

County Council – 7th February 2023

Chair's Announcements

People

Former County Councillor Wendy Silby

It is with regret that the Chair reports the recent death of former County Councillor Wendy Silby, who represented the West Hunts Division on behalf of the Conservative Party from 1989 to 2005. During this time, she was the Chair of the Council from 2001-2003. The Council's thoughts are with her family and friends at this very sad time.

Former High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire Nigel Brown OBE

It is also with regret that the Chair reports the recent death of the former High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire Nigel Brown OBE. The Council's thoughts are with his family and friends at this very sad time.

Former County Councillor Barbara Wrout

It is with regret that the Chair reports the recent death of former County Councillor Barbara Wrout, who represented the Wisbech Rural No.2 South Division on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Party from 1980 to 1993. During this time, she was the Chair of the Council from 1987-1989. The Council's thoughts are with her family and friends at this very sad time.

Executive Director of Finance and Resources

Michael Hudson will be joining the council on 13 March 2023 as Executive Director of Finance and Resources and Section 151 Officer from Worcestershire County Council where he is currently Chief Financial Officer and a member of the Council's corporate leadership team. Michael is the current President of the Society of County Treasurers (SCT), representing finance directors across all County Councils. Michael has previously held senior roles with Wiltshire Council and Hull City Council and has acted as a Department of Communities advisor on local government, worked for the Audit Commission and is a former director with special responsibility for local government within KPMG, the private sector accountancy and audit organisation.

Executive Director of Place and Sustainability

Frank Jordan is to join the council as its new Executive Director of Place and Sustainability on 27 March 2023. Frank is currently the Corporate Director of Resident Services at Nottingham City Council, leading a range of essential frontline services. He was previously Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Place at Cheshire East Council and prior to that has held a number senior roles leading diverse services and teams in Northumberland County Council and Newcastle and Leicester City Councils.

Service Director: Legal and Governance

Emma Duncan will be joining the Council as Service Director: Legal and Governance and statutory Monitoring Officer on 27 March 2022. Emma is currently the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and is qualified solicitor. Emma is both a former Lawyers in Local Government 'Governance Lawyer of the Year' and has been responsible for leading an award-winning MJ Legal Team of the Year.

Service Director: Policy and Communities

Simon Parker will be joining the Council on 13 March 2022 as the Council's first Service Director: Policy and Communities, bringing together policy and business intelligence with key public services, including libraries, adult skills and the communities team. Simon joins the Council from the Department for Education, where he was the Director of Policy and Transformation. Prior to working in central government, Simon was the Corporate Director of Strategy for the London Borough of Redbridge and the Director of the New Local Government Network (NLGN).

Statutory Director of Adult Social Services

As Charlotte Black, Interim Executive Director of People Services and our former statutory Director of Adult Social Services, has now retired from the council. Debbie McQuade has taken up the statutory Director of Adult Social Services remit on 21 January 2022, alongside her duties as interim Service Director: Adults and Safeguarding. The County Council has commenced recruitment for the role of Executive Director for Adults, Health and Commissioning, which will become the Council's Statutory Director of Adult Social Services when an appointment is made.

Noelle Godfrey, Programme Director Connecting Cambridgeshire

Noelle Godfrey, Director of the Connecting Cambridgeshire digital connectivity programme retired in January 2023 having worked for Cambridgeshire County Council for 33 years. Noelle has led many highly successful collaborative digital infrastructure projects and gained widespread national and local recognition for her dedication to improving digital connectivity for all.

Her energy and expertise in leading the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme over the past decade has brought significant improvements in broadband, mobile and public access Wi-Fi coverage for homes and businesses across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, whilst pioneering innovative use of next generation 'Smart' technology to help to tackle transport and environmental challenges. As a result, most homes and businesses can now access superfast (and faster gigabit) broadband, free CambWifi is helping people get online in more than 250 public places, better mobile phone services are more widely available, and local sensor networks are helping to monitor traffic, flooding and air quality in market towns.

We wish Noelle all the best for her retirement and we are delighted to welcome her successor Ceren Clulow who joins us from Nottinghamshire County Council with considerable experience of digital connectivity projects.

Awards

National Silktide Index Report

The council's website has recently been ranked as the most accessible of all county council websites. The national Silktide Index report has awarded the Cambridgeshire County Council website a score of 96 out of 100 for accessibility. This means that the site is user friendly, inclusive to all and the content is easy to find. Thanks go to the council's web team and all those across departments supplying online content for all their hard work.

Messages

Huntingdonshire District Council Chair's Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church Huntingdon

The Chair was invited by Councillor Michael Burke to attend his Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church in Huntingdon. This was an enjoyable festive occasion.

Amount raised in honour of Councillor Derek Giles

During the council's small Carol Service at the last Full Council Meeting, £230 was raised for the charity Sarcoma UK in honour of the late Councillor Derek Giles.

Holocaust Memorial Flag Raising at New Shire Hall

It was a great privilege for the Chair to raise the flag alongside the Chief Executive at New Shire Hall for Holocaust Memorial Day. The flag was flown at both New Shire Hall and Shire Hall. Ordinary People was the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2023.

Huntingdonshire District Council Holocaust Memorial Day Service

The Vice Chair, Councillor Sebastian Kindersley attended The Holocaust Memorial Day Service in Huntingdon, invited by The Chair and Vice-Chair of Huntingdonshire District Council. It was also attended by around 50 people and included two hymns, the lighting of candles and an address.

Cambridgeshire Royal British Legion County Conference

The Chair was delighted to attend the Royal British Legion County Conference in January. It was heartening to hear all about the work the Legion does in supporting armed forces members and their families, and how well equipped they are to interface with local authorities at times of need.

Pride Flag Raising at New Shire Hall

It was the Chair's great pleasure to raise The Pride Flag alongside the Chief Executive at New Shire Hall. The flag will be flown for the remainder of this month to support the LGBTQ+ community.