

THRILOW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Monday the 14th September 2009 at Thriplow Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillors: Kevin Clarke, Anthony Cooper, Jane Gough, Derek Pinner, Barbara Pointon,
Colin Rothwell, Terry Smith,
District Cllr: Peter Topping
County Cllr: Tim Stone
Others: Martyn Corbet

Martyn Corbet was elected to take the minutes for the meeting.

Action

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. David Easthope & Pat Easthope, clerk.

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 13th July 2009

The minutes, having been previously distributed, were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the chairman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise covered by the agenda

There were no matters arising.

4. Heathfield

a) Drains/Sewers

Cllr Pinner reported that all the work is complete. He had hoped to have the final invoice today. He asked if anyone gets any feedback could they relay it to him

b) Notice Board to serve Hurdles Way & Ringstone

Cllr Pinner has obtained one quote from Fowlmere Joinery this is for £895.00 plus VAT. The notice board will be of the same construction as that for Heathfields. It will be sited on land just behind the Citroen garage. It is not known who owns the land. Mike Cooper does not know who owns it. It will be sited opposite the "T" junction. The proposal to go ahead with the noticeboard was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Clarke. It was agreed. Cllr Pinner is to place the order

DP

c) Transfer of POS land from Croudace

The clerk has received a message from Croudace's solicitor. He had advised the clerk to chase Croudace. The clerk had indicated that she will do this once she had returned from holiday.

Clerk

d) Footpath/Cycleway – Heathfield to Thriplow

There was considerable discussion by all councillors on this subject. The Parish Council have a specification for the construction, prepared by Cllr Pinner, for a 2 metre wide reinforced concrete pathway including the provision for a pedestrian bridge, 10 metres long over the culvert behind the Anglian Water treatment works. The local landowner, Robert Smith (RS), would like to incorporate a farm access road from the KWS area to his fields on the eastern side of the culvert. On this part of the route there would be a sharing of the footway between pedestrians and farm vehicles. There is still need to discuss with RS the width, and construction, of the footway in this area.

There was considerable discussion regarding the route, Cllr Clarke favoured the route from KWS to the culvert on the north side of the hedge. Cllr Pinner pointed out that this route would take the pathway immediately adjacent to the deep culvert and pond that takes the roof rainwater drainage from the farm buildings. Cllr Pinner said that there was an alternative, in his opinion, safer route to the south side of the hedge that was set aside ground that had no "falling in" dangers and there was little difference in the length of the route.

There was discussion regarding loss of the existing route through the KWS yard, Cllr Clarke said he thought that RS would like to ensure that KWS had a yard area without a footway running through it.

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Cllr Pinner said that the Parish Council should also include within its tender documents a cost to construct the footway from KWS to Church Street for information only, as this section would be shared by pedestrians, lorries and cars.

Cllr Clarke produced a drawing showing a route from KWS to the culvert via the North side of the hedge and then, when reaching the culvert, turning left and then crossing the culvert further

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north and then continuing through the wooded area to the existing farm access way and then turning south towards the Public Open Space.

Cllr Rothwell proposed that the route suggested by Cllr Clarke be adopted as a basis for costing purposes and Cllr Smith seconded this and a majority adopted this.

It was agreed that a further meeting should be held with RS to explore the ultimate route and specification of the footway

e) Roads Update

(i) New Start Date

Cllr Clarke told the meeting that the work had started today. There was a large hole in part of Whitehall Gardens.

(ii) Any other new information

Cllr Clarke said that the original quote from Spadeoak had been £314,000. The final quote had come in at £289,000 which had represented a saving of £50,000. Instead of tarmac at the "ring" in Whitehall Gardens and on Queen's Row there would be gravel. Cllr Spicer has accepted this. There is good drainage in the ring and a gully is being installed. In Queen's Row there will be gulleys and a soakaway. Cllr Clarke has all the consent forms needed for the work to proceed. There had been a problem involving 16, 17 and 18 Woburn Place. One resident had wanted to keep the tarmac on the parking places. Cllr Clarke will speak to Jim Best about this. He was hoping that a solution could be achieved. Heathfields Residents Association Limited, Anglian Water and Icenis have all signed their agreements. The contract was waiting a response on a point from Jim Best once this had been dealt with it could be completed. The contractor wants a 2.5% contingency

The Council wants 5.00%. Once this is agreed it can be signed.

