

COUNTY COUNCIL: MINUTES

Please note the meeting can be viewed on YouTube at the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEzaG2x7TmM>

Date: Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Time: 10:30am – 1:55pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Shire Hall, Cambridge

Present: Councillor M McGuire (Chairman)
Councillor L Every (Vice-Chairwoman)
Councillors: D Ambrose Smith, B Ashwood, A Bailey, H Batchelor, I Bates, C Boden, A Bradnam, S Bywater, D Connor, A Costello, S Count, S Crawford, S Criswell, P Downes, L Dupre, J French, R Fuller, I Gardener, D Giles, M Goldsack, L Harford, A Hay, R Hickford, M Howell, S Hoy, P Hudson, B Hunt, D Jenkins, L Jones, N Kavanagh, S Kindersley, S King, I Manning, E Meschini, K Reynolds, C Richards, T Rogers, J Scutt, M Shellens, M Smith, A Taylor, S Taylor, P Topping, S van de Ven, D Wells, J Whitehead, J Williams, G Wilson, J Wisson and T Wotherspoon

Apologies: Councillors: K Cuffley, J Gowing, N Harrison, L Nethsingha, L Nieto, T Sanderson, J Schumann, M Shuter and S Tierney

163. MINUTES – 14TH MAY 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

164. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made a number of announcements, as set out in **Appendix A**.

165. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct.

166. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman reported that two questions had been received from members of the public, as set out in **Appendix B**.

167. PETITIONS

The Chairman reported that no petitions had been received from members of the public.

168. ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION FROM GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

(a) Cambridgeshire County Council Draft Plastics Strategy

It was moved by the Vice-Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, Councillor Hickford, and seconded by Councillor Bates that the recommendation from the General Purposes Committee, as set out on the Council agenda, be approved.

It was resolved unanimously by a show of hands to:

Approve the Plastics Strategy.

(b) Treasury Management Report – Quarter Four 2018-19

It was moved by the Vice-Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, Councillor Hickford, and seconded by Councillor Bates that the recommendation from the General Purposes Committee, as set out on the Council agenda, be approved.

It was resolved unanimously by a show of hands to:

Note the Treasury Management Quarter Four Report for 2018-19.

169. REPORTS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

a) Proposal to update the Terms of Reference for the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board and to create a further Joint Sub-Committee with Peterborough Board

It was moved by the Chairwoman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, Councillor Every, and seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Reynolds, that the recommendations of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, as set out in the report, be approved.

It was resolved unanimously by a show of hands to:

- a) Approve the updated terms of reference for the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board and the Joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board (a sub-committee comprising both boards);
- b) Approve the proposed terms of reference for the new sub-committee of the Health and Wellbeing Board; and
- c) Authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairwoman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, to make any other minor or consequential amendments to the Constitution necessary for, or incidental to, the implementation of these proposals.

b) Social Media Code for Councillors

It was moved by the Chairwoman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, Councillor Every, and seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Reynolds, that the

recommendations of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, as set out in the report, be approved.

The following amendment to the recommendations was proposed by Councillor Hoy and seconded by Councillor Topping (additions in bold and deletions in strikethrough):

That full Council:

- a) Approves the introduction of a new Part 3 of the Code which would cross-reference ~~the new social media code along with other~~ relevant documents Members should consider alongside the code of conduct (which are not currently cross-referenced); and
- b) Authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairwoman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, to make any other minor or consequential amendments to the Constitution necessary for, or incidental to, the implementation of these proposals.

Following discussion, the amendment on being put to the vote was carried unanimously by a show of hands.

It was resolved unanimously by a show of hands to:

- a) Approve the introduction of a new Part 3 of the Code which would cross-reference relevant documents Members should consider alongside the code of conduct (which are not currently cross-referenced); and
- b) Authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairwoman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, to make any other minor or consequential amendments to the Constitution necessary for, or incidental to, the implementation of these proposals.

c) Gifts and Hospitality

It was moved by the Chairwoman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, Councillor Every, and seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Reynolds, that the recommendations of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, as set out in the report, be approved.

It was resolved unanimously by a show of hands to:

- a) Approve revisions and additions to the Council's Constitution as set out in Appendix A of the report; and
- b) Authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairwoman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, to make any other minor or consequential amendments to the Constitution necessary for, or incidental to, the implementation of these proposals.

d) Scheme of Delegation to Officers

It was moved by the Chairwoman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, Councillor Every, and seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Reynolds, that the recommendations of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, as set out in the report, be approved.

