

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report

Dear Lolworth Residents

August is a relatively quiet month at the County Council. Additionally very few parish councils meet in August and as a consequence I don't write a formal report but I do still write short summaries for publication in local newsletters. I am therefore asking John Houlton to forward this to you in order that you, too have something from me this month.

The County Council is currently consulting on its plans to redesign Children's Centres across Cambridgeshire. Children's Centres are intended to provide valuable support services to parents but feedback that the Council has received from parents shows they are not always located most conveniently. The welfare of families across Cambridgeshire has to be a top priority. The Council is therefore reviewing current provision and wants to ensure that the right services, support and opportunities are available for families if and when they need those services. I have already met with the lead Officer for this review to discuss what the proposals are for us locally but it is important that you also express your views. Local people are the experts about what their communities need and I urge you to respond to the consultation on this important subject. The consultation ends on 22 September 2017. You can respond via the Council's website: residents/children and families/children's centres or you can get a hard copy version of the consultation at Children's Centres and Libraries.

New figures show that just 26% of boys and 17% of girls in the East of England currently meet the national recommended daily level of activity [60 minutes]. One in five children in the region is overweight or obese when they start primary school and that figure rises to more than a third by the time they leave. The County Council is promoting Change4Life's national '10 Minute Shake Ups' programme. Launched by Public Health England with the support of Sport England and Disney it initially follows the pattern of a similar project last summer that saw over a million children get more active [details: <https://www.nhs.uk/10-minute-shake-up>]. This year, when children return to school in September, more activities will be released on the Change4Life schools website to encourage them to carry on being active both in and outside the classroom.

Following the announcement that Whippet is going to withdraw 17 services from 03 September I met with Officers and was a member of the committee who approved the County Council's response to this news. In the short term the County Council will subsidise most of the routes to allow for a comprehensive review to be done of all the county's bus services. Officers are currently working on negotiating suitable contracts for this interim cover. I am also working with a neighbouring councillor to investigate a community transport solution to serve a number of villages. Please do let me have your views on what might be needed for Lolworth.

Once again I have to urge you all to be 'scam aware'. The latest scam has involved fake 'while you were out' missed delivery cards which seem to come from Royal Mail when in fact they don't. Anyone calling the phone number given to retrieve their parcel finds themselves facing a £45 bill. Royal Mail is urgently investigating but some simple advice is to check: is the Royal Mail logo shown on the card [the fake ones don't have this], are you expecting a parcel from the company named on the card and contact your local post office rather than the number given on the card.

Hot off the press and not included in any of my other communications this month so far is news about the County Council teaming up with iChoosr to provide local residents with the best energy deals. 'Cambridgeshire Energy Switch' in which County, City and District Councils all participate, is a scheme to get people on to cheaper energy tariffs. I have no experience of the County Council's scheme but it does prompt me to say that figures show that a vast number of people haven't changed their supplier of gas/electricity in years, if at all. It is so easy to do this now and with the threat of ever increasing bills it really does make sense. You can get further details of Cambridgeshire Energy Switch at www.cambridgehsire.gov.uk/switch

I do hope that you are all enjoying the summer weather on the days when we get it and meanwhile please don't hesitate to contact me with any comments or questions you may have.

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