

## **A View from the District (April 2010)**

So, now we know: the General Election will be on the date fixed for the District and Parish elections, which means the Parish elections must be scrapped. Nominations will then re-open for an election on 27 May. Well, maybe we can get even more candidates to stand. Even if you spoil your ballot, the paper will be seen by the candidates and can serve to express your state of mind. The turn-out for the 27th is likely to be rather thin; so go yourself and encourage others to join you!

What follows is fairly short partly because some meetings have been postponed and partly because this is written early before I leave for a fortnight's holiday

On 24 March the Committee responsible for Cambridge Fringe developments (JDCC) met to discuss the Trumpington Meadows development and agonised over sewage. The first 100 houses will be permitted to discharge into existing sewers, with tankers to remove excess if necessary. Though the routes the tankers might take are clearly an emotive issue. Then a pumping station would be provided, like the ones at Wellbrook Way. as ugly as these things generally are. The Committee refused to accept the proposed 2x2x3m plastic cube, played briefly with the idea of disguising it as a Doric temple and finally threw it back at the developer.

On 31 March the Corporate Governance Committee met. Modifying the published agenda we first looked at our 'Use of Resources Improvement Plan'. This throws up some surprising issues: that the Medium Term Financial Strategy fails to address the budget deficit; that outcomes of initiatives are not defined at the outset; that improvements expected from projects are not identified beforehand among others. We were assured that these issues are now noted and that by September the relevant Toolkit should have been updated. Somewhat bemused I asked why a modified toolkit 6 months hence is necessary before a project should have measurable goals; the answer I received was neither particularly clear nor reassuring. In general it was agreed by the committee (not put to a vote, and dissension remained) that we were not fixing a broken Council just improving a good one.

We moved onto internal audit: generally good except for the ICT audit which raised 24 'issues' which we were assured were being handled. The ICT Director noted that the audit had been undertaken during a difficult time with major changes in management structure and team structure, plus implementation of Government Connect. The main concerns are to do with good housekeeping. I have asked to see the full audit report.

I am pleased that the work I, the Parish Council and others have put in to assessment of the A14 Draft Orders has led to the announcement of a Public Inquiry. Now we need to put together a formal case to present on behalf of Girton residents, to argue for proper protection from noise and air pollution. I persuaded Atkins to undertake a 24-hour noise measurement at Wellbrook Way, and am waiting for the resultant analysis.

If you would like a fuller monthly report emailed to you please contact me at [scdc@de-lacey.org](mailto:scdc@de-lacey.org) and I shall add you to the list of recipients. If you have any District Council issues you would like to discuss please don't hesitate to ask me.

Douglas de Lacey  
South Cambridgeshire District Councillor for Girton