

COUNTY COUNCIL – 19TH JULY 2016

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEOPLE

Rosie Edwards, Head of Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Services

The Chairman reports with enormous sadness the death of Rosie Edwards, Head of Cambridgeshire Environmental Education Service. Rosie was a passionate advocate of environmental education and outdoor learning and, during nearly 40 years of service in the County Council, she has touched the lives of thousands and thousands of children, teachers and colleagues. The Council's thoughts are with her family, friends and colleagues at this very sad time.

AWARDS

Former Director of Children's Social Care receives OBE in Queen's Birthday Honours

Niki Clemo, the Council's former Director of Children's Social Care, has been awarded an OBE for her services to children in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Niki, together with colleagues, was instrumental in turning around the fortunes of Cambridgeshire's safeguarding arrangements from inadequate to good in less than two years. Niki said: "On behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council's social workers and staff, elected members, partners and stakeholders, I am delighted to accept this OBE. Working in Cambridgeshire gave me the opportunity to promote the social work profession as one that should be celebrated and valued – and it's this recognition of our profession that makes this OBE so special.

Municipal Journal Award for Community Engagement

Cambridgeshire County Council working with Spice has won a Municipal Journal Award for Community Engagement for their Time Credits programme. Led by the Council's Strategic Marketing, Communications and Engagement team, Social Enterprise Spice, colleagues throughout Cambridgeshire County Council and partners, they beat a host of other councils to scoop the top prize for Excellence in Community Engagement.

This award is a real celebration of the volunteers taking part in the initiative who have given thousands of hours of their time throughout the County to make it a success. For each hour a volunteer gives to participating organisations or services, they receive one time credit. These can be exchanged for a range of activities, from a swim to bowling, an afternoon club or even a visit to the Tower of London. This project would not be possible without a variety of our services working together to embed Time Credits in the work that they do.

SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS

Transformation Programme

Although Cambridgeshire has always been an innovative Council, members have been keen that it increases the pace around transforming the authority to meet the financial challenges. That is why it is pleased to announce that the transformation programme has kicked off including informal workshops with Members on bringing forward ideas that could potentially save millions of pounds, protect frontline services and deliver services in a way that benefit our communities. Staff are also playing a vital role as part of this transformation programme and an internal ICAN campaign has been launched by the Chief Executive and Strategic Management to engage with them, encourage ideas to come forward and empower them to help improve the Council.

Stonewall Education Equality Index

Cambridgeshire has been ranked fourth in LGBT charity Stonewall's *Education Equality Index 2016* for its work in tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic (HBT) bullying in schools. The county has been ranked in the top 10 authorities in the Index every year since it started in 2011 and has been a member of Stonewall's Education Champions Programme since it started in 2008. As part of the programme, local authorities work with Stonewall to establish ways of tackling HBT bullying. Cambridgeshire's submission for the award was led by CREDS (Cambridgeshire Race Equality and Diversity Service) in partnership with SexYOUality – a Cambridgeshire charity that supports lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans young people.

Adult Learning and Skills Team

The Council's Adult Learning and Skills Team have been graded as good after a recent Ofsted Inspection. Very few organisations have maintained their good status through the changes to the inspection model and through restructure of a service. Lynsi Hayward-Smith, Head of Adult Learning and Skills is very proud of what the team has achieved and would like to thank everyone who helped with it.

Summer Reading Challenge 2016

The theme of this year's Summer Reading Challenge is 'The Big Friendly Read' which is being launched on 16 July. Children are asked to read any six library books through the summer holidays and can collect a Roald Dahl Character postcard each week. A certificate and gold medal will be awarded to all children who finish the Challenge. Last year 3,500 children took part in the Challenge. This year, given the yearlong global Roald Dahl 100 celebration of the world's favourite storyteller and considerable interest already shown by schools, a record number of participants are anticipated.

[The Big Friendly Read Summer Challenge](#)

St Ives Library: Open+ self-service to be available soon

Open+ will soon be available for public use at St Ives Library. The Council is trialling this innovative self-service library system that allows access to library resources, including borrowing or returning books, use of free Wi-Fi, PCs and pre-booked meeting rooms, outside of staffed hours. Open+ will allow for the reinstatement of Sunday opening hours (12noon to 4pm), and additional hours on a Thursday afternoon, 1:30 to 5:30pm. If the system is successful at St Ives, Open+ could be installed at other libraries to enhance current opening hours, offering a more flexible, efficient, community-driven service.

MESSAGES

Royal Visits to Cambridgeshire

The Chairman was honoured to welcome four Royal guests to Cambridgeshire recently, on behalf of the County Council.

On Thursday 23 June 2016, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited St John Ambulance to open the Goodman Centre, the charity's new Headquarters in Cherry Hinton. The Centre, which is used for training by the Cambridge City, Cambridge Eastern and Cherry Hinton units, along with the cycle response unit, is named after the late Anne Goodman, who was instrumental in setting up St John Ambulance in Cherry Hinton.

On Sunday 3 July, His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester attended a service and parade in Ely Cathedral, as Colonel in Chief of the Royal Anglian Regiment, for the annual reunion of the Royal Anglian Regiment, which this year also marked the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

On Wednesday 13 July, Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, officially opened the East Anglian Air Ambulance's new operational base, The Egerton-Smith Building, at Cambridge Airport, which is named after the charity's founder and president, Andrew Egerton-Smith MBE.