It was resolved unanimously by a show of hands to:

- a) Approve revisions and additions to the Council's Constitution as set out in Appendix A of the report; and
- b) Authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairwoman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, to make any other minor or consequential amendments to the Constitution necessary for, or incidental to, the implementation of these proposals.

e) Pension Fund Committee Investment Sub-Committee – Substitution Arrangements

It was moved by the Chairwoman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, Councillor Every, and seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Reynolds, that the recommendations of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, as set out in the report, be approved.

It was resolved unanimously by a show of hands to:

- a) Approve revisions and additions to the Council's Constitution as set out in Appendix A of the report; and
- b) Authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairwoman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, to make any other minor or consequential amendments to the Constitution necessary for, or incidental to, the implementation of these proposals.

170. MOTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE 10

Four motions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10.

(a) Motion from Councillor Claire Richards

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Richards and seconded by Councillor Meschini:

Under proposals put forward by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), a new police station would be built north of Cambridge and the current Cambridge city centre police station would be replaced by an information point and a shared office with limited space.

Cambridge is a city with a high number of visitors from all over the County, the United Kingdom and the world. A large number of events take place in the city, particularly over the summer months and during the summer evenings, attracting people from far and wide as well as those living in Cambridge city. Young people

from all over Cambridgeshire come into the city for entertainment during the day and in the evenings. Their continued enjoyment is something everyone would want, and this is dependent upon good will and good policing.

Cambridgeshire has an increasing drug problem. This is well-known to the Police, community workers, the welfare sector and the education sector. The County Council officers working in the area are well aware of it and, working in partnership with other bodies including the police, are doing what they can to address the problem. The issue of County Lines can be seen in the increasing statistics. There has been an increase in the use of crack cocaine - some figures pointing to an increase of 18% in the eastern region - and increased demand has led to suppliers coming from outside the County. Domestic violence and abuse is an increasing problem in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire. The Cambridge Community Partnership papers for July 2nd 2019 points to a 'significant' increase of reported domestic abuse.

Neighbourhood police need to be on hand to protect the most vulnerable in our society, working in and with our communities. All our young people both living in the city and living outside it, including youth coming into Cambridge from the villages, need to be able to do so in safety and free from harm. Cambridge and Cambridgeshire residents need this certainty of safety and freedom from harm too.

The reduction in police numbers throughout the country and in particular Cambridgeshire impacts on the safety and wellbeing of the entire community. Every major centre in the County should have a police station well-staffed and open on a 24/7 basis. This is essential if the interests of the community are to be properly served. The policing of the County is at risk and the proposed downgrading of policing in Cambridge city is an indicator that the interests of all County residents need to be emphasised by this Council in order that the PCC is properly mindful of the needs of the city, major centres in the County and the County as a whole and undertakes to provide proper and adequate policing for all.

This Council therefore resolves:

To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable calling on them to retain, in the interests of the residents of Cambridge and Cambridgeshire, a Cambridge city centre police station that is open for public access and reporting at least 16 hours a day and staffed 24/7 with neighbourhood police officers and with patrol cars.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Dupre and seconded by Councillor Manning (additions in bold and deletions in strikethrough):

Under proposals put forward by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), a new ~~police station~~ **southern divisional police hub** would be built north of Cambridge and ~~the current Cambridge city centre police station would be replaced by an information point and a shared office with limited space.~~ **The Council notes:**

- (a) that the Commissioner has also proposed a new city centre police station in Cambridge and that Cambridge's neighbourhood policing team would continue to be based in Cambridge. This council believes both of these to be vital to address on the one hand in the city centre**

the sheer concentration of incidents, the night economy and volume of visitors and, on the other hand across the wider urban area and South Cambridgeshire, the incidence of issues including those related to drugs and domestic violence.

(b) the value of joined-up working through co-location of neighbourhood policing and local authority community safety and enforcement teams, which has been unlocked in Peterborough by the Constabulary and Peterborough City Council, and believes that it may be timely to explore a similar arrangement in Cambridge.

(c) the importance of retaining a staffed and open police station presence in settlements outside Cambridge.

