cost in excess of £10,000 to replace

### Staff

Besides myself, there are 3 staff members – Kevin, Ray and Philip, who share some of the cleaning duties and lock the buildings up in the evenings and at weekends.

HMS thanked the MCC for running the centre for the village.

## **7. Milton Action for Youth**

The Accounts for the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 were tabled.

HMS reported that the Youth Club accounts at CBS has £73.84 balance left as of 1 April 2018. Outgoings were: £70.00 expenses to July 2017 and £30.00 for Scouts minibus for bowling trip.

JEC thanked HMS for overseeing the Youth Club and the finances.

## **8. County Councillor's Report from Anna Bradnam**

The County Councillor's report was tabled, the main topics being: Cambridgeshire City Council – budget: the Council aims to make savings of £35 million in 2018-19, on top of the £215 million saved since 2011 – council tax: Council voted to increase Council Tax for 2018/19 by 2.99% – Shire Hall site: the Council is planning to move the County Council offices and sell the Shire Hall site. Waterbeach new town: AB set up a series of joint Parishes meeting with CCC and SCDC officers to assist in formulating their initial responses to these applications. SCDC has arranged a Waterbeach Community Forum for the same purpose. Local Plan – awaiting decision. Will the sewage works be moving? A10 Ely to Cambridge transport study, County highways contract, Mobile vehicle activated sign: sign to be on a rota with Waterbeach and Landbeach, Buses – Ely Road bus stop: AB is still working with County officers to move the bus stop to Ely Road, Rail transport – Waterbeach station – Cambridge North Station – Fen Road level crossing – Network Rail proposed level crossing closures, Cycle routes: Waterbeach to Milton quote in for siding back the cycle path to restore the tarmac width, Phase 1 of the Chisholm Trail: the section from Cambridge North railway station to Coldham's Lane has been approved as has the Abbey Chesterton bridge, Amey's Waste Recovery Facility (incinerator), Children's centres: County Council voted through funding cuts to Children's centres across Cambridgeshire, Libraries: savings are being sought in the library service, Working with Parishes: AB has been working with Parish Councils monthly, raising concerns with Officers and trying to find answers and getting things done in our villages, Litter picking on the River Cam towpath: AB is trying to arrange a proper agreement with SCDC/Shared Waste Service for collection of rubbish.



Q: Is Anglian Water site (sewage works) in Milton Parish as there is talk of relocating the sewage works for proposed housing and what can be done about it?

A: Yes parts of the site to be developed near the sewage works are in the Milton boundary. (The AW site is in the City). MPC will be consulted on any planning works and comments would be put forward.

#### **9. District Councillor's reports from Anna Bradnam and Hazel Smith**

The main headings from **Anna Bradnam** included:

A report from Milton Air Quality Working Party, Waterbeach New Town, Government's Housing White Paper, Local plan, Land North of Fen Road, Benet Close, Buses Ely Road bus stop, RTPI opposite Tesco, Rail – Cambridge North Station, Greater Cambridge Partnership and Milton Road Local Liaison Forum, Rubbish collection, Ending loneliness in Cambridgeshire, land in Parish ownership.

The main headings from **Hazel Smith** included:

Elected Mayor and the Combined Authority, Greater Cambridge Partnership, Dual carriageway A10 – proposed route late 2019 when the planning application will be lodged, The Greenways project, Planning shared services, Waterbeach New town, A14 developments, Development near Cambridge North Station, Air Quality Working Group, Chesterton Fen – S101A Application, Youth issues and boundary changes.

Q: What length of time is left on the landfill site and why has there has been a lack of road cleaning on Butt Lane?

A: The machine that clears the mud off the road is currently in for repair due to a wheel wash issue. The planning application for the landfill site expires in 2020. In 2019 waste will stop being dumped at this site so capping of the site can begin.

Q: What can be done about the ongoing parking issues at the entrances to The Rowans, can double yellow lines be put in?

A: We have spoken to the Police about the parking issue and were informed as long as they are parking 10 metres back from the main junction nothing can be done. If the owners are parking dangerously then picture evidence can be sent to the police. Double yellow lines would move the problem further round into The Rowans and due to lack of Police resources it would be hard to enforce.