(iii) Formation of Roads Working Group

Cllr Pinner stated that he and Cllr Gough were obliged to be ex officio members of this . It was agreed that the group should be otherwise made up of Cllrs Clarke, Easthope and Spicer. Cllrs could only make decisions at a meeting or in committee. Cllr Pointon proposed the committee should have budget of £350,000. It was agreed that the committee would be able to make quick responsive decisions on any problem and to spend the contingency if needed. Cllr Clarke read the terms of reference for the working group. These were approved.

Cllr Pinner suggested that the working group report every two weeks. Cllr Pointon suggested the Council should assume all was going to plan unless they were told to the contrary. Cllr Clarke agreed that there should be a report every two weeks. Cllr Pinner suggested that the group should cease to exist at the end of the contract or the end of the year whichever shall be the earlier. The end of the year was proposed by Cllr Rothwell and seconded by Cllr Smith. This was approved. It was agreed that any complaints about works should be made to the clerk and that these should be forwarded by the clerk to Cllr Pinner. Cllr Clarke said that he would be away from Monday the 21st September until Monday the 28th September.

(iv) Signatories to Contract

Cllr Clarke proposed and Cllr Pointon seconded that Cllr Pinner and Cllr Spicer should sign the contract. This was approved. Cllr Pinner said that the Council needed to tie up the figure for the contingency. It was agreed that the contingency should be £40,000. This was proposed by Cllr Cooper and seconded by Cllr Smith. It was also agreed to accept the amounts proposed for payment to the CDM Supervisor (£1,595) and the Engineer Supervisor. This was proposed by Cllr Gough and seconded by Cllr Rothwell

Post Meeting Note: The contract has been signed and was returned to Spade Oak on 22 September. Cllr Clarke and the parish clerk also have copies of this document.

f) Public Open Spaces

(i) Woodland areas

There was nothing to report on this point.

(ii) LEAP for pre-schoolers & (iii) Play equipment for older children

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Cllr Clarke handed over to Cllr Smith a “big wadge of paper”. He was up to his neck in dealing with the roads. Cllr Smith had agreed to take over these items. He would be assisted by Cllr Rothwell. Cllr Easthope was making enquiries about funding.

Cllr Pinner said that Jane Lampshire (SCDC) had suggested that there should be an area of tarmac in the goalmouth in respect of item (iii). The cost would be £5,500. The District Council would pay 50% toward this. The tarmac in the goal mouth was being recommended by the

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District Council. Cllr Gough thought that putting tarmac might fuel residents’ objections. Cllr Pointon was worried about potential injuries on the tarmac. Cllr Smith said that at Fowlmere there was a small area made of rubber. It was decided to install the equipment first and monitor the situation.

5. Web Domain for Thriplow

Cllr Pinner referred to the subject of pictures of councillors being put on the website. He said that the councillors must be seen to be engaging with the public. He suggested a group picture. Cllr Pointon thought that each councillor should have an individual picture on the website. Cllrs Cooper and Smith did not object to pictures but to personal details being on the website. It was agreed that pictures would be sent to Cllr Clarke. All

6. Health & Safety

Cllr Easthope and the clerk had e-mailed their reports to Cllr Cooper.

7. Highway Matters

Heathfield Way road name sign

The clerk had requested a sign but no response had been received.

Post Meeting Note: An email message was received from Diane Duncan on 14/9 saying that although her consultations have been completed she has no budget to enable her to complete the work. She has other parish councils who have been waiting longer than Thriplow for new road name signs and as soon as money is available she will order the signs and make the necessary arrangements for them to be erected. She will let us know when she has any further news.

