

Bluntisham Parish Council: Annual Meeting 16 May 2017

Report: Robin Carter Huntingdonshire District Councillor

A relatively quiet year from HDC's perspective in terms of impact on the Earith Ward and Bluntisham in particular.

Areas to update you on are as follows:

1. Refuse Collection: The revised schedules have now been operational for a couple of months, I have had some complaints from Colne and Earith but little from Bluntisham, I can only conclude that all has settled down and is working satisfactorily. As ever any problems with the service please let me know and I will try to deal with them as soon as possible.

2. Planning: There have been a number of developments either now passed or have been submitted that have potential to have serious implications on our journeys to and from St Ives and beyond. Morrisons has been approved and is likely to start later this year, once I have an outline programme I will share it with the PC, the main impact may be along the A1123 adjacent to the Marsh Harrier PH. In addition McDonalds/Costa/SubWay has recently been approved for Harrison Way, adjacent to the Morrisons site. The impact of this development will be on the short stretch of the A1123 between Harrison Way and Tesco. County Highways have indicated that improvements are planned for this stretch together with Harrison Way but at this stage there is no further information. I have requested Cllr Criswell from County to keep us informed of developments. The Colne Road housing project has now been submitted for outline permission, it is a very comprehensive application and the PC are arranging a special planning committee to discuss. As ever both Mike Francis and myself will be guided by residents and the PC as to the approach we take. The final development involves land at Giffords Farm for housing and light industry, at this stage there are no firm proposals. I will keep you informed of any further developments with this project.

3. Boundary Review. It has been a busy year for the Boundary Commission. It is worth remembering that both the Parish and District boundaries remain unaffected. The first change is due to come into being at the District 'all out' election (all wards are up for election) in May 2018. The current Earith Ward which included Holywell, Needingworth, Earith and Bluntisham will expand to include Colne. The Parliamentary election boundaries are also under review and would not come into being until the 2022 election. The current proposal is to move the existing Earith Ward (NOT the new Ward) in with South East Cambridgeshire. the reason being that the North West Cambridgeshire constituency has become too large and the Commission are trying to re-balance. This current proposal is currently at consultation stage so I believe there is still time to make your views known.

My role on HDC for the coming year will be as Vice Chairman of Council, Vice Chairman of Performance Scrutiny and member of the Planning Committee. In addition I will also be representing HDC on the new Combined Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Authority Scrutiny Panel. As ever any questions I will be pleased to answer.

Robin Carter

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