JEC thanked both the District Councillors for all their hard work and efforts.

#### **10. Question and Answer Session**

Questions from the public included:

Q: Why has there been a decrease in Councillors not just in MPC.

A: Most areas are struggling to get new Councillors on board. With the retirement age going up and people working longer hours, they just do not have the time to volunteer.

Q: What are MPC future challenges?

A: Improvements and updates to the new website are ongoing. We have been encouraged to source extra recreational space within the village within the new Local Plan.

Q: What is the archaeological situation on Fed Road?

A: There is currently an application in with Historic England. When they first considered it they did not register the site but did not decide to refuse to register it either. When the planning application came in further archaeological checks were carried out. Historic England will look at the report again – we are awaiting the outcome. MPC have objected to the planning proposal for Fen Road.

The meeting closed at 8.45p.m.

Signed.....Date.....

## **Milton Parochial Charities - Report for the Year to 31/12/2017**

A total of £2892 was received in rent from tenants who farm on land owned by the Charity.

Investment Income amounted to £513.

The Charity administers 3 Lifeline Alarms for Milton residents although this service is being wound down.

The Charity donated £500 during the year to the Parish Council Community Care Scheme, £2000 towards the cost of tree maintenance within the village and £4000 towards the new boardwalk and bridge at Tomkins Mead.

Andy Gray  
Clerk, Milton Parochial Charities  
23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018



## **MCC Managers Report for Parish Council APM, April 2018**

### **Bookings**

These continue very much as in previous years, with the main building being used most of the time during the day and every week day evening. Weekends are also very busy, even though Saturday night parties are not so popular.

The Annexe continues to be used by Kids-R-U's, before and after school or all day during school holidays. It is also used every evening Monday to Thursday + Saturday mornings by various different groups. Children's birthday parties are held on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, on average twice a month.

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### **Staff**

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Andy Gray  
Community Centre Manager  
23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018

# Milton Action for Youth

## report to Annual Parish Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2017 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2018

### INCOME

1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017 balance	173.78
Interest Dec 2017	0.06

### EXPENDITURE

2 June given to Jasmin Adams for expenses for Summer term	70.00
6 July Scouts minibus, for bowling trip	30.00

BALANCE (Cambridge Building Society) at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018      73.84

Note: youth club expenses are now provided for by the Connections Bus Project who run our youth club. They bill the Parish Council termly.

*Hazel M. Smith*

Hazel Smith (Treasurer)

I have examined the passbook and agree this is an accurate record of the financial position.

*Peter Rice*

Signed by Peter Rice



## **County Councillors Annual Report – 2017/18 - Anna Bradnam**

It has been such an interesting year, serving residents in Milton, Landbeach, Chittering, Waterbeach, Horningsea and Fen Ditton. In reviewing my first year as your County Councillor I firstly want to thank our hard-working parish councillors, who day-to-day deal with so many issues of real concern for us all. Likewise, thank you to our District Councillors who speak up on our behalf at South Cambs.

### **Cambridgeshire County Council**

The Conservative majority voted to appoint Conservative Chairs and Vice-Chairs to all Council Committees and changes which reduce opportunities for debate and challenge. They created two new Committees, and five new Area Champions, whose roles duplicate the roles of existing Committees and County Councillors. This seems wasteful of public money.

**Budget** - The Council aims to make savings of £35 million in 2018-19, on top of the £215 million saved since 2011. Officers have been asked to deliver services more cheaply, without having an impact on those services. Whilst some improvements are possible, this is bound to mean fewer services.

**Council Tax** - The County Council has refused to increase its proportion of council tax for many years, despite objections from opposition parties. As a result, Cambridgeshire is now just about the worst funded County Council in the country. If Council Tax had been raised by 2% since 2015-16, the County Council's income would already be £15 million more, rising to £21 million by 2018-19.

