

# PARISH OF MILTON

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on  
Monday 24 April 2023 at 7:30pm in the Bowls Pavilion  
Coles Road, Milton**

**13 April 2023**

## AGENDA

- 1 Introduction by Chairman and apologies for absence**
- 2 Introduction of Parish Councillors**
- 3 To confirm minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 25 April 2022 (Appendix 1)**
- 4 Chairman's Annual Report including draft accounts 2022/23  
(Tabled)**
- 5 County Councillor's report  
(Appendix 2)**
- 6 District Councillors' reports  
(Tabled)**
- 7 Milton Community Centre Report  
(Appendix 3)**
- 8 Question and Answer Session**

H Smith  
Chairman Milton Parish Council

## Appendix 1

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 25 April 2022 at 7:30pm in the Lounge – Milton Community Centre

**Present:** HM Smith (Chairman), J E Coston, R J Farrington, A Horne, D Owen, P Ellwood, A Latchem, A Bradnam

**In attendance:** S Corder (Clerk), J Barrett (Assistant Clerk), J Rippeth and P Bearpark (District Councillors)  
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: A Markham (Personal)
- 2. Introduction of Parish Councillors:** The Parish Councillors introduced themselves. The Chair reported that the council now have 10 members of the 12 needed and made an appeal for new members to join.
- 3. To confirm minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 4 May 2021:**  
AB Proposed to accept the minutes - JEC Seconded **ALL AGREED**. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on the 4 May 2021 were approved and signed.
- 4. Chairman's Annual Report including draft accounts 2021/22**  
This has been a busy year for the Parish Council as we get back to something like normal operation after the pandemic. Most of our meetings have been in person, but consultations from other authorities and our own committee meetings (and pre-meetings for discussion) have sometimes been held online. This is more convenient for many and will probably continue.

#### **Parish Councillors and Staff**

Our Parish Council members will all continue next year, after the election on May 5<sup>th</sup>, as we were a year ago (Don Wildman is rejoining us). So we have 10 councillors going forward and 2 vacancies at present. I would like to thank the team that has been working together this year – we have achieved a lot, improved the village and raised its profile in the local Press. Our Press Officer, my Vice-Chairman Jane Coston has worked hard this year, and we also launched our Facebook page.

Our Clerk, Sarah Corder, had Covid around Christmas time and whilst away from the office, studied for the Financial part of Local Council Administration qualifications. She has just taken us through a full review of all our policies, with a few left to be approved at the next meeting, and she has arranged our meetings and paperwork efficiently throughout the year. John Barrett has become our Assistant Clerk, and has been helping us with project work, like the Bus Stop Art project. Philip Adams our Village Maintenance Person and Cleaner continues his tours of the village, litter picking and checking play equipment, bus shelters and the cemetery. I would like to thank all our staff for their diligence. And Paul Ellwood for chairing the staffing committee for us, and conducting some staff appraisals.

#### **Community Care**

Our Community Care Warden Tracey Ebbon has continued supporting around 20 older people living in their own homes in the village. This is recognised as valuable support by her clients and their families, and she also puts up information useful to us all on her Facebook page. She also acts as Community Navigator, a person able to give free advice about what services, funding, clubs and facilities are available in the village to help people get by. Sarah and I are DBS checked and available to provide short-term cover for Tracey as warden, and we have an agency we can call on for longer illnesses or holidays. The Mobile Warden Scheme is supported by a grant from South Cambs District Council, and from the Milton Charities.

#### **Milton Trolley Bus**

The regular minibus service to Tesco for our elderly and infirm has run more normally this year. Milton Charities/Jean Gallagher Trust have continued to support the service.

#### **Youth**

The Council continues to provide funding to support the youth activities run by the Connections Bus Project in Milton. They had met outside in the summer term, before youth clubs resumed in the Youth Centre for the rest of this year.

#### **Recreation facilities**

The larger sports pitches and indoor facilities at Coles Road, The Sycamores, and North Lodge Park are managed and operated by the Milton Community Centre and Receptions Grounds Management Committee (MCC). The Parish Council makes an annual contribution to subsidise their running costs, and

I would like to thank their Trustees, drawn from the clubs and societies that use the facilities, and particularly the manager, Andy, for their work in keeping community facilities and play spaces open as much as possible over the last few years. The smaller open spaces are overseen by the Parish Council. These are at Humphries Way, Froment Way, The Rowans, The Oaks/Elms open space, the Hawthorn Hedge area, Edmund Green (on the corner of The Rowans) and Pond Green (in front of the Waggon and Horses), and Tomkins Mead.