~~Cambridge is a city with a high number of visitors from all over the County, the United Kingdom and the world. A large number of events take place in the city, particularly over the summer months and during the summer evenings, attracting people from far and wide as well as those living in Cambridge city. Young people from all over Cambridgeshire come into the city for entertainment during the day and in the evenings. Their continued enjoyment is something everyone would want, and this is dependent upon good will and good policing.~~

~~Cambridgeshire has an increasing drug problem. This is well known to the Police, community workers, the welfare sector and the education sector. The County Council officers working in the area are well aware of it and, working in partnership with other bodies including the police, are doing what they can to address the problem. The issue of County Lines can be seen in the increasing statistics. There has been an increase in the use of crack cocaine – some figures pointing to an increase of 18% in the eastern region – and increased demand has led to suppliers coming from outside the County. Domestic violence and abuse is an increasing problem in Cambridge and Cambridgeshire. The Cambridge Community Partnership papers for July 2nd 2019 points to a ‘significant’ increase of reported domestic abuse.~~

~~Neighbourhood police need to be on hand to protect the most vulnerable in our society, working in and with our communities. All our young people both living in the city and living outside it, including youth coming into Cambridge from the villages, need to be able to do so in safety and free from harm. Cambridge and Cambridgeshire residents need this certainty of safety and freedom from harm too.~~

~~The reduction in police numbers throughout the country and in particular Cambridgeshire impacts on the safety and wellbeing of the entire community. Every major centre in the County should have a police station well-staffed and open on a 24/7 basis. This is essential if the interests of the community are to be properly served. The policing of the County is at risk and the proposed downgrading of policing in Cambridge city is an indicator that the interests of all County residents need to be emphasised by this Council in order that the PCC is properly mindful of the needs of the city, major centres in the County and the County as a whole and undertakes to provide proper and adequate policing for all.~~

This Council therefore resolves:

- (1) To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable calling on them to ~~retain~~ **deliver on their proposal of a new**, in the interests of the residents of Cambridge and Cambridgeshire, a Cambridge city centre police station that is open for public access and reporting at least 16 hours a day and staffed 24/7 with neighbourhood police officers and with patrol cars, **in the interests of Cambridge residents and the wider area.**
- (2) **To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Leader and Chief Executive of Cambridge City Council recommending them to work together with the Commissioner and the Chief Constable to further define what accommodation is needed to ensure high quality policing in Cambridge, in particular exploring opportunities to co-locate its community safety and enforcement operations in the same accommodation, without detriment to existing police station arrangements outside Cambridge.**
- (3) **To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable calling on them to support the continued existence of staffed and open police station presence in settlements outside Cambridge.**

Councillors Topping and Bradnam declared non-statutory disclosable interests under the Code of Conduct as a member and substitute member of South Cambridgeshire District Council's Planning Committee respectively, which would be considering the application for the South Divisional Police Hub, and confirmed that they would therefore be abstaining from the vote.

Following discussion, the amendment on being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: 11 Liberal Democrats and Independents in favour; 27 Conservatives and Labour against; 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 Conservative abstained.]

Following discussion, the motion on being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: Labour and 1 Liberal Democrat in favour; 27 Conservatives against; 12 Liberal Democrats, Independents and 1 Conservative abstained.]

(b) Motion from Councillor Jocelyne Scutt

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Scutt and seconded by Councillor Richards:

The County Council has honoured its obligations in respect of payments to employees by paying the National Living wage as statutorily obliged. On 1 April the County Council commenced paying the National Joint Council (NJC) pay rates up to S02 level, so that since that date the County Council has been paying the NJC rate commencing at £9.00 per hour. This now overlaps with the Real Living Wage rate of £9.00 per hour as set by the Real Living Wage Foundation.

This coincidence of the NJC rate with the Real Living Wage rate provides the County Council with the opportunity to consolidate its position by becoming a Real Living Wage accredited employer.

Accreditation ensures that in addition to paying its own employees the Real Living Wage, the County Council would protect the pay of employees undertaking many of the services commissioned by the County Council that are paid for by private contractors. As many jobs previously provided by County employees are contracted out, the County Council can in this way ensure that Real Living Wage provisions extend to its contractors.

Real Living Wage accreditation will improve the County Council's reputation as a major Cambridgeshire employer. It can have the result of both increasing employee retention rates and consolidating employee motivation. It will improve manager and staff relations so that all around it will be of benefit to Cambridgeshire and the County Council as a whole.

