

County Council Report for Parish Councils

June 2017

Cllr Roger Hickford & Cllr Kevin Cuffley

Representing the villages:

*Babraham, Great Shelford, Harston, Haslingfield, Hauxton, Little Shelford,
Newton, Sawston, Stapleford*

Council Structure....

Cambridgeshire County Council has now been returned by the electorate to a Conservative led administration. For the last four years there has been “No Overall Control”, which has been challenging for all concerned.

At the election, the Conservatives asked the electorate to put them back in control of the County Council, and this was shown by the results. The Conservatives have 36 out of 61 seats – a healthy majority of 11.

The first Full Council meeting since the elections took place on the 23rd May. Because the County Council now has a Committee System, and must maintain such a system by law for at least another two years, the Conservatives are determined to make it work more quickly, more efficiently and for the benefit of the residents of Cambridgeshire.

Previously the Council structure before the elections consisted of five main committees proportionally made up of 13 members from across all parties:

Adults

Children and Young People

Economy & Environment

Health

Highways and Infrastructure

At the Full council meeting, the Conservatives proposed, and it was agreed, to have seven main committees, consisting of 10 members from across all parties. The two extra committees are:

Commercial & Investments

Community & Partnerships

These two additional committees are very important. The Commercial & Investments committee will look at how the Council can best use its assets, whilst at the same time looking to bring in a revenue stream via such projects as their Housing Development project. This will enable the Council to maintain front line services.

The Community & Partnerships committee will look at how the Council can and will work more closely with parish councils and communities - to work more collaboratively and efficiently. Cllr Kevin Cuffley is the vice-chair of this committee. There will be a Lead Councillor located in each District area. In SCDC, Cllr Lina Joseph has been nominated as the Lead Councillor.

At the Full Council meeting it was also agreed that the previous Leader and Deputy Leader would remain in position. Therefore Cllr Roger Hickford remains Deputy Leader of the Council.

It was also agreed not to have any more verbal questions, which was a platform for "showboating" by certain councillors, but instead to facilitate and accommodate more written questions so the Council is more open and transparent, and has a written record of questions asked. It was also agreed to limit the call in facility, as the committee system is by its nature its own scrutiny function.

The Conservatives are very pleased to be back in control of the County Council, and you have two councillors, who both have positions of responsibility and influence.

Highways....

Cllrs Hickford and Cuffley are meeting your local highways officer on Wednesday 14th June for the whole morning to discuss concerns in the electoral division. We ask parish councils to make all your highways concerns known to us before Friday 9th June, so we can prepare and compare to ensure all issues are being looked at and dealt with. It is our objective to develop a spreadsheet with all the issues raised, so they can be tracked and sorted asap. This system has worked well in the past, but only with the cooperation of the parish councils and residents. Please respond to Cllr Roger Hickford with your ongoing highways issues at roger.hickford@cambridgeshire.gov.uk and I will collate them and share them with Cllr Cuffley and officers.

A1307 LLF....

The A1307 Local Liaison Forum will be meeting on the following dates:

Monday 12th June 6pm to 8pm at Linton Village College – Haverhill to Great Abington

Thursday 15th June 6pm to 8pm at Linton Village College – A11 Area

Tuesday 20th June 6pm to 8pm at Netherhall Sports Centre – Babraham to Cambridge
