

County Council – 12th December 2023

Chair's Announcements

People

Former County Councillor Roger Henson

It is with regret that the Chair reports the recent death of former County Councillor Roger Henson, who represented the Norman Cross Division on behalf of UKIP from 2013 to 2017. The Council's thoughts are with his family and friends at this very sad time.

Former County Councillor Claire Richards

It is with regret that the Chair reports the recent death of former County Councillor Claire Richards, who represented the Castle Division on behalf of Labour from 2017 to 2021. The Council's thoughts are with her family and friends at this very sad time.

Christine Birchall, Head of Communications and Information

Christine Birchall, Head of Communications and Information retires on 15th January 2024. The Council thanks her for her untiring work for the council since she joined in February 2017. Her work during the Covid pandemic was noteworthy as she and her team worked to support the Council's communities through this most difficult time. The high quality of this work was commended by the Cabinet Office and recommended as a model for others to follow.

The Council wishes Christine all the best in her retirement. Her enthusiasm, commitment and her drive will be sorely missed.

Awards

Children in Care Council

The Children in Care Council work on their Every Word Matters project has been recognised with A National Voice Award from the national Children in Care Council.

Their animated video of a discussion led by a Care Leaver is this year's Digital Award winner. Every Word Matters (available on [YouTube](#)) highlights how the words we use can make children and young people feel, and how important it is that we talk to them about the words we use with them.

The Children in Care Council, supported by the Participation Team, are active in creating change to improve the way services work with Children in Care, with many of their projects having relevance to all of us working with children and young people.

Swaffham Prior Renewable Heat Network

Swaffham Prior Renewable Heat Network, the UK's first retrofitted village heat network, has won the prestigious Edie Net Zero Award for Renewable Energy Project of the Year. A community-led project delivered by Cambridgeshire County Council working in partnership with the Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust, Government and Bouygues Energies and Services Ltd. The Edie Awards – formerly known as the Sustainability Leaders Awards – are the world's largest sustainable business awards and recognise green projects which are transforming the energy landscape for good. This innovative project will enable villagers to ditch their oil tanks and storage heaters and switch to a clean renewable heat network using ground and air source heat pumps installed at the newly created energy centre.

The 5% Club's 2023-24 Employer Audit Scheme

Cambridgeshire has become the first County Council to be awarded 'Silver' membership of The 5% Club's 2023-24 Employer Audit Scheme. This award recognises the Council's significant contribution to the continued development of all its employees through "earn and learn" schemes such as Apprenticeships, Graduate Development Programmes and Sponsored Student Course Placements. With a workforce of around 4,600 people and with many roles in areas where there are national skills shortages – such as social care staff and engineering – the council continues to explore all opportunities to attract a committed and skilled workforce to deliver its vision to build a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire Youth Justice Service

Congratulations to the Cambridgeshire Youth Justice Service, which has been rated as 'good' overall by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation. The inspection found a highly motivated team of staff who were skilled and knowledgeable, and a service committed to learning and development.

Interim Chief Inspector of Probation Sue McAllister said: "Overall, Cambridgeshire Youth Justice Service is performing well, and it is highly regarded by its partners. We found children benefit from a wide range of services including access to a psychologist. We are confident the service is committed to using our recommendations to assist it in achieving its high ambitions for youth justice delivery in Cambridgeshire."

University of the Year 2023 – Anglia Ruskin University

Anglia Ruskin University was named the Times Higher Education University of the Year 2023 on 7 December 2023.

The Times Higher Education Awards are known as the Oscars of UK Higher Education, and the University of the Year award is the highest profile prize in the sector. Other universities shortlisted for the award this year included the University of Exeter, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and University of York.

In addition to winning the University of the Year 2023 award, it was also shortlisted in the categories of Outstanding Contribution to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, for the excellent [Students at the Heart of Knowledge Exchange](#) scheme, and Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community, for [ARU Peterborough](#).

Service Developments

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The Overarching Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for 2023 has just been published on Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Insight (<https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/jsna-2023/>). It provides a wealth of data and information on the population and health of our local area through a new interactive format. This JSNA reflects on the changes in our population over the last 10 years and looks forward to the next 10 years, as well as presenting data on life expectancy, health, mortality and much more. This new interactive resource allows users to compare Cambridgeshire and the districts to other similar areas across England, as well as providing more local ward level data where possible.

Messages

Veteran's Day at the American Cemetery in Madingley

The Chair attended the Veteran's Day Service at Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial in Madingley, Cambridge and laid a wreath at the memorial, alongside other dignitaries.

Remembrance Service at New Shire Hall

Councillor Stephen Ferguson led a Remembrance Service at New Shire Hall, His Majesty's Vice Lord-Lieutenant Brigadier Tim Seal attended along with Lord-Lieutenant Cadet Beth Sharp. Alconbury Church of England Primary School provided the musical accompaniment with their Year 6 Choir. Councillors, members of the Royal British Legion and colleagues from the council were in attendance.

Armistice Day Service and Thinking Soldier Centenary Commemoration

The Chair laid a wreath at the Huntingdon War Memorial as part of the Armistice Service. This year marked the centenary of the unveiling of the Thinking Soldier war memorial, which the Huntingdon branch of the Women's Institute raised money for after the end of the First World War, while the council contributed for the cost of the base.

Olive Alternative Provision Academy in Cambridge

The Chair was joined by Councillor Bryony Goodliffe to see the excellent work being undertaken at Olive Alternative Provision Academy in Cambridge.

British Empire Medal (BEM) Investiture at Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge

The Chair attended the BEM Investiture for Mrs Patricia Covington, who has worked tirelessly to improve life in the village of Steeple Morden, particularly in her role as postmistress for 35 years, as well as an extremely active member of the Royal British Legion.

Cambridgeshire Academy for Reaching Excellence (CARE)

The Chair opened proceedings at the CARE launch at New Shire Hall, the Cambridgeshire Academy for Reaching Excellence.

Steel signing at Kennet Primary School

The Chair attended a Steel signing event at Kennet Primary School which marked an important milestone in the construction of the new school building, which the school plan to move into in 2024.

White Ribbon Flag Raising at New Shire Hall

The Chair raised the White Ribbon Flag and said a few words at New Shire Hall alongside Councillor Stephen Ferguson, the Executive Director of Strategy and Partnerships and other Cambridgeshire County Council colleagues. White Ribbon is a UK charity which aims to end male violence against women and girls, and Cambridgeshire County Council has received White Ribbon Accreditation for the work it does around addressing male violence. The theme for this year is #ChangeTheStory to recognise that culture change doesn't happen overnight.

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal opened the New Huntingdon Fire Station and Service Training Centre

The Chair was part of the dignitary line up on the 29th November when Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal opened the New Huntingdon Fire Station and Service Training Centre.

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal opened the North Cambridgeshire Training Centre (NCTC) in Chatteris

The Chair attended the opening of the NCTC, North Cambridgeshire Training Centre in Chatteris by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal.

St Andrew's Flag Raising at New Shire Hall

The Chair raised the St Andrew's Flag at New Shire Hall, accompanied by Deputy Lieutenant Mr Daryl Brown MBE.

King's College Carol Service

The Chair took part in the King's College Carol Service for Secondary Schools by reading the Fifth Lesson at King's College Chapel.

Fenland District Council Chairman's Carol Service

The Chair attended the Fenland District Council Chairman's Carol Service at St Peter & St Paul Parish Church, Wisbech.