Comparison of Minimum Wage, National Living Wage and Real Living Wage rates:

	Minimum Wage Government minimum for under-25s	National Living Wage Government minimum for over-25s	Real Living Wage The only wage rate based on what people need to live
WHAT IS IT?	£7.70	£8.21	£9.00 across the UK £10.55 in London
IS IT THE LAW?	Statutory	Statutory	Voluntary
WHAT AGE GROUP IS COVERED?	21 and above	25 and above	18 and above
HOW IS IT SET?	Negotiated settlement based on recommendations from businesses and trade unions	A % of medium earnings, currently at 55%, it aims to reach 60% of median earnings by 2020	Calculation made according to the cost of living, based on a basket of household goods and services
IS THERE A LONDON WEIGHTING?	No London Weighting	No London Weighting	Yes – Separate higher rate for London

This link provides a full report of the benefits of accreditation:

<https://www.livingwage.org.uk/sites/default/files/Cardiff%20Business%20School%202017%20Report.pdf>)

The County Council therefore resolves:

1. That Cambridgeshire County Council adopts the Real Living Wage and becomes a committed Real Living Wage employer, so that it pays to all its employees now and in the future the Real Living Wage in accordance with the wage rates set by the Real Living Wage scale.
2. That Cambridgeshire County Council adopts the principle and practice of 'contract compliance' so that where it contracts out work, it contracts to companies or contracting bodies or partners which are Real Living Wage employers, paying to all their employees the Real Living Wage in accordance with the Real Living Wage scale.
3. That accordingly, the Cambridgeshire County Council seeks accreditation to the Living Wage Foundation to ensure it pays the Real Living Wage to all staff and to contractors who work regularly on County Council premises and when contracting with private employers to undertake County Council work, the County Council does so only with Real Living Wage employers.

An alteration to the motion was proposed by Councillor Scutt and received the meeting's consent without discussion. An amendment to this altered motion was proposed by Councillor Manning, accepted by Councillor Scutt and received the meeting's consent without discussion.

The altered motion was therefore as follows (additions in bold and deletions in strikethrough):

The County Council has honoured its obligations in respect of payments to employees by paying the National Living wage as statutorily obliged. On 1 April the County Council commenced paying the National Joint Council (NJC) pay rates up to S02 level, so that since that date the County Council has been paying the NJC rate commencing at £9.00 per hour. This now overlaps with the Real Living Wage rate of £9.00 per hour as set by the Real Living Wage Foundation.

This coincidence of the NJC rate with the Real Living Wage rate provides the County Council with the opportunity to consolidate its position by becoming a Real Living Wage accredited employer.

Accreditation ensures that in addition to paying its own employees the Real Living Wage, the County Council would protect the pay of employees undertaking many of the services commissioned by the County Council that are paid for by private contractors. As many jobs previously provided by County employees are contracted out, the County Council can in this way ensure that Real Living Wage provisions extend to its contractors.

Real Living Wage accreditation will improve the County Council's reputation as a major Cambridgeshire employer. It can have the result of both increasing employee retention rates and consolidating employee motivation. It will improve

manager and staff relations so that all around it will be of benefit to Cambridgeshire and the County Council as a whole.

Comparison of Minimum Wage, National Living Wage and Real Living Wage rates:

	Minimum Wage Government minimum for under-25s	National Living Wage Government minimum for over-25s	Real Living Wage The only wage rate based on what people need to live
WHAT IS IT?	£7.70	£8.21	£9.00 across the UK £10.55 in London
IS IT THE LAW?	Statutory	Statutory	Voluntary
WHAT AGE GROUP IS COVERED?	21 and above	25 and above	18 and above
HOW IS IT SET?	Negotiated settlement based on recommendations from businesses and trade unions	A % of medium earnings, currently at 55%, it aims to reach 60% of median earnings by 2020	Calculation made according to the cost of living, based on a basket of household goods and services
IS THERE A LONDON WEIGHTING?	No London Weighting	No London Weighting	Yes – Separate higher rate for London

This link provides a full report of the benefits of accreditation:

<https://www.livingwage.org.uk/sites/default/files/Cardiff%20Business%20School%202017%20Report.pdf>)

The County Council therefore resolves **that in light of the County Council currently paying today's Real Living Wage rate:**

1. That Cambridgeshire County Council adopts the Real Living Wage **as an ongoing principle** and becomes a committed Real Living Wage employer, so that it pays to all its employees **for the future** ~~now and in the future~~ the Real Living Wage in accordance with the wage rates set by the Real Living Wage scale.
2. That Cambridgeshire County Council adopts the principle and practice of 'contract compliance' so that where it contracts out work, it contracts to companies or contracting bodies or partners which are Real Living Wage employers, paying to all their employees the Real Living Wage in accordance with the Real Living Wage scale.

