



Lina Joseph
Cambridgeshire County Councillor

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. 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



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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.

A part from being involved in these committees, I will also be representing the County Council in Outside bodies. This is still a work in progress and I will let you know which groups I have been appointed to.

I have already started to meet Service Directors and Officers from different areas in order to get up to speed on all the challenges your community faces.

Highways & road maintenance

I receive reports from officers regarding road closures and maintenance and I share them on my Facebook page. If you and residents would like instant information please do follow me.

I am aware that parishes would like to see the grass and verge cutting reinstated and we are working on this. I will keep you posted.

We have increased the budget for repairing potholes and resurfacing. I will be meeting your local highways officer to discuss concerns in the electoral division. We ask parish councils to make all your highways concerns known to me, so I can prepare and compare to ensure all issues are being looked at and dealt with. It is my 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.

However, you can also report directly any issues in your community, it's very easy and quick.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/>



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Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CA)

The CA met on the 31st May. This meeting dealt mainly with formalities and appointing of committee members. You can find more information here: [CA Meeting May](#)

We share similar views on challenges our county faces and we will be working jointly in order to tackle issues such as transport, skills, housing, etc. We want to avoid duplications and make sure there is a multi-level partnership.

Choo Choo the next stop is Cambridge North!

The New Cambridge North station opened its gates to the public on Sunday 21 May 2017.

Listen back to our Director of Strategy and Development, Bob Menzies, on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire this morning, talking about the new Cambridge North Station, our involvement in the new station and the benefits it will bring. Skip to 1:10:00 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p05295jh>

Community Events

Street Parties – We have a few street parties booked for the weekend 17th/18th June these are in conjunction with the Big Lunch <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/thebiglunchhomepage>

Playing Out Scheme – Similar to street parties with the aim of allowing children to play out in the street safely in a closed road area. The scheme launched in Bristol and has been making its way around the country has made it to Cambridgeshire. More information can be found here <http://playingout.net/>

Don't forget to view the highways event Facebook page.

https://www.facebook.com/pg/CCCHighwayEvents/events/?ref=page_internal

Transformation Team

The **Transformation Team** is working on all the major change programmes and service design initiatives which are vital to achieving large scale improvement and cost reduction over the next five years. The team officially started in December 2016, and since then lots of work has been done to look at existing projects as well as innovative thinking about work that could transform and improve Council services.

One of the areas they have been working in is Adult Social care. Neighbourhood Cares will be a brand new team changing the way we deliver care, providing better outcomes for our service users at a reduced spend.



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*Another project is **In Touch Project**. 35 Smartphones have been rolled out to Reablement staff. Each smartphone has been installed with In Touch, an application that enables mobile working for Support Workers to access information whilst out in the community delivering care, & all recipients have been trained to use it. In Touch also links to the Cygnum database (the resource management & planning system that is used by Adult Social Care) in real time. Those who will receive devices include the Support Workers who visit service users to carry out care related activities & the office based Care Coordinators who allocate these visits.*

Finally, **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

Just to remind you that the public is welcome to attend County Councils meetings. You can find all the details in the website, along with the agenda and supporting documents.

As always I welcome your questions and comments on the foregoing and any other local or strategic matter in which you are interested.

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