In February the Council voted to increase Council Tax for 2018/19 by 2.99% on top of the 2% increase for Adult Social Care. This will raise nearly £8 million. All parties agreed the increase and that the first £4.3 million should be used to plug the budget gap. The Lib Dems wanted the remaining £3.7 million to be used to reverse the cuts to Children's Centres and Libraries but the Council majority voted to put the remainder into a 'smoothing reserve', effectively a rainy-day account, instead of using it now.

**Shire Hall site** - The Council is planning to move the County Council offices and sell the Shire Hall site. Whilst loved by many, this is partly because the poorly insulated building is extremely expensive to run and because it is so far south in the county. The Scheduled Monument and historic parts of the site would continue to be protected. Members are concerned that the Council functions should continue to be accessible to the public as well as members. The financial case seems vague.

### **Waterbeach New Town**

The Local Plan submission July 2013, Policy SS/5 identified the land allocated for a New Town of 8,000-9,000 dwellings. This number has since been revised upwards. If RLW's proposal for 5,000 houses is accepted, the total for the site will amount to 11,500, so 1,500 more than SCDC approved in Autumn 2016.

The two agents Urban and Civic and Turnstone have held public consultations and presented to parish councils. SCDC contracted ARUP to draw up a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as guidance to developers for the whole site, although this has still not been presented. More recently RLW have submitted plans to build a new relocated railway station, one mile north of the existing station.



I set up a series of **Joint Parishes Meetings** and invited representatives of Milton, Waterbeach, Landbeach, Horningsea and Fen Ditton parish councils, the applicants, County Highways and SCDC, to assist parishes in formulating their initial responses to these applications. More recently South Cambs District Council has arranged a Waterbeach Community Forum for the same purpose. I have also attended meetings between U&C and Waterbeach Cycling Campaign and with Turnstone, to explain local concerns. Meanwhile we await the outcome of the Ely to Cambridge Transport Study (see below). The SPD is expected to come to the SCDC Planning Portfolio Holder's Meeting in June 2018, after which there will be a 6-week consultation period before it will come back to PfH in September 2018. The SPD will consider the phasing of the development, the number of dwellings, the impact of the Ely to Cambridge Corridor Study (now being handled by the Combined Authority) and the S106 contributions needed from the developers.

**Local Plan** - Initially submitted in 2014, modifications requested by the Inspector in 2018 were submitted in February 2018 and we await her decision. There is a small chance that she will request further modifications but once she has decided, the Plan will move to adoption.

**Will the sewage works be moving?**

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has bid for money from the government's £2.3 billion Housing Infrastructure Fund, whose purpose is to 'unlock' otherwise difficult sites, where housing is in greatest demand. The bid has been taken forward to the next stage of joint working with government officers to do detailed work on feasibility. If won, this £193m funding would enable the relocation of the Anglian Water Cambridge Water Recycling Centre which in turn would free up 40 hectares of land for development for an estimated 7,600 new homes on the land around Cambridge North Station.

**A10 - Ely to Cambridge Transport Study** - When I first met County officers, they anticipated publishing an initial report by October 2017. The Report did not appear until January 2018 and its conclusions were that they need to maximise modal shift from private cars to public transport or bikes, a relocated railway station needed to be provided for Waterbeach New Town, junction improvements were needed and ultimately, the A10 needed to be dualled. The project now falls under the remit of the Combined Authority, who will be working with government on the next stage, as the project is likely to cost £500 million. A report including the possible routes between Waterbeach and Milton is not expected before November 2019.

**County Highways contract** - A new £34 million a year highway services contract has been awarded to Skanska July 2017 to end of June 2027 with the option to extend for a further five years, and includes the management and maintenance of 2,800 miles of carriageway, 1,400 miles of footways and cycle-ways and 1,276 structures. I note that the re-painting on the A10/A14 roundabout, done in November 2017 has already worn off in places and patch repairs on the A10 and on our village roads are breaking down within months. We ask question at County Council.



**Speeding** - Milton, Landbeach and Waterbeach have jointly purchased a **Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign**. Horningsea obtained funding through LHI for theirs. The County Highway Officer ordered the signs in bulk and parishes have obtained approval from Balfour Beatty to attach the sign to specific street lamps. A rota of use has been agreed. Electronic set-up has proved tricky but we were determined to establish electronic communication, so we can store and download counts and speeds. We'll deploy the sign as soon as this technical glitch has been overcome.