3. That accordingly, the Cambridgeshire County Council seeks accreditation to the Living Wage Foundation to ensure it pays the Real Living Wage to all staff and to contractors who work regularly on County Council premises and when contracting with private employers to undertake County Council work, the County Council **devises a plan to ensure that it** does so only with Real Living Wage employers **taking advantage of the Living Wage Foundation practice of supporting and enabling employers to work towards such a plan.**
4. **Further to points 2 and 3, the Council will prioritise continuing to provide statutory services until it knows it can implement 2 and 3 fully without jeopardising services.**

Following discussion, the altered motion on being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: Labour, 11 Liberal Democrats and 1 Independent in favour; Conservatives and 1 Liberal Democrat against; 1 Independent and 1 Liberal Democrat abstained.]

(c) Motion from Councillor David Jenkins

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Jenkins and seconded by Councillor Downes:

Council notes that it has at previous meetings considered local reorganisation and has referred it to the Combined Authority for it to consider and to recommend a route forward.

Council also notes the increasing joint activity between this council and Peterborough City Council to combine similar jobs and to enter into contracts together with the objective of making savings for the two authorities.

Council asks the Chief Executive to:

1. confirm that such joint activity does not preclude any reorganisation which might be recommended as a result of the Combined Authority's work; and
2. write to the Combined Authority and ask for an update on its work regarding the reorganisation and for the timetable for its completion.

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Bates and seconded by Councillor Hoy (additions in bold and deletions in strikethrough):

Council notes that it has at previous meetings considered local reorganisation and has referred it to the Combined Authority for it to consider and to recommend a route forward.

Council also notes the increasing joint activity between this council and Peterborough City Council to combine similar jobs and to enter into contracts together with the objective of making savings for the two authorities.

Council asks the Chief Executive to:

- ~~1. confirm that such joint activity does not preclude any reorganisation which might be recommended as a result of the Combined Authority's work; and~~
- ~~2. write to the Combined Authority and ask for an update on its work regarding the reorganisation and for the timetable for its completion.~~

Following discussion, the amendment on being put to the vote was carried.

[Voting pattern: Conservatives and Labour in favour; Liberal Democrats and 1 Independent against]

Following discussion, the substantive motion on being put to the vote was carried unanimously.

(d) Motion from Councillor Graham Wilson

The Council was informed by Councillor Wilson that he would not move the motion.

171. QUESTIONS

(a) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Council Procedure Rule 9.1)

There were no questions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.1 of the Council's Constitution.

(b) Written Questions (Council Procedure Rule 9.2)

Two questions were submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.2, as set out in **Appendix C**.

Chairman
15th October 2019

COUNTY COUNCIL – 23RD JULY 2019

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEOPLE

Kay Maybin, Head of LGSS Learning and Development

On Sunday, 14th July the Council sadly lost one of its colleagues, Kay Maybin, who passed away following a cycling accident while on holiday.

As the Head of the LGSS Learning and Development Team, Kay made an unparalleled contribution to the continued professional and personal development of the Council's workforce.

Having been involved with LGSS for over 11 years, Kay was widely known and highly regarded by colleagues, customers and partners alike. Her passing will be felt across the Council, and our thoughts are with her family and colleagues at this time.

AWARDS

Business Intelligence

The Council's Research Team, part of Business Intelligence, won an award in the main headline category of Best Use of Local Area Research in the LARIA Awards 2019 (Local Area Research & Intelligence Association). The award was won for work done on profiling Yaxley for the Community Safety Partnership and the subsequent impact of this work. The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership needed to understand the underlying socio-economic factors contributing to poor levels of Community Safety in the Yaxley area compared to elsewhere. What was the existing service provision (public, private, voluntary) in the area and where were the gaps/barriers to accessing services.