### **Play equipment improvements**

The new equipment and some repairs and renovations at The Sycamores play area were completed last summer. These were jointly funded between MCC and the parish council. If you see any issues needing attention on our play areas, please notify the Parish Clerk, except for Coles Road and The Sycamores which should be reported to the MCC Manager. The North Lodge Park play area is maintained by their own management committee.

### **Other Village Maintenance**

There is regular work to be done around the village which is organised and overseen by the Maintenance Committee and the Clerk. They direct our grass-cutting and grounds maintenance contractors who do work on our open spaces and unlet allotments and the cemetery.

Some strips of land between footpaths and garden fences are the responsibility of the house owners. The Clerk will also write to house-owners whose hedges need cutting back.

### **New Trees**

This year we planted one more mature tree at the entrance to Humphries Way, through the South Cambs free trees scheme, and some sacks of daffodil bulbs on the bund opposite, where the bus shelter was moved along to improve disabled access. We also had several packs of trees provided by the Woodland Trust, which were added to the small wood in the old paddock (beyond the allotments on Ely Road). Many thanks to the volunteers who helped us plant the trees, and especial thanks to Adam Horne who has steered the work of the Maintenance Committee very ably over the last few years.

### **Capital Projects**

A new committee has been set up to improve the village, through use of Arts funding and some general reserves, to improve our bus shelters, village signs and seats. The Bus Shelter Art competition was run over the Christmas holidays and we received 22 different designs. There was an exhibition, suitably spaced out and socially distanced, in January, and the 3 designs that people voted for were printed up and installed on our three refurbished bus shelters at Tesco and at One-Stop. We gave small prizes to the 5 children who had entered, and main prizes to the 3 winners. We hope you'll agree that the bus shelters are a feature we can now be proud of. I'd particularly like to thank Paul Ellwood for taking on chairing that committee this year. We have plans to refurbish the 2 brick bus shelters, and also to commission other artwork for village entry signs, a sculpture trail, and improved Christmas light displays in the village. The village pump on Cambridge Road, put in for the council houses there, in the 1920's has been cleaned up and needs some repair to take it back to its original shape. We plan more artwork there to illustrate to children what pumps around the village were used for in the past.

### **Cemetery**

For the last 2 years a committee of councillors has met mostly online to review and amend our cemetery policy. We took into account many policies from other areas as well as the particular circumstances of Milton. The aim has been to remove the discretion that has in the past led to some people who lived as far away as Cottenham and Willingham being buried there because they had a village connection. We hope residents will understand that tightening up the criteria will make the cemetery easier to administer in the future.

The cemetery gate was taken away for repair and repainting and it now looks much smarter.

### **Ditches and drains**

The cemetery flooded quite badly recently, and some work has been done to improve drainage further down that ditch in front of the allotments. It is the same ditch that the new police station will use, so we need to keep an eye on developments there to ensure they don't worsen the situation.

### **Land registry**

We continue to try to regularise and register land that we own and maintain in the village. This year we achieved a register entry for the football pitch behind MCC, and there are a couple of other parcels our solicitors are working on.

### **Planning**

We are consulted on planning applications in the village. Most are uncontentious, but some are quite unneighbourly and we do try to support neighbours objections if they are reasonable. I'd like to thank Rob Farrington for chairing the Planning Committee, and bringing us his personal insight having visited every local householder application site.

The gas main works all down Cambridge Road, the High Street and Ely Road last year was very disruptive to the village with one-way traffic for months. The developer responsible has paid the Parish Council £8,000 to acknowledge the inconvenience caused to villagers.

### **Air Quality Action Group**

Air quality here is usually quite good now, and due to improve when the Cambridge Sewage Works moves, as is anticipated in a few years' time. For now the Group meets every 6 months with Anglian Water, and also with FCC who run Milton Landfill (due to close for tipping in 2026) and the associated gas generation company, Infinis. There are no significant issues. Thanks to Anna Bradnam for Chairing this group.

### **Highway and Cycleway schemes**

We are still waiting for the County Council to improve the road surface and markings on the High Street/Fen Road crossing by Pond Green used by many school children. This was funded from the Highways Agency, through the A14 Legacy Fund.

