



Liberal Democrats
Huntingdonshire

Focus - The Hemingfords, Fenstanton, Hilton, Houghton and Wyton

January 2018

A14 Project on schedule

The £1.5bn project to upgrade the A14 has now been under way for just over a year and Highways England reports that good progress is being made. Work on the road bridges on the B1040 and the road between Fenstanton and Hilton is progressing well and both bridges are expected to be completed this Spring. The whole project should be completed by March 2021.



Details of planned roadworks and the dates of lane and road closures can be found on the project website at:- <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/a14-cambridge-to-huntingdon/>

Have your say on the Local Plan!

The Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 is still open for comments. The plan sets out targets for housing, jobs and the distribution of future developments in this area. It includes proposals for Wyton-on-the-Hill, as a "Strategic Expansion Location"; Fenstanton, as a "Key Service Centre" and "St Ives West", which has implications for Houghton, Wyton and Wyton-on-the-Hill. There are no proposals in the plan for the Hemingfords or Hilton.

But the closing date for comments is February 5th. You can have your say on the District Council's website consultation portal at:- <http://consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk>

Why not help the Liberal Democrats to improve our country?

More and more people are joining the Liberal Democrats. Nationally we now have more than 100,000 members - more than ever before - and we have overtaken the Conservatives in the number of party members. If you would like to join us, please visit our web-site www.libdems.org.uk.

Want to get in touch?

If there are any matters you would like to raise with us, phone David Priestman on 01480 461555 or e-mail him at david@logisticsbusiness.com

Report calls for one million new homes by 2050!

The National Infrastructure Commission's recent report "Partnering for Prosperity: A new deal for the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc" has identified a need for up to one million new homes to be built across the region by 2050. The arc stretches from Cambridgeshire, via Bedford to Oxfordshire and it is home to 3.3million people.

However, it is not clear just how much our part of Huntingdonshire may be affected because the arc is very broad. One of the recommendations in the report is for Government and Local Authorities to designate locations for new and expanded settlements by 2020. We will need Councillors who will make sure that our voice is heard so that any further developments planned for our area do not adversely affect existing communities. We also need to ensure that the new infrastructure that will be necessary will be provided in advance.

The detailed report is at:-

<https://www.nic.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Partnering-for-Prosperity.pdf>
(If you are going to use this link, note that the NIC has not spelled "Prosperity" correctly)

Shameful Tory Pay Rise, Paid For By You

We will all now have to fork out £184,500 a year extra for pay rises for County Councillors, forced through by Conservative Councillors against independent advice.

An independent panel had proposed that the budget for County Councillors' allowances be limited to £751,000 after the Council had shrunk from 69 to 61 councillors. But the Conservatives tore this up and voted through a rise to £936,000 a year, meaning less money for front-line public services.

Meanwhile, the County Council's employees are limited to pay rises of 1% and Conservative Councillors are voting to cut our services to save money.

Revised Councillor Allowances	Revised Amount	Independent Recommendation
Councillor	£10,315	£8,600
Leader of the Council	£31,745	£25,000
Deputy Leader of the Council	£20,627	£11,250
Main Opposition Leader	£10,234	£12,500
Main Opposition Deputy Leader	£1,790	£5,000
Minor Opposition Leader	£3,825	£7,500
Minor Opposition Deputy Leader	£662	£3,000

All positions held by the Conservatives had increases above those recommended by the independent review.

The national scene

'The country needs the Liberal Democrats more than ever before'

This was the gist of Vince Cable's message to 400 Lib Dem members who came to hear him speak in Cambridge last year.

'Faced with a country more embittered and divided than we have ever known, a strong centre ground party is needed to bring some common sense and realism to the serious problems that face our country'.

'We are needed, said Vince, to represent the millions of liberal-minded people alarmed by the direction this country is taking. People, whether they voted Remain or Leave, who hate the intolerance, xenophobia and divisions that the Brexit vote has unleashed.

I remain optimistic about the future of our country because it has great resources of creativity and business talent, of learning and research BUT there is a disfiguring inequality of wealth and opportunity.

The financial crisis of the last decade, brought about by the greed of the banking system and the inability of the then Labour government to foresee the consequences, has left a long-term legacy of economic damage and depressed living standards which fuel much of today's political anger and frustration.'



Jo Swinson (Deputy leader) and Sir Vince Cable (Leader) were among the main speakers at the Liberal Democrat national conference in Bournemouth in September.



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keeping you informed, all year round***