'East of England Council of the Year' at the Energy Efficiency Awards

An accolade which provides public recognition for excellent work in the Energy Efficiency sector was awarded to Cambridgeshire County Council on 28 June 2019 at the East of England Energy Efficiency Awards.

The title 'East of England Council of the Year 2019' was awarded after the Council's Energy Investment Unit were shortlisted for its commitment to promoting energy efficiency in Cambridgeshire and the community benefit of the work being done.

The award application focused primarily on the work being done on the schools programme, as the Council is currently working with 55 schools across Cambridgeshire to help them save money on their energy bills and reduce CO₂ emissions. As a result these schools are saving over £800,000 in total on their energy bills and more than 3400 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per annum.

The Energy Investment Unit at Cambridgeshire County Council was recognised for its collaboration with the village of Swaffham Prior in East Cambridgeshire. Swaffham Prior Community Heat Scheme, a valuable pilot project is aimed at delivering annual savings on energy bills via a renewable heat network for homes currently on oil. Other small-scale investments were

also highlighted such as LED lighting upgrades being made across the Council's property portfolio through the Energy Efficiency Fund.

MESSAGES

Royal Visits

The Chairman was delighted to welcome His Royal Highness The Duke of York on Wednesday 22 May when His Royal Highness visited the Cambridge Science Centre, Clifton Road, Cambridge as Royal Patron. Whilst in Cambridge, The Duke also visited Hughes Hall as a Fellow of the College, and the Raspberry Pi Foundation as Patron.

On 9 July, the Chairman was honoured to welcome Her Majesty The Queen to Cambridge, when Her Majesty visited the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, Park Farm, Cambridge, as the organisation's Patron, on the occasion of NIAB's 100th Anniversary.

Whilst in Cambridge, The Queen also visited Queen's College and, later in the day, officially opened the new Royal Papworth Hospital at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, accompanied by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron."

COUNTY COUNCIL – 23RD JULY 2019

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
1.	Dave Fox Extinction Rebellion	Councillor S Count Leader of the Council	<p>I want to see an official regular car free day in Cambridge, starting this year. Cities across the world do this and London is doing it again on September 22nd which is World Car Free Day. We all know that we must reduce pollution in our city centre. We must move quickly to a low carbon transport system, with better public transport releasing the stranglehold of congestion caused by private cars in our city.</p> <p>As Extinction Rebellion showed on 6th July, car free streets in Cambridge bring welcome safe space for pedestrians and cyclists, and cleaner air, with Nitrogen Dioxide down by 85% in the afternoon of 6th July, after we'd closed Regent Street</p> <p>At its meeting last week, Cambridge City Council was unanimous in supporting this call for a regular car free day. Over 1000 cities have a car free event of this sort, so why not Cambridge? What obstacles exist here? And do you have any plans for surmounting these obstacles, or is there simply not the political will in this Council?</p>
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Councillor S Count Leader of the Council	Dave Fox Extinction Rebellion	<p>Thank you for your question, I had the opportunity to meet yourself and many members of the Extinction Rebellion outside before the start of the meeting, where I tried to give you some reassurances of the commitment to the environmental protection of this Council and the journey that it's on.</p> <p>When I look at this question, really what I want to know, is what really are you asking me? Are you asking me not just is there going to be a car free day, but are you asking how are you going to drive towards a carbon neutral future, how</p>

			<p>are we going to protect the environment, how are we going to deal with all the issues that we've become increasingly aware of. Whilst I was outside, and I said since we've been here, the last few years, we have been driving down the journey that at the last Council meeting we adopted a comprehensive move towards a Comprehensive Environmental Strategy involving carbon neutralisation, waste products, etc, and that Strategy will be worked up as we move forwards. And in that, we move towards areas such as the one you describe, car free days, we look at the intricacies of that and the benefits.</p> <p>I'll give you some examples of unthought of consequences of a car free day, such as the unplanned one, or even a planned one. So a typical person living in Cambridge today that gets declared to that there's going to be a car free day - They have two choices, they have the choice of going on public transport, or perhaps not going in to work.</p> <p>The problem with public transport as it stands at this moment in time, is it simply could not take the sheer enormity of the amount of passengers, that would, if they wanted to go in to work, would actually be able to do that: there is not the facility, it's not built at this present point in time. So adopting that today doesn't work, but this Council, alongside Cambridge City Council and alongside South Cambridgeshire is driving towards a public transport provision that will make it deliverable.</p> <p>The conclusion of it is, it's a complex matter, Cambridge City Council have passed a Motion where they've asked to discuss this matter with us, and we're happy to engage in those discussions, to see the art of what might, or might not be possible.</p>
	Supplementary question from:	Supplementary question to:	Supplementary question:
	Dave Fox, Extinction Rebellion	Councillor S Count, Leader of the Council	<p><i>(indistinct at start as microphone not on)</i> ...you've declared a climate emergency. An emergency is a very serious situation that requires immediate action. Extraordinary and speedy changes are needed. A regular car free day, possibly leading to further permanent</p>