Various different authorities are planning cycleway improvements in and around the village. A new Road Safety committee embarked on a Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Strategy, that looked initially at Ely Road, the High Street and Cambridge Road. This is the route that Urban and Civic (U&C), the Waterbeach New Town developers, will be improving in the next few months. We were able to show them the ideas that we had adopted and they have promised to take some of them on board. There is further funding from U&C towards 'public realm improvements' in Milton which may allow more of our ideas to be implemented later.

There is to be a new Greenway funded by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (City Deal) from Waterbeach to Cambridge North station, which will run between Milton and the railway, and go through Milton Country Park, then under the A14.

A further Greenway will run close to the Mereway between Milton and Impington. It is not yet decided whether it will run west or east of Landbeach. This will also be a Public Transport route for a guided busway, and may link to Milton Park and Ride if it takes the eastern route.

I'd like to thank Alex Markham and Adam Horne for their work on pulling this Strategy together.

### **Parking and Pedestrian safety**

We have had a number of representations from villagers about the increasing amount of parking in The Rowans, and the poor visibility for pedestrians trying to cross The Rowans near Tesco. We have a meeting tomorrow to show a Highways officer the problem, and consider whether to put longer sections of double-yellow lines there, and move the dropped kerb.

### **Mobile Vehicle-Activated Sign (MVAS)**

The moveable traffic speed sign has been sent away for repair. This was originally bought to cover 3 villages, but Waterbeach have decided to buy their own, so Landbeach and Milton will share the sign going forward, and we should see it in the village more often.

### **Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

We have agreed to decorate the village, and to support the picnics that are being organised by the Church on open spaces around the village, from 1pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Finance**

The Council requested a precept for 2022-23 the same as last years at £133,000.

### **Draft Accounts for the year April 2021 to March 2022**

These figures have been prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis.

Description	£ Last Year (2020-21) Restated	£ This year (2021-22)
<b>Balances brought fwd</b>	473,809	487,968*
<b>Annual precept</b>	133,000	133,000
<b>Total other receipts</b>	35,275	27,565
<b>Staff Costs</b>	42,876	44,022
<b>Loan interest/capital repayments</b>	0	0
<b>Total other payments</b>	111,240*	107,728
<b>Balances carried forward</b>	487,968*	497,454
<b>Total Cash and Short Term Investments</b>	497,263	481,200
<b>Total Fixed Assets and Long Term Investments</b>	190,694	200,414
<b>Total Borrowings</b>	0	0

Note: The accounts for 2020-21 have been restated to incorporate changes requested by the External Auditor regarding the date of recording of invoices paid by Direct Debit. Items with \* are corrected from those presented on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Capital reserves are primarily to support acquisition of recreation ground and open space if land becomes available at appropriate cost.

## Parish Office

The Office is open Monday to Thursday, 10am to 3pm. However, if you have an issue that requires direct contact, then please first telephone the Clerk on 01223 861447 or 07853 170646 so that we can arrange a way to help you whilst minimising direct contact. Further information is available on the website - <https://www.miltonvillage.org.uk>

### **Q: Does the MVAS do any good in the village?**

**A: Yes, it has been noted that cars will slow down when the speed they are travelling at flashes up as they approach**

## 5. Milton Action for Youth 1 April to 31 March 2022

The balance in the pass-book remains as £74.21, and there is 7p more interest to add, total £74.28. There has been no other change to the account.  
Hazel Smith (Treasurer)

## 6. County Councillor's Report from Anna Bradnam April 2022 (Full report attached to the Minutes on the MPC Website)

### The main headings:

**Introduction:** In May 2021, AB was immensely proud to be re-elected as your County Councillor, to serve you for another four years.

**Strategy and Resources:** The new Council inherited a budget gap of £22.2 million for this year (21/22). The Council managed to balance the budget this time, but the budget gap is set to rise to £86 million by 2027 and the peer challenge team identified this as an issue of 'significant magnitude'. The Council increased Council tax in February 2022 by 1.99% for general services and 3% for adult social care. We put £14 million into a 'Just Transition' Fund to tackle inequality, improve lives and care for the environment.

**Adults and Health:** The new administration decided to combine the work of two separate committees to link health provision and adult social care anticipating the government's Integrated Care System. Jyoti Atri is the new Director of Public Health.

**Children and Young People and Corporate Parenting:** The committee supported families over the school holidays with vouchers for those eligible for free school meals through 2021/22 and this has been guaranteed for 2022/23. The national shortage of HGV drivers has presented problems for home to school transport and school catering. A review of admission arrangements for all own admission authority schools has been agreed and we are proposing a review of the increasing need for specialist educational places.

**Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion (CoSMIC):** This committee has supported communities through Covid, made provision for refugees from Afghanistan and now Ukraine, assisting EU citizens in obtaining settled status and other services including libraries and mortuaries. It also drew up a Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy and provides the Household Support Fund which helps people in financial hardship with essential costs.

**Environment and Green Investment:** Has been exceptionally busy, responsible for Climate Change, renewable energy, planning for flood resilience, biodiversity, waste, antiquities and digital infrastructure and broadband. Plans to upgrade the recycling centres at March and Milton are in their early stages.

**Highways and Transport:** The Joint Administration is taking stock of the many challenges it has inherited from the outgoing administration. Lack of regular maintenance of some 100,000 roadside gullies contributed to flooding in winter 20/21. These are now being mapped and cleared. 50,000 potholes were repaired and £1.7 million was spent on new road re-surfacing to end Feb 2022. A further £1.4 million has been set aside for pot holes, paths and other improvements and the money set aside for paths and footways is starting to be used as you will have seen on path re-surfacing in Coles Road.

**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority:** A new Mayor was elected in May 2021. He has scrapped the Cambridge Autonomous Metro. A new Chief Executive was appointed and the Combined Authority now has offices in Huntingdon.

### LOCAL ISSUES

**GCP Waterbeach to Cambridge** - Following protests from Waterbeach residents, the GCP removed the Eastern route from the options it was taking forward, leaving only the Western option which runs north and west of Landbeach along the Mere Way. Residents of Landbeach were furious when the GCP also took forward a central option, which would cut across open fields through the village and threaten the peaceful view from the medieval Tithe Barn. We await the outcome of deliberations.

**A10** – despite the reduction in traffic caused by people working more from home during the pandemic, the A10 has seen a lot of disruption this year. Firstly to install a commercial gas main and then for the works to improve the existing cyclepath between Milton and Waterbeach, required as part of the Waterbeach New Town approval. The speed limit has been reduced to 40 mph and the junction at Car Dyke made

safer for cyclists and pedestrians. Works to install a Toucan crossing to Waterbeach Road have also started. The path is being widened northwards to Denny End Road first and then the very narrow section from Car Dyke Road southbound will be widened towards Milton.

**A14/A10 junction roadworks, cones and north bound lane merge.**

The dedicated lane from the A14 to the A10 is now working really well and road markings on the roundabout have been refreshed. Gas wells on the perimeter of the landfill site had to be modified and fenced so they could continue to be monitored safely.

**Mere Way Cycle path** – now that the A10 works are under way, works on this route have re-commenced. Like the A10 path, this section 278 project is a negotiation between designer and the Highways Authority. A design has been submitted to County Highways and we await the results of the Road Safety Audit, at which point there will be an opportunity to comment.

**Histon Road and Milton Road** – The GCP-led Histon Road Bus Prioritisation Scheme is now complete and the Milton Road project is due to start Spring 2022.

**Waterbeach Station Cycle Parking** - Govia Thameslink Rail installed a two-tier cycle rack in place of the Sheffield stands, as part of the delivery of the Passenger Benefit Fund, which was set up to compensate passengers for the inconvenience and disruption caused by the last timetable roll-out.

**East West Rail** – the non-statutory consultation was completed June 2021.

At present only the southern approaches to Cambridge are being considered as EWR's preferred options, the northern route have been discounted so far. The following document explains why:

[EAS060 TechDoc Appendix Master DIG-1.pdf \(eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](#)

**Chisholm Trail** – the new bridge over the railway has been installed and the jetty path under the railway and pedestrian bridge has opened. A dangerous bollard has been removed.

**Voi electric scooters and electric bikes** (a Combined Authority initiative) are popular and well-used. On 30 March the original trial was extended to 30 November to gather more information on their impact.

**County Council's Coronavirus (Covid-19) Walking and Cycling Schemes**

A Tranche 1 scheme delivered in Milton without consultation in May 2020 has now been removed. The southbound cycle lane on Cambridge Road, left too little space for vehicles to safely pass each other and caused dangerous last-minute avoidance actions. Milton Parish Council objected and it has now gone.

**Verge Maintenance**

In March 2021 the County Council acted on the advice of the Wildlife Trust and Natural England and resolved to reduce verge cutting frequency to twice a year. This being to extend flowering, to help our insect populations and biodiversity.

