

Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting – July 24

Good evening

Following May's Full County Council meeting on the 20th May, I can confirm that I will be sitting on the following committees for the ensuing year –

Highways & Transportation, Environment & Green Investment, Communities and Social Mobility and Planning Committees. I am also a member of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority.

At the County Council meeting Cllr Prentice moved from the Independents to the Labour Group, having previously moved from the Conservatives to the Independents.

The County Council remains in no overall control and is led by the Liberal Democrats in coalition with the Labour, Independent Councillors.

Following the District Council annual meeting I can confirm that I will sit on the following Committees for the ensuing year Overview & Scrutiny Performance & Growth, Licensing & Protection.

It should also be noted that the Independents split into two groups the Hunts Independent Group and the Cambs Independent Group. The Council remains in No Overall control.

Due to the General election, there have been very few meetings due to the Council being in purdah.

At the meeting of the Fire Authority on the 20th June we will also be voting on the recommendation of the Fire Authorities Appointments committee, regarding the appointment of Matthew Warren as the New Chief Fire Officer for the Authority following the retirement of our current Chief Fire Officer, Chris Strickland on the 30th June 2024

A paper regarding the possible closure of Kimbolton Fire Station was not brought to this meeting, owing to the closeness to the General Election. Kimbolton Fire Station held a recruitment day on Saturday 15th June. They currently have 8 On Call Firefighters with another 3 to 4 going through the application process/training. As I get more information on the future of Kimbolton Fire Station, I will let you know.

The final decision on this year's LHI Bid's for Huntingdonshire will be made at the 3rd September meeting of the Highways & Transportation Committee for both complex and non-complex schemes.

The County Council is working with partners on a Poverty Strategy Commission to look at poverty across the County and what the system can do to overcome it. If you have any ideas on where we need to focus our efforts, have your say via the online survey on the CCC website or email povertycommission@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Coffee Pod recycling has arrived at the Cambridgeshire Recycling Centres. The new coffee pod bins offer residents an environmentally friendly way to separately dispose of both aluminium and plastic coffee pods.

Collected pods are cleaned, shredded and made into new products, whilst the coffee grounds are used to help create renewable energy and soil improver.

The County Council has produced a new mapping tool to help you identify watercourses across Cambridgeshire. Which are colour coded to help you identify who is responsible for their maintenance. You are also able to find out further information about each watercourse by clicking on them.

To find out more about watercourse management, including consent, guidance and enforcement, visit the County Council Website.

The Cambridgeshire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is offering funded holiday scheme places for children in Cambridgeshire who are eligible for free school meals this summer. Any child receiving benefit related free school meals is eligible for the programme, which will run from 23rd July to 30 August.

As part of the programme eligible children will be able to access fun and entertaining opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge and at least one meal a day.

The County Council has launched its second annual countywide Quality of Life Survey. Have your say by completing the online version of the survey on the CCC website before Friday 19th July 24.

The District Council is looking to adopt Civil Parking Enforcement in Huntingdonshire. As I get more information as to when it comes into effect I will of course let the PC know.

The Shop Front Grant Scheme is now available for our independent Rural businesses, which was previously only available for our Market Towns. Businesses can apply for a grant of up to £5000.

The scheme will close on the 1st September 2024 all independent businesses are encouraged to apply. For more information, eligibility and how to apply go to : Shop Front Improvements Grant - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Examples of improvements, but not limited to are : Repairs, repainting, signage, external lighting, window display equipment and lighting, repair of external stonework and brickwork,

Residents can now return their unwanted Green Bins and HDC will remove, residents need to complete the online form. HDC will only remove bins from residents who have requested for them to be removed. If you would still like to sign up to the Waste Subscription Service you can do, but you will pay for the full year £57.50 up to the 1st April 25 . When you will be required to renew your subscription.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Spaldwick