**Buses** - I continue to seek reassurance from bus operators that the **Stagecoach Citi 2, Service 9** and **Whippet 196** will continue to serve our villages. The 196 contract has been extended to September 2018. Over the year Stagecoach has changed the Service 9, removing the loop around Capper Road and altering the route around Landbeach 'to reduce delays'. Despite my protests, operators have to run a commercial service, so are inclined to reduce or remove parts of the route with few users. Services are not planned to change short term but are under review, so contact [cambridge.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com](mailto:cambridge.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com) so they can take your views into account when planning longer term services.

**Milton – Ely Road Bus Stop** - I am still working with County officers to move the bus stop to Ely Road.

**Rail Transport - Waterbeach Station** – Network Rail initially said they were committed to lengthening the existing platforms to 8-car by Autumn 2018. Since then, they have encountered very difficult ground conditions and RLW have submitted their application to re-locate the station. Network Rail may find it hard to justify the cost of the platform extension, when (if approved) the new station would be scheduled for 2021.

**Cambridge North Station** - opened in May 2017. Three platforms serve trains operated by Greater Anglia and Great Northern. A reasonable number of trains serve the station but delays connecting at Cambridge Central have been reported.

**Fen Road Level Crossing** – I am working with stakeholders, exploring options for a pedestrian route under the railway, down to the river towpath. This would provide access for those who walk or cycle when the crossing is shut.

#### **Network Rail proposed Level Crossing Closures**

Throughout the country, Network Rail have proposed level crossing closures, to improve safety on the rail network. Currently NR are proposing some 100 closures throughout Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex. This means that numerous crossings on footpaths and on agricultural land have been threatened with closure. I attended a site visit to a local farming business, who own and work over 3,500 ha on both sides of the railway between Waterbeach and Stretham and who are faced with the possible closure of two of the three crossings linking their land. The public hearing took evidence in the autumn and closed on 23 February. The Inspector will now consider evidence but has not said when she hopes to produce a report.

**Cycle Routes** - Waterbeach to Milton - The Local Highways Officer has just confirmed that now we are in the new financial year, she is getting a quote for 'siding back' this cycle path to restore the tarmac width.



Phase 1 of the **Chisholm Trail** (the section from Cambridge North Railway Station to Coldham's Lane) has been approved, as has the Abbey Chesterton Bridge.

**Amey's Waste Recovery Facility (incinerator) application. See here**

<http://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/swift/apas/run/wphappcriteria.display> quoting the planning reference **S/3372/17/CW**

Although Levitt's Field was allocated in the Local Plan for purposes including combined heat and power, this application has caused considerable concern in our villages. Amey had held public exhibitions during summer 2017 but in January 2018 many residents were unaware of the application and felt they had insufficient time to respond to the 120 documents. Cllr Ingrid Tregoe arranged a public meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018, which was attended by Amey, County Planning Department, an independent air quality consultant, the Environment Agency, a representative of Public Health England, and members of the County Planning Committee. The level of public concern expressed at the meeting was such that I asked Amey directly, and through the County Planning Manager, to undertake a further round of consultation, with advance warning by door-to-door leafletting and an exhibition in Waterbeach, Landbeach and Cottenham, which Amey did in March 2018. A further public meeting was arranged in Waterbeach.

The County Planning Authority has received several hundred questions from the public consultations. Matters raised will be collated and submitted to Amey. Once Amey has responded, this will be publicised on the County website and emailed to parish councils. There will be a further 21-days in which to comment on the new information provided by Amey only. Previous comments will stand. The application is unlikely to go before Committee until July 2018.

**Amey drop-in session Landbeach, 19 March 2018**

I asked three questions and these were the answers I received:

**Transport (Andrew Bell)** - Would the EfW plant attract waste from outside Cambridgeshire and additional lorry movements on the A10? I was told that with the developments planned in the area (NW Cambridge, City, Darwin Green, Northstowe, Cambourne West, Bourn Airfield, Waterbeach) it is very unlikely that they would need to import waste from outside the county. The plant has been scaled to match the projected supply of waste from within Cambridgeshire.

