

County Council – 17th October 2023

Chair's Announcements

People

Former County Councillor Dr Derek Nicholls

It is with regret that the Chair reports the death of former County Councillor Dr Derek Nicholls, who represented the Shelford and Chesterton Divisions on behalf of the Liberal Democrat party from 1984 to 1993. The Council's thoughts are with his family and friends at this very sad time.

Rochelle Van-Croom

It is with deep regret that the Chair reports the recent death of Rochelle van-Croom.

Rochelle was a much loved and respected Lead Support worker working within our Prevention & Early Intervention Service across Ely and Cambridgeshire. Rochelle loved her role and was truly passionate about delivering support services to those in need and made positive impacts to the lives of those she supported within her role.

Rochelle will be sadly missed by her friends and colleagues in the Service, many of whom she supported within her role, often going above and beyond to make a real difference. The Council's thoughts are with her family, friends, and colleagues at this very sad time.

Sue Procter, Service Director for Highways and Transport

Sue Procter, Service Director for Highways and Transport retired at the end of August. Sue has been an integral part in supporting the Council's aim to improve transport and connectivity for all residents in Cambridgeshire.

David Parcell, Senior Finance Business Partner, and Denise Parcell, Senior Admin and Finance Officer

The Council records with gratitude the retirement of David Parcell in September, from his role as Senior Finance Business Partner, after 42 years dedicated service to the Council. David has made an immense contribution to public financial management in Cambridgeshire during his long tenure. His wife Denise Parcell, also retired in September after 39 years dedicated service to the Council, most recently supporting Highways and Transport. David and Denise share a combined 81 years at the County Council, and their professionalism, expertise and friendship will be missed by colleagues. The Council wishes them a happy retirement.

Awards

Libraries of Sanctuary status

Libraries throughout Cambridgeshire have received Libraries of Sanctuary status. This national award celebrates libraries that work hard to demonstrate hospitality, solidarity and welcome to new arrivals in the area. The title was awarded by City of Sanctuary UK, a nationally coordinated network of organisations and services, including councils, universities, theatres and libraries that welcome and support refugees and people seeking asylum. Cambridgeshire has a strong heritage of supporting those in need, with public libraries playing an important role in welcoming refugees, migrants, and other new arrivals into our communities.

The award follows Cambridgeshire Libraries' May 2022 pledge to work towards the City of Sanctuary charter locally. This saw Cambridgeshire Libraries working across staff, volunteers and library users to learn what it means to be seeking sanctuary; and be actively involved in awareness raising about the issues of refugees and displaced people. Libraries have also taken positive action to ensure a culture of hospitality which means refugees and all those seeking sanctuary are welcomed, supported and included throughout library resources, events and learning opportunities hosted at Cambridgeshire Libraries.

Alongside this work, the service has also shared information and news about the positive contribution refugees make to our society, as part of Cambridgeshire's wider commitment to openness, welcome and tolerance and our drive to become a fairer and more caring County.

Anglia Ruskin University shortlisted for the University of the Year award

The Chair congratulates Anglia Ruskin University on being shortlisted for the University of the Year award in this year's *Times Higher Education* (THE) Awards, widely known as the Oscars of the UK university sector. It is also shortlisted for the Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community award (for the creation of ARU Peterborough) and Outstanding Contribution to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion award (for our SHoKE project).

The awards honour "exceptional performance during the 2021-22 academic year", a time when the Covid-19 pandemic was still causing disruption, and Anglia Ruskin University's success in delivering high-impact projects during this period has been recognised by the judges.

Anglia Ruskin University is dedicated to serving the region and the communities in which it is based. Its significant achievements in 2021-22 included the successful launch of ARU Peterborough, a new university designed from the ground up to meet the needs of local students, employers, and the regional economy.

In May 2022 its progress in growing the range, quality and impact of its research was recognised by its best ever ranking in the Research Excellence Framework 2021, with every subject area including research rated as 'world-leading'. This followed the award

of The Queen's Anniversary Prize, which acknowledged the globally important work of ARU's Cambridge Institute for Music Therapy Research.