**Anglian Water – Relocation of the Wastewater Treatment Centre**

The proposed move to Honey Hill has caused huge concern for residents of Horningsea and Fen Ditton. AB has asked for direct access to and from the A14 to avoid the impact of traffic through the villages during construction and operation.

**Flood Action Plan** – The County Council, which is the Lead Local Flood Authority, has recently published its' Flood Risk Management Strategy.

**Milton Household Waste Recycling Centre**

The planning application for the expansion of Milton HWRC was validated a few weeks ago. It's on the website at <https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/online-applications/> (search for CCC/21/259/FUL). The Neighbour Consultation expired on Wednesday 23 March 2022.

**Covid – remain vigilant**

**Police and Crime Commissioner** – AB is the Country representative on the Police and Crime Panel.

**7. District Councillors' Report from Anna Bradnam, Judith Rippeth and Paul Bearpark April 2022**

Milton: At the end of this municipal year we reflect back on a period with a degree of return to normality as we move hopefully to a more post Covid world. As a council we have continued to support the district the recovery of the community and businesses. Milton businesses benefited from some of the £43.9 million in government grants that the Council distributed to support their recovery from Covid. The Reopening the High Streets team handled over 1,500 in-person visits and around 300 enquiries or complaints, interacting with 3,000 businesses throughout the district.

The Wild Minds scheme is being run again at Milton Country Park. It was set up in response to the picture of young people's mental health in the UK, at a time when NHS mental health services have experienced increased referrals and wait times for specialist support, making it harder to access support. The scheme was developed in 2019 by South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust (which runs Milton Country Park where the course was first hosted), it is supported by a clinical psychologist.

The ever popular Zero Carbon Community grant scheme is now open for its fourth round of grant applications with specific focuses on reducing carbon emissions or locking up carbon, and on community

engagement on climate change. If you have a project in mind do get in touch with any of us as local members for endorsement and support. In the last round of funding, Milton Cycling Campaign were successful in their bid for the maximum grant of £15,000 for cycle parking. The project has been supported throughout by Councillor Rippeth.

The Council continues to maintain a five year housing land supply which for the next year (April to April) is 6.5 years. This means that as a planning authority we have far more control over where development should go, in the right places with amenities provided, and in accordance with the adopted Local Plan. At the same time we continue to work on the Greater Cambridge Local Plan which is at the First Proposal stage in the process. Development will be close to jobs and good transport links, as new towns are built out (within the current Local Plan’s allocation) and only nineteen new sites are being proposed, safeguarding villages. There are no new proposed sites within the ward.

**District wide summary of the past four years**

- WE HAVE ACHIEVED: levels 1 and 2 of the disability standard,
- WE HAVE SET UP: 7 new mobile warden schemes, a Lifeline service for vulnerable people a homes repair service, 19 Liaison forums and 9 community forums, covid groups in all 106 villages and towns with in the first 3 weeks covid.
- WE HAVE ADOPTED: a new equality scheme, a Biodiversity strategy, Doubling Nature Strategy, ZC strategy, an Air quality strategy
- WE HAVE MOVED: 10 council services online with a further 12 to follow
- WE HAVE HELPED: 14 at risk councils to create flood management plans, set up local markets, 1000 people onto UC, 4 start-up businesses find premises, 3 Syrian refugee families a year find a home, 8 Afganistani families find a home, 2000 businesses with visits from our High Streets Team, 2000 Business receiving our Open for Business Newsletter
- WE HAVE CREATED: a toolkit for community led plans, community recycling and waste reduction resource pack, the On Your Doorstep campaign to help local shops
- WE HAVE RUN: 7 Wild Minds schemes to support young people with mental health issues, 9 webinars for business during the pandemic including on mental health
- WE HAVE GIVEN: £43.9 million in government Covid grants, £78,000 to support work with young people, 70 grants to covid groups, £58,000 in Community Chest grants a year, ZC Community grants totalling over £300,000, free trees grants for almost 600 trees, £1.4 mil to 102 businesses and start-ups to help them grow, £164,000 to voluntary groups, 900 hot meals over the covid Christmas period
- WE HAVE MADE: £5mil per year from our investments and saved £200,000 per year.
- WE HAVE BOUGHT: Northstowe EZ and will develop it to create 500 jobs by 2025, A Plot Cambourne to build specialist offices for start up, Land in Cambourne to build over 200 energy efficient homes, 3 electric Bin lorries, mobile air quality monitors, spy cameras to reduce fly tipping
- WE HAVE LAUNCHED a Visit South Cambs website
- WE HAVE CHANGED all our streetlights to LEDs
- WE HAVE BUILT 189 council houses
- WE HAVE SPENT £1.5 mil to make council houses energy efficient
- WE ARE GOING TO commit 10% of next year’s budget to the environment, build a sports pavilion at Northstowe, a new community centre and the Civic Hub in Northstowe, further increase recycling rates and reduce food waste, set a balanced budget, install powered EV charging
- WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) accreditation

