

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 11TH DECEMBER 2018  
CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PEOPLE**

**Wendy Pye**

It is with deep regret that the Chairman reports the recent death of Wendy Pye. Wendy starting working for the Council on 1 April 2006. She was employed as an Education Business Support Officer in the Curriculum and Leadership Team.

**AWARDS**

**Councillor Achievement Awards 2018**

Congratulations to Councillor Ian Bates, Chair of Cambridgeshire County Council's Economy and Environment Committee, who has won a national Technology & Digital Award for his work championing digital connectivity across the county. The Local Government Information Unit and CCLA Councillor Achievement Award recognised Councillor Bates' support for the transformational effect of digital connectivity for rural communities, business growth, and smart energy. Councillor Bates impressed the judges with his recognition of the importance of getting the foundations right in terms of digital inclusivity, overseeing large-scale projects to improve public WiFi access and 5G coverage, especially in rural parts of Cambridgeshire. Thanks to his advocacy Cambridgeshire is now over 96% covered by superfast broadband. Judges also commended his business-like approach persuading the council to invest £10m in a solar farm which has already returned significant amounts to support frontline services.

**Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme**

Cambridgeshire County Council has secured a silver award in the Ministry of Defence's employer recognition scheme for showing support to the armed forces and their families. The Council has been recognised for demonstrating its support for the Armed Forces community, this includes helping Reserves, Service leavers, Armed Forces veterans, the wounded, injured and sick, Cadets, military spouses or partners and their families.

Launched in 2014 by the Prime Minister, the prestigious initiative was created to recognise and reward UK employers for their support and commitment to Defence. The award scheme involves bronze, silver and gold awards for employers that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to Defence and the Armed Forces Community.

By winning the Silver award the Council has demonstrated its support by employing at least one person from the armed forces community and actively communicating and projecting a positive image of defence to their employees. It also supports Reservists by giving them the flexibility needed to plan and fulfil their annual training and mobilisation commitments. Cambridgeshire County Council employs a number of staff who have connections to the Armed Forces. The authority is also a lead signatory to the

Cambridgeshire Armed Forces Community Covenant, which ensures that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly within the community.

### **Cambridgeshire County Council's 'see the difference' campaign**

Congratulations to officers across the council who picked up a national award for best research and evaluation in a communications campaign last Friday aimed at recruiting reablement workers.

Cambridgeshire County Council's 'see the difference' campaign beat off 420 national entries, to be among 70 shortlisted organisations in 18 categories at the national Comms 2.0 UnAwards 2018

The campaign was a joint piece of work by staff from Communications, Transformation, and Adult Social Care featuring heart-warming personal stories – which has helped us exceed targets for recruiting new re-ablement workers and ultimately help more people live at home independently.

### **National Citizen Service (NCS) Special Educational Needs Disability (SEND)**

Cambridgeshire County Council's NCS SEND Summer programme won the National Citizen Service Award at the Children & Young People Now Awards 2018. The National Citizen Service programme is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all 15 – 17 year olds and up to 25 years for young people with SEND that builds skills and confidence and helps them to get ahead in work and life. It also helps young people connect to their local community through social action projects designed and delivered by the young people themselves. Now in its sixth year in Cambridgeshire, there are a number of programmes being delivered during the summer period across the county which consist of young people living together over a number of weeks, excluding weekends, in residential centres.

The County Council's programme was recognised for its work in reaching 24 young people with special educational needs and disabilities who would not otherwise be able to take part in the NCS as well as their support workers, teachers, and parents and carers. Most of the young people required one-to-one support day and night. The challenge was to gain the trust and support of parents and to encourage four SEND schools/colleges Castle School, Granta, School, The Phoenix School and Cambridge Regional College (Huntingdon Campus) to take part so the young people could mix in a residential setting for 5 days and four nights.

Crucial to its success was the way it engaged with school staff and put in place detailed planning, meaning that every need was understood and each activity adapted to ensure everyone took part. Each young person, of which many had never been away from home before, developed physically, emotionally and socially due to the diversity of experience and the residential aspect. Young people and school colleagues identified positive changes in their behaviour through engagement in outdoor learning in challenging environments such as caving which was one of the most memorable.

Communication skills improved and confidence rose across the group with some young people who were not usually verbal found their voices, while others with complex medical needs saw a decline in symptoms during the residential phase.

## **MESSAGES**

### **Visit by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales**

The Chairman was honoured to welcome His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales to Ely on Tuesday 27 November, when he visited an Almshouse run by the Thomas Parsons' Charity. The Charity owns and operates 27 Almshouses across the City of Ely and was founded in 1497. The Prince of Wales has been Patron of The Almshouse Association since 1992.

Whilst in Ely, The Prince also visited The Stained Glass Museum, located inside Ely Cathedral, in his role as its Patron.

He was then joined by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall, who had begun her day at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, where Her Royal Highness learned more about the charity JDRF UK's work to promote new technologies to improve the lives of those living with type 1 diabetes.

The Duchess and The Prince went on to tour Ely Farmers' Market, where they met residents and stallholders.

Next, Their Royal Highnesses travelled to Wisbech and The Prince visited The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul where he met local community groups and charities working in the area, whilst The Duchess of Cornwall paid a visit to the Wisbech & Fenland Museum, and learned more about how local organisations are supporting families and primary schools to improve children's literacy skills in Wisbech.