In the *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings 2022, it was ranked 1st in the UK and 20th globally for health and wellbeing. Its submission also highlighted the interdisciplinary Ruskin Modules and the Students at the Heart of Knowledge Exchange initiative, which in 2021-22 saw over 1,000 students tackle 60 complex challenges facing society, each set by local public sector partners. A fantastic achievement during a difficult year.

It also opened the UK's first Samaritans university hub on our Cambridge campus, which sees fully trained student and staff volunteers deliver support to the public, and ARU's Chelmsford campus hosted the most sustainable British Science Festival ever staged, attracting thousands of visitors.

It also continued to serve and enrich the region by being the largest university provider of initial police education and the largest provider of health and social work graduates in the UK (Graduate Outcomes Survey 2021).

This recognition clearly demonstrates how it delivers on its mission to serve the region and transform lives through innovative, inclusive and entrepreneurial education and research.

Messages

Visit of His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester to Lower Valley Farm, Fulbourn

The Chair was part of the dignitary line up on 19 July when His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester visited Lower Valley Farm in Fulbourn.

Historic Counties Flag Raising at New Shire Hall

The Chair raised the Historic Counties Flag and said a few words at New Shire Hall alongside Deputy Lieutenant Mr Chris Parkhouse, Dr Stephen Moir and other Cambridgeshire County Council Colleagues. The aim of Historic County Flags Day is to have as many county flags flying across Great Britain as possible on the same day, to mark the nation's historic counties.

Annual Peppercorn Lunch

The Chair was delighted to be invited to the Annual Peppercorn Lunch. On behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council, he paid the Council's annual fee of a peppercorn to Marshalls for the lease of Newmarket Road Park & Ride site.

Gateway to India – special Opening Event

The Chair attended Mill Road, Cambridge where the newly created carved stone arch, Gateway to India project was unveiled. It is the first Gateway to India within the UK and the project has seen people of different cultures, religions and political affiliations all come together.

Merchant Navy and Emergency Service Flag Raising at New Shire Hall

The Chair raised the Merchant Navy and Emergency Service Flags and said a few words at New Shire Hall alongside Deputy Lieutenant Mr James Buxton FRICS, Councillor Stephen Ferguson, Dr Stephen Moir and other Cambridgeshire County Council Colleagues.

Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal opened the new Magpas Air Ambulance base

The Chair was part of the dignitary line up on 12th September when Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal opened the new Magpas Air Ambulance base in Alconbury

Mayor of Ramsey's Civic Church Service

The Chair attended the Mayor of Ramsey's Civic Church Service at St Thomas A Becket Church in Ramsey.

Tree planting ceremony at Prestley Wood

The Chair spoke at the Tree Planting Ceremony at Prestley Wood to mark the new progress being made on the school.

Coneygear Room Naming and Freedom Presentation Event

The Chair attended the room naming ceremony at the Coneygear Centre where they honoured two former Mayors, Jim Lomax and Beryl Robertson and former Town Clerk, Ted Boocking

Institution and Induction of the Reverend Canon Jutta Brueck

The Chair attended the institution and induction of the Reverend Canon Jutta Brueck at Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge by the Right Reverend Dagmar Winter, Acting Bishop of Ely.

BBC Radio Cambridgeshire Make a Difference Awards

The Chair attended the BBC Radio Cambridgeshire Make a Difference Awards at Peterborough Cathedral, where people across the county were awarded for their care for their communities and inspiration to others.

Mayor of Whittlesey Civic Service

The Chair attended the Mayor of Whittlesey's Civic Service at St Andrew's Church in Whittlesey.

The High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire Justice Service

The Chair was welcomed by the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, Dr Bharatkumar N Khetani, for his Justice Service at Peterborough Cathedral.

The British Racing School Summer Reception

The Vice Chair, Cllr Gerri Bird attended The British Racing School Summer Reception for a dinner celebrating 40 Years.

Team Mildenhall's 2023 New Mayors BBQ

The Vice Chair attended The New Mayors BBQ on 19 August with Team Mildenhall.