**8. Question and Answer Session**

Are the fly tipping spy cameras in operation?  
A: Yes between Cottenham and Landbeach, and there is a sign saying cameras in action

**Meeting closed: 8:45pm**

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

**Appendix 2**

**County Councillor’s Annual Report 2022/23 – Councillor Anna Bradnam**

**National**

I think we will all remember 2022 as being the year in which HM Queen Elizabeth II died and in which the accession of HM King Charles III was proclaimed in Cambridge and Ely, and elsewhere in the county.

### **County Council**

The composition of the County Council has changed, following the death of Independent Chair of the Council, Derek Giles and a Liberal Democrat being elected to that seat and a Conservative Councillor switching parties. The Council make up is currently

Conservatives 27	Liberal Democrats 22
Labour 9	Independents 3

The Joint Administration of Lib Dem, Labour and Independent councillors continues to run the council. The Agreement signed in May 2021 will be reviewed after elections in May.

I continue as a member of the County (Minerals and Waste) Planning Committee, Environment and Green Investment Committee and the Member Steering Group for Waste. I joined the Children and Young People Committee during the year and I continue to chair the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee. I am the County's nominee to the Police and Crime Panel and on the Conservators of the River Cam, of which I am Vice Chair.

The council's Chief Executive, Stephen Moir has been re-organising the senior staff structure, making senior appointments and gradually separating out the previous joint arrangements with Peterborough City Council. In July 2022 the council's offices were formally opened at Alconbury Weald. It is a pleasant building to work in, although the Red Kite Room (council chamber) feels very cramped with 65 members at full council. On days when a large number of the public wish to attend some must be accommodated in a room on the ground floor with a live stream.

There is no direct public transport link from Cambridge to Alconbury Weald

### **Council Finances**

The high rates of inflation and the confusion caused by the Truss/Kwarteng mini-budget increased the cost of providing council services and the costs of capital projects, which increased the budget gap.

The Council increased its portion of the Council Tax in February by 4.99% (2.99% for general services and 2% for adult social care). This was to ensure we could continue to provide services for adults and children, roads, infrastructure and environmental projects

### **Adults and Health**

Nationwide changes were made during the year, creating local Integrated Care Systems which are responsible for decision making across health and social care. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough created a joint Health and Wellbeing Board.

It has become apparent how stretched and vulnerable our NHS services are, in particular, dental provision. A recent investigation by the BBC found that no dental practice in Cambridgeshire was accepting new adult patients. Residents are having to travel long distances and pay for private treatment. One resident of Ely travelled to Ukraine for dental treatment which was quicker and cheaper than that available in the UK.

### **Children and Young People**

The council has continued to fund vouchers for those eligible for free school meals over the school holidays, along with the Holiday Activity and Food programme. This is in recognition of the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis on families.

The Council was praised by Ofsted for the work of senior leaders in Children's Services in responding to the challenge of Covid, and for maintaining continuity during structural change. Most children in need and those with a child protection plan were supported well.

Looking at local Primary Schools: Milton Church of England Primary School, after an Ofsted rating of Inadequate in Sept 2021, a monitoring visit in March 2022, reported in May 2022, found that "Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action towards the removal of the serious weaknesses designation. The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. The school's improvement plan is fit for purpose."

Waterbeach Community Primary School was last inspected in 2020 and was rated as Good.

In April 2022 Fen Ditton Primary School continued to be rated as Good.

The council is still seeking residents who would like to make a real difference to the life of a child by becoming a foster carer.

### **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)**

In a piece of good news for Cambridgeshire, the council and the Government reached agreement on the 'safety valve' process to resolve the escalating deficit in the cost of SEND education. The deficit had been expected to grow to over £90M by 2025/26 if left unchecked, and the council was not permitted to divert funding from other sources to fill the gap. Thankfully, Cambridgeshire has been awarded £49M which will be used to create 463 new special school places, with a further £11.3M in capital funding to support new SEND provision on mainstream school sites. Cambridgeshire has historically received less funding per child for education than other areas, whilst having a high proportion of SEND.

**Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee (COSMIC)** oversees the Household Support Fund, which supports people experiencing immediate financial hardship, to pay for food, household energy

or other essential items. An increasing number of families are struggling financially at the moment. COSMIC agreed to use some of the money from the fund to give a 'payment holiday' to pensioners in arrears with their water bills.

A Warm Hubs programme over the winter was funded by the Integrated Care System and administered by Cambridgeshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), with fantastic support from volunteers in local parishes including Milton and Landbeach.

**Libraries** - A review of the mobile library service resulted in a number of improvements, including more stops, more fuel-efficient routes, and local storage of vehicles. Cambridgeshire's Library@home volunteers were one of three voluntary organisations in the county to be given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Waterbeach Independent Lending Library continued to offer children books and incentives to read through the Summer Reading Challenge, which keeps children reading over the summer holiday.

**Photographic ID** - The Government is introducing a requirement for voters to provide photographic ID at elections. This starts with the elections in East Cambridgeshire and parts of Cambridge May 2023, and will cost up to £180M over ten years, despite cases of voter identity fraud at polling stations being almost non-existent. Around two million voters in the UK do not have the right form of ID to enable them to vote—they can apply for free Voter Authority Certificates, but the application process for these is extremely slow and many people are likely to find themselves deprived of their right to vote on 4 May.

### **Environment**

Council awarded the first spending from its Just Transition fund, including £2.175M to provide a business case for the first phase of the Council's plan for Cambridgeshire to reach Net Zero carbon by 2045. £1.75M was also awarded for flood work and nature restoration.

The County Council is working with district councils on energy retrofits in homes with poor energy efficiency.

**Waste** The waste disposal contract with Thalia (formerly Amey) at Waterbeach has taken a considerable amount of council time. Firstly the Environment Agency has required works to comply with new odour emission standards and secondly, in the new year, the EA enforced rules on persistent organic pollutants in waste upholstered domestic seating (POPs in WUDS). This led to a week in which the council was unable to accept unwanted furniture, which must now be incinerated not landfilled. In addition to this, discussions are also ongoing with Defra regarding proposals to introduce weekly food waste collections.

South Cambs District Council has been doing a separate food waste collection trial in Milton and other locations, although this ends 31 March.

**Renewable energy** - The first households in Swaffham Prior are now receiving renewable energy from the new energy centre. Interest in this project has been considerable. Other energy projects (solar panels on Park & Ride sites, North Angle solar farm, and replacement of gas and oil boilers in schools and in the Council's own premises around the county) are continuing to progress. In conjunction with iChoosr the council ran another round of Solar Together, the group buying scheme for homeowners wanting to invest in solar panels and battery storage.

The Examination into the planning application by Sunnica for the large solar farm between Burwell and Red Lodge began in autumn 2022.

**Water resources** Anglian Water and Cambridge Water announced in autumn 2022 their preferred location for a new reservoir in the Fens, north of Chatteris, to come on stream in the late 2030s. A planning application will come in due course and progress through a number of stages. It will be a decision for the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate, as with other major infrastructure schemes.

We received details of the County Council's **carbon emissions** for the year. There was a significant reduction in the early stages of the pandemic, due to construction work ceasing, but this is likely to increase again in future years.

**Trees** The council has published an interim Tree Strategy, which it will revise once it has baseline information about what trees the council has, where they are, and how the council can expand and improve its tree assets. The Council persuaded National Highways to review the success of its tree-planting scheme along the new A14 route. They felled 400,000, replanted 800,000 but some 600,000 have died. Around 125,000 will be replanted.

### **Highways and Transport**

The condition of Cambridgeshire's roads and pavements remains a serious challenge. This situation has developing for many years during which the council's approach was admitted to be one of 'managed decline'. However, recent extremely hot and extremely cold weather has speeded up that decline very significantly. The soil under roads and the tarmac itself has shrunk in hot dry weather, and expanded in wet weather causing it to crater and split.

The severity of the problem is far beyond our maintenance budget, so the council has been actively engaging with the Department for Transport to seek their support and funding.

**Flooding** - The council used a data interpretation and modelling tool to identify a 'Safe

and Dry' programme of 115 locations where work was needed to improve flood resilience, and work began on the first fifty of these locations in 2022.