**Particulates (Rosalind Flavell, Fichter Consulting Engineers and the Environment Agency)** – How are the fine particulates monitored and would there be any risk from them? I was told (I think) that there is almost continuous monitoring of dust, NOx, acid gases and metals. The burn temperature required to destroy dioxins is monitored continuously. For particulates, they are so fine, that they have to sample continuously for 8 hours at a time, to capture an amount that is measurable. The EA requires quarterly reporting of data but the emissions themselves are monitored almost continuously.

**Risk to Human Health (Adrienne, Public Health England and Rosalind Flavell, as above)** Is there any risk to human health from the emissions from this sort of Energy from Waste Plant? Fichter modelled Human Health Risk Assessments and PHE have reviewed and commented on their report. PHE agree with the general recommendation that, when properly run, EfW incinerators produce no measurable risk to human health. The amount of contamination is exceedingly small and



represents a very small additional risk when compared to other sources of emission. This means that emissions of NOx from lorries on local roads and our case the A10, present a greater concern than the emissions from incinerators of this type. I remain concerned about risks to health and the visual impact on the setting of Denny Abbey.

**Children's Centres** - Despite strong opposition the County Council voted through funding cuts to Children's Centres across Cambridgeshire. This means there will be fewer services in some Centres and other Centres will close or be re-located. We fear these savings will simply store up problems for the future.

**Libraries** - similar savings are being sought in the Library Service, to meet the needs of a growing population and tight public finances. They aim to aim to use technology to help meet library user's needs but have also voted in user charges for internet access after the first 30 mins, with exceptions for job-seekers and the unemployed.

**Working with Parishes:** I have been working with parish councils monthly, raising concerns with officers and trying to find answers and get things done in our villages.

**Litter picking on the River Cam towpath** – As a newly appointed member of the Conservators of the Cam Board, I am trying to arrange a proper Agreement with the SCDC/City Shared Waste Service and for collection of the rubbish.

**23 Apr 2018**

## **District Councillor's Report 2017-18 for Milton APM 30 April 2018 – Anna Bradnam**

### **Including a Report from Milton Air Quality Working Party:**

Our meetings with **FCC Environment Ltd** are chaired by SCDC Environmental Health Manager and by officers of the Environment Agency who permit the landfill site. We had two liaison meetings with FCC Environment Ltd during the year in March 2017 then March 2018. The meeting scheduled for September 2017 was cancelled, because the site was closed during the police investigation for a missing person. We experienced a significant improvement in air quality in summer 2017, compared to the previous summer. This was largely thanks to the extremely vigilant EA officer supported by our members' and residents' diligent reporting to the EA hotline and the village log.

Our meetings with **Anglian Water** who run the water treatment works, are chaired by SCDC Environmental Health Manager and attended by Cambridge City EHO, the Environment Agency Officer responsible for the emissions from the generator and the AW site manager. Sewage treatment is not an EA 'permitted' operation, it is always self-regulated by the operator, so AW are responsible for emissions to air.

We had four meetings with Anglian Water, in April, June and September 2017, and January 2018. Before Christmas 2016 the lining of a gas holder had failed. In this reporting period, we were advised about the temporary arrangements while the damage was assessed and a new liner commissioned and made. The installation of the new liner was finally completed in December 2017. We often receive odour incident reports following heavy rainfall, when high water volumes scour the pipes and bring strong residues into the plant. These volumes are partially treated, but have to be held temporarily in the storm lagoon before going through the plant again. At these times the south of the village and the Country Park can experience strong odours for days at a time. We had a spate of such reports after heavy rain in April 2018. An improved reporting script has been provided at the Anglian Water hotline, so odour from the treatment works can be more easily be reported from locations other than a home address. Thank you to those who take the trouble to report odours. These reports give the Working Party hard evidence with which to hold the operators to account. Minutes of meetings are put on the parish website.