			pedestrianisation, is one way that Cambridge could change the appropriate scale and urgency. Making big infrastructure changes, like the Busway or the Metro, takes years, decades ...this is an emergency, a car free day is something you could do right away, as the banner implores you, please, act now.
	Response from:	Response to:	Response:
	Councillor S Count, Leader of the Council	Dave Fox, Extinction Rebellion	<p>You use the words “appropriate scale and urgency” and that’s exactly what we’re doing, but it’s not just about you call us to do today with regard to car free action day, it’s also the strong body of evidence that we can show you that we are actually a very accelerated organisation well on our journey, we’re an exemplar, held up by groups like the Climate Action group and Friends of the Earth, and we are on their website.</p> <p>But we continue to move forward at speed. You say the public transport’s inadequate, that’s why we’re doing so much about it, and why we’re trying to work together, for better public transport systems, but you can’t magic some of these things up overnight, and we’ve got to take a balanced approach, and we are moving forward at speed. You will hear more about this subject.</p>
2.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
	Alison New Castle Resident	Councillor I Bates Chairman of Economy and Environment Committee	<p>The Civil War Earthworks situated on the Shire Hall site are an important part of Cambridge and Cambridgeshire heritage, and have actually global significance. The Earthworks date from 1643, built by the supporters of Parliament and Oliver Cromwell, MP for Cambridge at the time. Those parts remaining ‘bear all the signs of seventeenth century fortifications’.¹ During the Civil War (1642-1651) Cambridge was ‘of great strategic importance’ and was the headquarters of the parliamentary forces. The fortifications of the Earthworks remain were ‘built by a garrison of some 300 men’.²</p>

¹ WM Palmer, *Cambridge Castle*, Oleander Press, 1976, with revised bibliography by Michael Petty, pp, 32, 33.

² David Barrowclough, *Cambridge*, The History Press, 2015.

			<p>The Earthworks were originally open to public view. Unfortunately, they are presently boarded-up with fencing obstructing from view this important Cambridgeshire heritage.</p> <p>Many residents of Cambridge and Cambridgeshire, as well as archaeologists, historians, scholars and visitors are concerned about the lack of access and the danger that disposal of Shire Hall presents to this important monument.</p> <p>Therefore:</p> <p>What steps is the County Council taking, in concrete, specific, and measurable terms, that this vital heritage is preserved in perpetuity?</p> <p>Additionally, what measures will the County Council take to ensure that archaeologists, historians, scholars and the public have access and that the site will be secured so that this access complies with health and safety requirements and will remain in perpetuity?</p>
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Councillor I Bates Chairman of Economy and Environment Committee	Alison New Castle Resident	<p>Thank you and thank you for meeting earlier, that's much appreciated.</p> <p>The earthwork already has the highest level of protection under law. Our specialist officers are in discussion with Brookgate agent about improving the management, and ensuring that the maintenance will continue in the future. Once a stable management plan is agreed, this will go and secure, through legislation under the 1978/79 Act, this will then actually require an independent scrutiny for approval of Heritage England, who are the governing body charged with administering this Act.</p> <p>At the moment, in answer to your second question, at the moment public ownership is a statutory right, if it is in public ownership. So the subject now is that Cambridgeshire County Council is intending to lease the property, and therefore will retain freehold. Therefore that public access will remain, in law.</p>