The council is also undertaking a two-year programme to clean and plot all gullies and surface drainage features to improve highways drainage management into the future.

**Street Lighting** The council plans to fit street lighting with energy-efficient LEDs. The council spends £3.3M a year on energy for street lights, and this sum will pay back within six years.

**20 mph schemes** - The new funding pot has attracted numerous applications.

### **Greater Cambridge Partnership**

**Making Connections** - In autumn 2022 the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) consulted on its proposals for improved bus provision and active travel in the Cambridge area, which in due course would be funded by a charge for driving in a 'Sustainable Travel Zone' between 7:00am and 7:00pm on weekdays. Requests for a referendum on the charge have been declined at both District and County Council, since it is not until the consultation responses have been analysed and responded to, that final proposals will be drawn up.

What is clear is that action is needed to address the decades of decline in public transport inflicted by successive governments.

**Waterbeach to Cambridge Busway** the public consultation closed on 24 March. Feedback from this consultation will support their recommendations to the GCP Executive Board "later on in the year" for a preferred route option for the busway and a preferred location for a new P&R.

**Waterbeach Greenway** - we await clear plans for a preferred alignment for the route.

### **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)**

The Combined Authority has had a somewhat turbulent year, including an attempt to depose the elected Mayor which was unsuccessful. Most significantly, the auditors (EY) wrote to the Authority in June expressing concerns about the functioning of the Combined Authority, and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities has become involved, setting some clear requirements for improvement. The Combined Authority has agreed an Improvement programme with a package of external support, and an Independent Improvement Board has been established.

**Buses** In September 2022 the main bus operator Stagecoach gave six weeks' notice of its intention to withdraw from a large number of bus routes. The CPCA pulled together a tender process at very short notice, and was able to find new providers for most of those routes, though there have been changes in frequency and extent of several of them. Additional funding was diverted to support these routes, and the Mayor decided to levy a precept which will be added to the council tax to ensure the stability of these services for a further year. The Service 9 route between Milton and Waterbeach was not part of that rescue package and despite my direct requests, Stagecoach refused to re-instate that part of the route. I continue to seek restoration of this vital village link.

The Combined Authority needs to move ahead with a system of franchising of local bus services, which would give democratic control of routes, timetables, and fares, but it needs large amounts of income, and it would take around five years to implement. Meanwhile the Combined Authority is finalising a Bus Strategy for submission to Government.

The CP Combined Authority remains starved of resources by the Government compared to other Combined Authorities. It received no money for its Bus Service Improvement Plan and very little active travel funding. The Government also decided there would be no more money for affordable housing for any Combined Authorities.

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## **Appendix 3**

## Bookings

The Main Community Centre building is now in use 7 days a week and used by nearly 40 groups over the course of a week.

We have seen an increase in bookings for children's parties in the Main Hall but a decrease in adult parties.

The Annexe is still used by Kids R Us Monday to Friday during term time for wrap around care and as a holiday club out of school term times. At weekends it is used for dance and drama on a Saturday morning and children's parties Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

The Youth Building is used by Eddies Artworks throughout the year Monday to Friday and by Youth Club on a Thursday.

North Lodge was used Monday to Friday for 6 months by The British Red Cross whilst they were seeking permanent premises and is now used by Milton Colts Football, Milton Cricket Club and Inland Water Ways.

## Maintenance and Improvements

In addition to day-to-day maintenance the following work has been carried out during the last year:

- The solar panels at North Lodge are now working with the inverter having been replaced and battery storage has been installed
- The lights in the Main Hall and store room at the Community Centre have been replaced with LED lights.
- 5 Year fixed electrical test has been completed at all sites
- Bulkhead lights at the end of the Community Centre have been replaced with LED lamps
- The platform above the slide has been replaced at the Sycamores
- Following burst pipes and a collapsed ceiling in December at the Sycamores Pavilion extensive refurbishment works have been completed
- The basket ball court has been resurfaced at the Sycamores
- The Main Hall walls have been painted
- Separate electric meters have been installed for the tennis court lights
- The guttering at the Annexe have been cleared
- Repairs have been made to the Waste pumping station at the Community Centre
- The drains in the car park at the Community Centre have been cleared

## Staff

I am the only full-time employee supported by 3 part time members of staff, Kevin, Rob and Philip, who share some of the key holder duties.

Andy West  
Community Centre Manager  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2023