**Waterbeach New Town** - Hazel and I have attended the numerous exhibitions run by the agents U&C and RLW. I arranged a series of Joint Parishes Meetings for the parish councils of Milton, Landbeach, Waterbeach, Horningsea and Fen Ditton. These meetings enabled parish councils to formulate their responses to the U&C planning application. The meetings in April, August, October and December 2017 were attended by SCDC Planning Officers and a County Transport Officer. The meetings gave parish councils an opportunity to ask questions and to consider aspects which affected each parish differently as well as common concerns. This also gave SCDC a way of communicating with all the affected parishes and gathering views for the Supplementary Planning Document. The meetings have now been superseded by the SCDC Waterbeach Community Liaison Forum which has not yet met.

**Government's Housing White Paper** was issued during 2017, the main aim of which was to boost the supply of new homes in England. They are pressing for sites such as Waterbeach to be developed. The government has also set up a Housing Infrastructure Fund which will require utilities suppliers to work more cooperatively with developers, so this should help bring forward sites like Northstowe. It also aims to provide funding to free up otherwise



intransigent sites for housing. The Cam and Pet Combined Authority has bid for funding to move the sewage works and enable up to 7,600 dwellings to be built north of Cambridge North Station. Although this bid has got through the first phase, we do not know if it will actually be funded. There is continued emphasis on the importance of Neighbourhood Planning.

There is a national lack of planners so they intend to increase planning fees to generate income so more planners can be trained. The government will also simplify pre-commencement conditions and developer contributions to help small- and medium-sized builders, bringing forward public sector land. The home building fund is available for them and self-builders. They will divide up larger sites into smaller parcels, which are more manageable for smaller builders.

### **Local Plan – slow slow slow**

The draft Local Plan was submitted in March 2014 and if it is finally accepted in 2018, will have taken over four years to complete. While we have waited for the Local Plans (City and SCDC) to be agreed, which would demonstrate a five year supply of land for housing, the District has been obliged to reluctantly approve some 5,000 houses, on land not allocated for development in the Local Plans and which will in many cases change the character of our local villages for ever. As a District Councillor elected in May 2014, I have only ever known this uncomfortable state of planning affairs and wonder how much worse this must be for the District Council planners, dealing with it every day. We have lost numerous planners and a valuable Team Leaders in New Communities as a result.

### **– are we nearly there Mum?**

In the meantime, SCDC has submitted modifications to address the issues the Inspector raised in 2015 as well as subsequent clarifications. It seems we may hope for a conclusion before too long.

**Land north of Fen Road** - Kingswater Lindum have submitted a planning application for 36 affordable houses. Whilst I would welcome some new affordable housing in Milton, I would not wish it to compromise this historic site. The County Archaeologist has recommended refusal, on the evidence from the number of excavations. Historic England are also currently re-considering the site for registration.

**Benet Close** - a new plot of land has been created behind Benet Close, on land owned by SCDC, as part of the Council's self-build initiative. The plot is being marketed and a fences have being erected to identify the plot.

**Buses - Ely Rd Bus Stop** - We hope to move the southbound bus stop from opposite the Waggon and Horses to Ely Road, partly to be more accessible for residents at North Lodge Park and partly because the current location is not very safe. But it's complicated. We agreed a revised location and design, to reduce the risk of hitting underground services during installation and funding was found to lay an electricity supply for a new Real Time Passenger Information flag. However I called a pause when it became apparent that the bus shelter would overhang the cycle path. Height-clearance for cyclists means it would be dangerous to put the bus shelter canopy right over the cycle path, so I am trying to negotiate a more satisfactory arrangement.



**RTPI opposite Tesco** - The RTPI flag at the southbound bus stop, opposite Tesco, ceased to display, sometime after the foot and cycle path widening was completed. I asked County Highways to investigate the cause and restore the display, which they did.

### **Rail - Cambridge North Station**

Whilst we have welcomed the station, giving us closer connections for trips to London and elsewhere, there have been issues with faulty ticket machines, lack of shops and a café but there is good, plentiful covered cycle parking. Bus and Guided Bus connections have been problematic with no links from Milton to the station for long periods during the day.

