

Gamlingay Division Notes, April 2010

The Gamlingay Division comprises the 13 Parishes of Arrington, Barrington, Croydon, Great Eversden, Lt Eversden, Gamlingay, Lt Gransden, Haslingfield, Harlton, Hatley, Longstowe, Orwell & Wimpole.

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these - or indeed any other - matters, please do not hesitate to contact County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley on 01767 651982 or skindersley@hotmail.com or write to the Manor Barn, East Hatley, SG19 3JA. District Councillor Bridget Smith is on 01767 650510 or bridget@glockling.com and District Councillor Liz Heazell is at 01223 870289 or on liz.heazell@btinternet.com

Lorry Parking in Church Street, Gamlingay.

Bridget has met with the police, the Parish Council and the Managers of the Coop to try to find a way of resolving the problems associated with delivery lorries parking on the pavement outside of the Coop. The police have agreed to liaise with the County Council to look at the possibility of restricting parking opposite the Coop and the Coop have agreed not to accept deliveries when children are travelling to and from school. The Coop has also agreed to salt the sloping pavement outside the shop when it is icy as a number of people fell during the bad weather. We also highlighted the need for a more permanent solution to the sloping pavement which is being looked into.

Longstowe's Playground

It was lovely to help cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony of Longstowe's beautiful new playground. There are very big aspirations and a formidable group of people willing to work very hard to make things happen in Longstowe and we all look forward to helping where we can to deliver exciting ideas for further play opportunities for their children.

Youth Participation

South Cambs currently has a Youth participation Strategy on its website for you to look at and comment on. Youth Participation aims to involve young people in decision making on issues that affect them. Please do have a look at this document and if possible encourage any young people you have to do likewise and add their comments.

Gamling-Aid

Very many congratulations to Gamlingay Records who raised well over £1000 for Haiti through 4 different performances during March. The Jam Night in The Cock involved a huge number of people of all ages performing a very wide range of music. The Servicemen's Club hosted a fabulous and very noisy evening of rock and roll provided by some of the bands signed to the record label and St Mary's Church rang to the sounds of stunningly high quality classical performances from adults and children.

Further Safety measures in Gamlingay

We are delighted that the South Cambs Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership has made a grant to help install some extra security lighting added to the front and rear of homes in Blythe Way which should mean it's safer for residents and easier to detect the presence of people who have no business there.

Gamlingay Library

I recently attended a meeting at the Gamlingay Library with the Manager and Parish Council to meet the relevant portfolio holder from the County Council and show him what a great facility we have in the village. He seemed very impressed both with the facility and the enthusiasm. We know cuts have to be made to the Library Service this year but hopefully not at ours!!

Pot Holes

No apology for more on potholes (in my case, two tyres and counting...). Recent extreme weather has caused untold damage to our highway network. The County Council has had to divert all available staff to pot hole and patching work and we now have 22 gangs in the county trying to get on top of the problem. The sheer quantity means that we are not meeting our targets in terms of repair times.

What, you may wonder, is our policy? Pot holes are repaired on a risk basis where we look at how deep they are and where they are on the road. The most dangerous ones we aim to repair within 24 hours but others might be repaired in 7 or 28 days. We are seeking to do permanent repairs where we can, but in many areas we are going to have to go back and do patching works. Temperatures have caused us a problem and had a detrimental affect on the quality and durability of the repairs we have been undertaking. No kidding...FYI The cost of a single repair is about £50 but if we can work in a more planned way we can reduce that cost to about £30.

Road Safety

It's really sobering to read the casualty figures for Cambridgeshire's roads. Provisional data for the calendar year 2009 (2008 data in brackets) is 19 killed (47), 364 serious (325), and 2214 Slight casualties (2299)

There was a large reduction in the number of people who died on our roads in 2009, down to 19 from 47 in 2008 and 62 in 2007. This large decrease is very welcome, but the total does fluctuate from one year to the next and the 2009 total is unusually low. Figures are one thing but these are people's lives we're talking about and so it makes us really angry that one road – the B1042 Arrington to Tadlow through Croydon – is taking a lot of these lives. Despite numerous petitions, letters, accidents and pressure the County Council really has not grasped that this road needs to be improved and it needs serious accident remedial measures to prevent further loss of life. We fight on!

Hatley Litter Pick

Congratulations and thanks to all the local volunteers who picked bags and bags of rubbish from Hatley's verges. It really makes an amazing difference. Thank you!

Cambridge East

What do I care about Cambridge East, I hear you cry? The news that Marshalls will not be moving from Cambridge Airport and that therefore that site will not be delivering over 12,000 homes by 2021 has sent a cold chill across South Cambridgeshire.

We still need to build these homes. There are 6,000 families waiting for housing in South Cambridgeshire and presumably a similar number in Cambridge City. We cannot simply ignore this

urgent housing need. It strikes me as perverse that Cambridge Airport is regarded as an unsustainable site for development but in any case we are all anxious to know where these 12,000 homes are to go. Another new town added onto the 8,000 homes to be built at Northstowe perhaps? A massive expansion of Cambourne? Hanley Grange at Hinxton?

The impact of Cambourne on the local Parishes has been substantial – more traffic, problems with access to education, less buses in the rural parts of the area and so on. Imagine if the owners of Bourn Airfield, for example, wanted to put the housing shortfall of 12,000 homes caused by the failure of Cambridge East to come forward on their land – the impact would be catastrophic – and that's why we should all care about Cambridge East.

Cambridgeshire Guided Busway

I've given up trying to follow the quite amazing series of disasters connected with the Busway. Suffice it to say that already the County has planned to borrow over £40m for the project – on top of the £116m project cost. There are six major defects that need to be addressed including the entire St Ives Park and Ride site which floods. Among the “minor” issues is that of Toads – hundreds of thousands of migrating toads are becoming trapped between the cement wheel guides – so lots of locals are volunteering to help bucket up the toads and save them. Frankly I can't see this happening twice a year for ever so I hope some bright spark comes up with a solution!