8. Tree Planting & Tree Work

a) Tree work applications

Application from Mr I Seaton of Manor farm Church Street Thriplow to undertake work on trees in a conservation area – no objections

Application from Mrs B Pointon of Opus One 5 Lower Street Thriplow to undertake work on trees in a conservation area – no objections to removal of tree

b) Other Tree matters

A course for tree wardens is being held at Cambourne on 8th October. Bill Wittering would like to attend this and has asked if the Parish Council will meet his travelling expenses. As the sum of £50.00 per annum is precepted for tree warden’s expenses the clerk had informed BW that his expenses would be met.

Cllr Clarke said that he had been told the hedge near the recreation ground is overgrown. Cllr Smith said he is waiting for a quote from Dave Thomas to do the work.

It was also stated that the war memorial hedge is “going skywards”. Mrs Gregory in the bungalow behind would like it cut back to the previous level. Cllr Smith said that it was being dealt with.

9. Planning matters

a) Responses to applications

S/0869/09/F Conversion of house into flats (Retrospective Application) 19 Whitehall Gardens
Most Cllrs have no objections, however, the application form states 4 cars & 4 car parking spaces on site. This is untrue. Only 1 car parking space is shown on site - the other 3 shown on the block/roof plan are communal spaces & do not belong to No. 19, neither are they shown as included in the outlined site boundary. 1 Cllr objects - retrospective application is contrary to a Covenant clause which requires written permission of HRA if property is used as anything other than a single private dwelling house. No such consent been asked for or granted. All Cllrs feel parking situation must be addressed & the application corrected - No recommendation

S/0964/09/F Erection of stables with Hay Store and a Tack Room/Machinery Store on Land to the North-east of 5 Middle Street, Thriplow – No Objections

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S/0669/09/F Erection of a cycle shelter, fencing and gates at Thriplow Primary School.
Amended plans - for information only -showing cycle shed set back from hedges
following landscape officers advice.

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b) Planning decisions received

S/0701/09/F Extensions at 35 School Lane Thriplow – Approved
S/0669/09/F Erection of Cycle Shelter, Fencing and Gates at Thriplow Primary School- Approved
S/0783/09/F Extensions at 16 Middle Street, Thriplow – Approved
S/0869/09/F Conversion of House into 4 flats, 19 Whitehall Gardens - Refused

c) Planning Appeals

There were no planning appeals

d) Other planning matters

Possible residential development of land in Heathfield Way

Cllr Smith had written to Mark Blundell of Landmark Real Estate to inform him that the Parish Council would not be able to work with him on his proposals for the land.

Subsequently a Heathfield resident had e-mailed the clerk to say that this land was looking very messy and overgrown and asked if it could be tidied up. Both the clerk and the resident then sent a polite request to Mark Blundell asking him if he would tidy up the site. He responded to the effect that he would not tidy it but the residents could if it bothered them. The following day a letter was received from his solicitors, Kidd Rapinet, requesting that the Parish Council remove the bus shelter from their clients land within 28 days. (see Item 14)

10. Financial Matters

a) Authority was given to pay the following

	Net	VAT	Total
E Simpkins (mower service)	134.69	20.20	154.89
TVHMC (P/C hall bookings July 09 to May10)	50.00	-	50.00
King & Co (meeting with solicitors)	50.00	7.50	57.50
Wormald Burrows (H/fld roads-balance consultancy fees)	5872.70	880.91	6753.61
CGM (Cambridge)Ltd (H/fld grass cuts 29/6 & 13/7, pruning Hurdles Way & village verges)	448.00	67.20	515.20
CGM (Cambridge) Ltd (H/fld grass cuts 27/7 & 10/8)	190.00	28.50	218.50
Moore Stephens (external auditors)	410.00	61.50	471.50
D Pinner (expenses incurred)	49.32	-	49.32
P J Easthope (Salary Jul-Sept 09)	868.14	-	868.14

b) Credits received

No credits had been received

c) Section 106 funds

2nd investment matures 30th Nov 09 – interest will be £535.57, maturity sum £139,569.56