Stagecoach are keeping services under review and although they don't envisage any short-term changes, please contact [cambridge.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com](mailto:cambridge.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com) so they can take your views into account when planning longer term services.

### **Greater Cambridge Partnership and Milton Road Local Liaison Forum**

The GCP Executive Board approved the Council's 'Final Concept' design as a basis for detailed design work, rather than the LLF's 'Do Optimum' design, which had been developed since summer 2016. The Board undertook to adopt further aspects of the 'Do Optimum' design where possible. The LLF was particularly anxious that it was not clear how an avenue of trees (which had been promised) would be incorporated.

**Rubbish collection** - SCD Council decided to dispense with paper caddies in the recycling bins. This was partly because the price paid for clean paper has dropped and the amount they collect has reduced and partly because the 'split-back' lorries were often empty on the paper side. It is more cost effective to run these lorries out to distant parts of South Cambridgeshire and back full. Paper can be sorted out of the rest of the recyclables at the Amey plant and it is hoped that by making it simpler, recycling will be increased. The new Shared Waste Service (City and SCDC) had a few teething problems and is still short-staffed but is settling in. Hazel and I continue to run litter picks in the village, which are advertised in Village View. The next is on Sunday 3 June 2018.

**...and disposal** - I reported in September 2017 that Amey propose to build an Energy from Waste plant at their site in Ely Road. I have covered this in detail in my County Report.

**...and the Cam towpath** - I have recently been appointed to the Board of the Conservators of the Cam and I hope to work with SCDC and the new River Manager to seek an Agreement which will enable SCDC to compensate the Conservators for litter collection on the towpath.

**Ending Loneliness in Cambridgeshire.** Hazel and I attended an excellent Seminar on this subject. 10% of people over 65 are chronically lonely and 76% of GPs report 1 to 5 people coming to their surgery because they are lonely. We seek ways to engage people in activities that suit them and keep them in touch with others.

**Land in parish ownership** – I am working with the County Officers and the parish council to establish who does (and does not) own various parcels of land around Milton.



## **District Councillors Report – Annual Parish Meeting 2018 – Hazel Smith**

It has been frustrating representing Milton at South Cambs this last year: we have seen many of the issues we all care about moved away from local decision-making. Supposedly to save money South Cambs has moved into arrangements to share more of its services with neighbouring councils. Refuse collection and waste, ICT, Legal, Building control, Audit: in all these areas we councillors have less ability to influence the decisions made or to get advice. In most cases far less money than promised has been saved.

### **Elected Mayor and the Combined Authority** (of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough)

We are also worried about the council's ability to build more affordable houses in the district. The **Combined Authority** was set up a year ago, with £100m for enabling affordable houses to be built more quickly 'centred on Cambridge' which the council interpreted to be mostly in South Cambs. However the South Cambs Leader, who was portfolio holder for Housing in the Combined Authority, was relieved of his duties early this year, and it seems likely that many or most of these houses will be built further North, in the areas where the Mayor sees more of his support. The council's officers who were expecting to take a lead role in Housing will also lose this role.

You will recall that the second largest polling group over the whole area, the Lib Dems, who were runners up in the Mayoral election, have no representation on this Combined Authority – it is worse than the normal winner-takes-all situation, and extremely undemocratic. The Mayor has more power than any of our MPs.

The City Deal, now called the **Greater Cambridge Partnership** (GCP) has achieved very little on the ground this year. They are still talking about improvements to Milton Road, but no decisions have been made. They have got approval for this end of the **Chisholm Trail** and its bridge over the River Cam near Fen Road Chesterton, and are getting agreement to buy all the small strips of land required to build the path. The bridge should be put in place over the river in November 2018 if all goes according to plan. Carillion had won the contract for the early work on this, and in spite of their going into administration we were told the project will keep to its timetable.

We had expected a report on the future route of a **dual carriageway A10** last summer. That was further delayed and is now further complicated as it's been taken over from the GCP by the Combined Authority. They now promise that the route will be proposed late in 2019 when the planning application will be lodged. This doesn't sound like the way to consult local people – it is sure to disappoint some landowners while pleasing others, and they seem keen to keep their thoughts to themselves until 'they' make a decision.