			Our negotiations will include opening up and access to the Mound, and obviously the Civil War earthworks, and as far as possible we will comply with Health & Safety - you appreciate that there are some issues that we need to discuss with Brookgate. Therefore I am confident that the further outcome will be best preserved for this heritage for visitors, professional staff and visitors as we go forward, for all the County and across the world. Thank you.
	Supplementary question from:	Supplementary question to:	Supplementary question:
	Alison New Castle Resident	Councillor I Bates Chairman of Economy and Environment Committee	Were there any requirements placed upon the tenderers in the tender specifications, that they should not encroach upon the earthworks, and so on, there should be access remaining? And if there were no requirements placed on Brookgate, or any other party which may be selected in the event that Brookgate falls out of contention, what steps will the County take to ensure preservation of the earthworks in perpetuity. You may actually have answered that, I think it's just our worry about Brookgate or whoever else.
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Councillor I Bates Chairman of Economy and Environment Committee	Alison New Castle Resident	I do understand your question and your point which is why we're in negotiation with Brookgate. As you will appreciate, those negotiations are not yet complete and therefore it is difficult for me to give you a categorical answer to your question. Rest assured, I've heard the question, I know the question. Our specialist officers, as you well know, are our archaeological team who are fully aware of all the issues relating to the Mound and also the civil works. So until such time as those discussions and negotiations have taken place, I cannot give you a categorical assurance, except to say, that it will of course be under legislation, and it will be as I've said earlier, it will have to go to the central government to actually oversee that from a scrutiny point of view. So, more to come.

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 23 JULY 2019
WRITTEN QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9.2**

1. Question from Councillor Susan van de Ven

Which Cambridgeshire primary schools are now having to close for a regular day or half-day every week, due to budget constraints? What actions if any has the council undertaken in response, to understand and address the knock-on impacts upon children, staff and families? Is it intended that members should be informed of affected schools in their divisions?

Response from Councillor Simon Bywater, Chairman of Children and Young People Committee

Thank you for your question. Schools in Cambridgeshire are under severe financial pressure as a result of increasing cost pressures from pay and pension costs. Funding levels have not changed significantly in recent years, during which time our pupil numbers have grown and we are seeing children accessing schools with greater needs than ever. There are currently 5 schools in the county operating a reduced week from a traditional school day, usually an early afternoon closure on one day a week. All schools in the county meet the minimum required hours pupils have to access education. Only one of these schools has cited budget pressures as a reason to operate a shortened day from traditional school hours. Officers have worked closely with this school on their proposal and have supported the school with communication to parents. Two meetings have been held with parents and a frequently asked questions list has been prepared which includes what offer will be available on the day of early closure. Families who are in receipt of working tax credit or universal credit have had childcare vouchers highlighted to make a claim towards the costs of childcare. During the process, the school has been in close contact with local members and also the MP. The Local Authority will notify members where schools are considering changes to their day. We currently are not aware of any other schools considering this course of action.

2. Question from Councillor Nichola Harrison

Regarding the management of highway verges:

- a) What plans does the council have to adapt its management of highway verges to improve their wildlife value?
- b) To identify the best options, will you ensure the council works with and learns from other councils and expert organisations such as Plantlife (road verge campaign <https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/roadvergecampaign>) and the county Wildlife Trust?
- c) Will you ask council officers to report progress on this subject to the appropriate council committee, in time for changes to be implemented at the start of the 2020 growing season?

Response from Councillor Mathew Shuter, Chairman of Highways and Infrastructure Committee

- a) The leader of the Council approached officers at the start of July asking officers to see if there is an opportunity for changing our current highway verge management practices. To that end officers are currently exploring and will bring a report to a future Highways & Infrastructure Committee. This report will set out the council's current approach, explain the options available and what these mean in practice, so that committee can take a view and decide whether changes would be beneficial.

- b) Cambridgeshire County Council was praised by Plantlife in 2017 for the proactive work we carry out using GPS for identifying areas of protected road side verges so that they are left to grow and flourish. We are currently waiting for the publication of Plantlife's 'Managing grassland road verges: a best practice guide', which is due out this summer. The guide is being produced in collaboration with national highways agencies, industry, and wildlife organisations and will provide detailed information and technical guidance for highway authorities, their contractors and community groups. Officers are aware of the recent press campaign and in conjunction with our Highway Services provider, Skanska, are working with all groups to identify best practice to improve their wildlife value. The outcome of this work will be fed into the report referred to in point (a).

- c) Council officers are currently working towards this deadline and will bring a report to a future Highways & Infrastructure Committee in time for the start of the 2020 cutting season.