3rd investment matures 11th Nov 09 – interest will be £252.86, maturity sum £60,686.68

4th investment matures 19th Oct 09 - interest will be £1,265.38, maturity sum £246,026.55

The 2nd and 4th investments will be not be re-invested but will be transferred to the current account on their next maturity dates Clerk

The current financial position and bank reconciliation figures were issued to all councillors together with the above Sect 106 fund details

d) Bank Signatories

Cllr Rothwell's name had been crossed off the bank mandate form because he did not want to be a signatory. The bank wanted three signatories to authorise the amendment to the form. Cllrs Clarke & Pinner & the clerk signed. DP will take form back to bank. DP

e) Payments of Spadeoak Invoices between meetings

The contract with Spadeoak will require payments to be made within 14 days of valuation certificates being issued. Estimated dates and estimated amounts of valuations are 23rd October £100,000 + VAT, 20th November £100,000 + VAT and 4th December £89,541.90 + VAT. These amounts may vary according to the payment that has been certified and this depends on how much of the work has been done. Authority was sought to make payments to Spadeoak in accordance with the sums certified.

It was proposed by Cllr Pointon that authority should be given as requested and seconded by Cllr Rothwell. The proposal was agreed.

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11. Community Mini-Bus Scheme

Cllr Pointon said she had an email from Arts in Cambs presenting a mini-bus scheme called Cambus. Under it if the Parish Council pays £10.00 pa anyone can use a mini-bus. There was some discussion on how the scheme might work. It was felt that more detail was needed. Cllr Pointon agreed she would investigate further and report back to the next meeting.

12. Reports

a) Duxford Airfield Liaison Committee

Cllr Pinner said he had nothing to report.

b) Thriplow Recreation Ground

Cllr Smith had nothing to report

c) Village Hall Management Committee

There was nothing to report

d) School Governors

There are parking issues at the school which are being sorted out. Sharon McGinty is not overly keen on double yellow lines. There are ongoing discussions on parking. Parking is a potential traffic hazard. Sharon McGinty has asked what the Parish Council can do about parking. Mike Cooper has said he cannot get double yellow lines put near the school. The Playing field is not large enough to use for parking. Cllr Pinner said he would write explore having double yellow lines. It is difficult to have them put outside of private dwellings.

e) Police & Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Gough said she had nothing to report. Except that she had contacted Chris Wiseman about getting visibility at Iceni.

f) Village Maintenance

Cllr Smith has asked for a quote from Dave Thomas to cut the recreation field hedge, to cut the Forsythia on the green and to do various other works.

g) District Council Information

Cllr Topping said that if things get "stuck" in relation to the play area then Ray McMurray can give a commitment on funding. If there is no response from him then go through Cllr Topping.

Cllr Topping said that FM1 noise data had been handed out at the last District Council meeting. It had been validated by the SCDC environmental officer. The general view was that the noise level is acceptable for 8 times a year. It is likely that 8 times a year does not constitute a noise nuisance.

There is consultation by SCDC on gypsy and traveller sites. There are no plans for such sites in this area. That is not to say that a private landowner might not offer a site.

Cllr Topping referred to the planning process. The Chairman's Delegation meeting was held in camera. It was proposed that in future members of the parish council may attend but cannot speak. A district councillor may attend and express views. Where a planning officer is minded to recommend a planning application and the Parish Council is opposed it will go to a full planning committee. The Parish Council will be represented and have three minutes to talk about the matter. Cllr Pinner said that the Parish Council do not find out about the matter until a decision has been made. Cllr Topping said that the Parish Council viewpoint should be given the planning committee. Cllr Smith could not think of any instance where the Parish Council viewpoint had been regarded. Cllr Pointon said that she thought there were communication problems. Cllr Clarke thought that the offer by Cllr Topping of a flow chart was valuable.