The **Greenways project**, under the GCP, will include new cycleways to serve Waterbeach and the new town. Consultation on the various options has taken place and we await the next steps. The existing A10 footpath needs improvement but there are also many other routes proposed all of which would be used by many people (to Horningsea, the Research Park, the Regional College and an off-road route to Milton).

The Mayor is also looking into the feasibility of tunnels under the Backs and the Colleges and it looks as though a lot of the money gained from developers could be sunk into that.

### **Planning Shared Service**

The shared Planning service (City and South Cambs) is starting right now, and South Cambs will be the lead authority, but the changes will come more gradually in the difficult area of development planning. They propose to divide the area into 3, so we will be in an area including the north part of Cambridge which has some sense to it. Once the Local Plan is adopted (and we are **still** waiting for the inspector on that ....) work will start on a joint local plan with Cambridge City, for 2019 onwards. There will also be planning documents to govern the development at Waterbeach and at Cambridge North. The first applications are in for both of these developments, which is certainly 'cart before horse'.

### **Waterbeach New Town**



There are 2 outline applications: Urban and Civic have the airfield land, while Royal London Waterbeach (RLW) is a consortium of land-owners of greenfield land to the East as far as the railway. Their proposal includes a new railway station which would replace the current Waterbeach Station in Station Road. There will be a car park at the new station, and also a new Park & Ride on the A10.

### **A14 developments**

We've seen the amazing earthworks further West this year, and now the contractors have set up their site offices in our field by the A14, where they will be for 2 years. The extra lane in each direction between Milton and Histon means 2 extra lanes on the North side of the road where it runs beside the acoustic fence at Orchard Park.

### **Development near Cambridge North station**

The tall hotel and office block near the station already have permission: councillors got the office block moved back so that it did not impede the cycle track to the station. The Combined Authority agreed to submit a bid for around £200m to the government to pay for the sewage works to move. This bid has apparently got through the first hurdle and further feasibility work is being done with the government team. We may know whether or not it is to be taken forward in late summer.

### **Air Quality Working Group**

We keep in touch with the Milton Landfill and Anglian Water (Sewage Works). The landfill was due to close in 2020 but they will be asking for an extension to their permission just to round off the site to an acceptable profile as they do not expect to be putting material into the ground after next year. FCC, the operators, and Infinis, who generate electricity from the gas drawn off, will still be on-site managing the gas as everything continues to rot down, for many years.

We also discussed the Amey incinerator proposal, which will come up for planning permission this summer.

### **Chesterton Fen – S101A application**

I sent in a residents' petition with an application for a sewage connection, in January. I still await a reply. Anglian Water are expected to refuse this again as the guidance has not changed since last time in 2007. Then we will mount an appeal to the Environment Agency, and hope to get the guidance changed.

The other big issue on Fen Road, Chesterton is the **crossing down-time**. The level crossing is often closed to traffic for 20 minutes at a time, at busy times of day. Local people have got frustrated and the barrier has been broken a number of times by cars trying to cut it fine as the barrier comes down. With a local resident we have collected signatures on a petition to Network Rail. Their organisation is so impenetrable, we have failed to find someone to present it to! They were supposed to attend the last Cambridge North Area Committee, but failed to arrive.

### **Youth issues**

The County Council has been withdrawing from providing youth clubs, and ran the Milton club on Tuesday evenings until last summer. We have been lucky that the Connections Bus Project (from Histon) has been keen to expand into clubs in fixed premises. Years ago they used to provide the youth club in Milton, before we had our own building. They have taken on the same staff who were already working with our young people, and are providing a good service in much the same way as the County Council did, paid for by the Parish Council.

The other large issue is **boundary changes**, as all the councils are reducing the numbers of their councillors. South Cambs District Councillors will each represent 1/3 more electors than in the past, and will all be elected together once every 4 years.

I would like to thank all the serving parish councillors and others who help us, and Jane and the clerk for their help throughout the year, and I hope Anna and I will be re-elected on Thursday to continue serving Milton for another term.

Hazel