Cllr Topping thought that there ought to be an information loop from SCDC to parish councils. He said that he was thinking of a trigger which would enable the Council to receive information.

Cllr Topping asked if the Council wanted anything done regarding the bus stop eg planning advice. This has been superseded.

At the next IWM liason meeting Cllr Topping felt there is a need to ask what the strategic plan is for the north side of the site. This is in particular whether there are proposals to develop the officers' mess. There was then some discussion on whether this site is in the parish. It was agreed that the IWM need to be pressed on the officers' mess.

h) County Council Information

Cllr Stone had several points to raise but he also said he would email his report to the parish clerk

Cllr Stone mentioned the Regional Spatial Survey. He said that the proposed development at Hanley Grange was still part of it. Ideas were needed on such things as an increase in and affordable housing. Targets will be based upon views of local councils. Cllr Stone suggested that there was a need for people to respond saying they do not want Hanley Grange. Cllr Stone also referred to a proposed plan for a household waste re-cycling centre South-west of Cambridge. The buildings will be enclosed. The most likely site was one in Trumpington. Thriplow will stay open. There is also some discussion going on regarding the Transport Innovation Fund (Congestion Charge). There has been a proposal for new Consultation on Notice regarding the Renault Formula One testing at IWM. No vote would be taken at a proposed meeting at the IWM to discuss this. Cllr Stone said there was to be a reduction in the County Council budget. He also said that the East of England Assembly was going to disappear. Cllr Stone left the meeting. His full report is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

13. Remembrance Day

The Remembrance Day Service will be held on Sunday 8th November at Thriplow Memorial beginning 10.05 am. This will be followed by Fowlmere Memorial and then a service at St Mary's Fowlmere. Times will be confirmed in the next Church magazine. DP

Cllr Pointon said she thought work needed to be done at the war memorial. Cllr Smith said that he would deal with this. TSm

14. Bus Shelter

The meeting was informed that the owner of the land upon which the bus shelter was erected had given the Parish Council 28 days to move it. Cllrs Pinner and Smith had met with Mike Cooper. A new site had been decided upon. This site is in front of the fence owned by Icen. There were no problems with highways about this. Mike Cooper had informed Stagecoach. A later letter from the owner of the site had asked for £100 rent per week. Cllr Pinner said he had sent out for three quotes to move the bus shelter as the matter had become urgent. Icen had agreed to the re-siting of the bus shelter provided it was not placed too close to the fence for maintenance reasons. Butler Bros. had quoted a favourable £950.00. The site was near to the round-about. Icen do not object provided it did not cost them anything. The clerk has written to Icen and the owner of the land. The proposal to accept the quote was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Rothwell and agreed. Cllr Pinner is to write to Mike Cooper to ask for the road markings to be removed from the old shelter position and re-installed in the new position

15. Correspondence and Information received

The following correspondence has been received by the Clerk:-

- a) CCC – letter re Community Engagement Strategy – Consultation
- b) Letter from Andrew Lansley MP re Microsoft software donations to charities. This had been emailed to all councillors on 27/8/09.
- c) SCDC – Letter re CIEH Level 3 Award in Health & safety in the workplace course 21-22 & 29 Oct
- d) Email from James Fisher regarding S.106 indemnity arrangements.
- e) Email confirming Cllr Clarke booked on councillor training course
- f) Invitation to AGM of Cambridgeshire community Services (NHS) on 22.9.09
- g) Invitation from Cambridgeshire Together to an evening of rural debate 29.9.09
- h) Letter from Mrs K Frachechi of 43 Pepperslade re recreational facilities on open spaces. Clerk has responded
- i) Clerk has obtained the Road Tax Disc for the ride on lawn mower (expires 31.7.10)
- j) Cambridgeshire Acre – Notice of AGM 29.9.09 at ST Ivo Leisure Centre 5.30 pm.
- k) SCDC – copy of SCDC Gypsy and traveller Community Strategy
- l) Standards Committee Newsletter Summer 2009
- m) Meetings Best Practice Checklist
- n) Email from Cllr T Stone re small and voluntary community groups litter picks
- o) Email CPALC - Best Practice guide Agendas & Minutes
- p) Campaign to Protect Rural England – free two day course on hedgerows 7/8 Nov.
- q) COPE- issues 58 & 59 (handed to Cllr Pointon)
- r) Electoral Roll update

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- s) Letter of invitation from Melbourne Village College to 50th Anniversary Tea Party 12/9/09. (e-mailed to all councillors & notice put on general village notice board)
- t) Letter from Victim Support asking for a contribution
- u) LCR Magazine – Autumn 2009
- v) Clerks and Councils- Issue 65 September 2009
- w) Various sundry advertising material

The chairman asked if anyone had any other matters they wished to mention

Cllr Clarke said that he had been to the first of his three councillor training sessions. He had limited expectations but had learned quite a lot. It had been recommended by the trainer that all parish councillors should attend. He recommended everyone should go on it.

Cllr Cooper asked that the next agenda should include provision from the Smithy Fund for a fire bucket.
Clerk

16. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place on the 9th November 2009.

There being no further business, the chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting ended at 10.40 pm.

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Chairman

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Date

APPENDIX A

Report to Thriplow Parish Council 14th September 2009

I attended last week's consultation evening at Robinson College to get an idea of what exactly are our options.

Several speakers, including a representative from EERA spoke about the need for increased housing in the East of England, an assessment which was eloquently supported by the representative from Shelter. In brief, there is an undeniable need for increased affordable housing in the region.

Considering the period 2011 to 2031, four scenarios have been proposed on which public comment is sought.

* Scenario 1: A target broadly based on the views of local councils. For South Cambridgeshire, this would mean a 20 year target of 23,600. (This scenario is the one favoured by Cambridgeshire County Council and equates to limiting growth to the same figure as proposed for the period up to 2021.)

* Scenario 2: Promotes growth in areas identified by the Regional Scale Settlement Study (Jan 2009). Notable changes to other counties and areas in the region. For S. Cambs a 20 year target of 26,600. This scenario includes a new settlement in Huntingdonshire – probably at Alconbury.

* Scenario 3: Promotes growth around successful business locations where new jobs are attracting workers. Particular focus on Hertfordshire, S. Essex and Cambridgeshire. For S. Cambs a 20 yr target of 23,920.

* Scenario 4: Promotes growth where households are projected to grow. Based on long term trends such as people living longer and people moving to the region. Majority of additional growth in Herts, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. For S. Cambs a 20 year target of 19,000.

Note: Scenarios 2 to 4 will test the Government's view that more homes are needed in the region, although EERA has already rejected the highest end of the range being proposed by the Government. However, the important part of this is the opportunity for the public to make their views known, and to this end, Cambridgeshire has made a short questionnaire available in paper form, or on their web site. Responders have the opportunity to nominate their priorities for Cambridgeshire, and their choice of scenario as given above. The questionnaire includes a little competition which will earn the lucky winners £25 vouchers from M & S, iTunes and Accessorise.

The URL for the site is www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/planning.

I have had trouble finding the County website which was quoted. I have been to see the communications team today and they will seek to have the consultation featured boldly on the main page of the website. That should make it easier for respondents. We really need people to respond by saying they don't want Hanley Grange, which still lurks in the papers as a possibility. The reasons are just the same as they were for the eco-town but we want an explicit statement from EERA that Hanley Grange is dead.

New Household Recycling Centre

The county council is to decide where to put a new Household Recycling Centre to the south-west of Cambridge. The Development Control Committee, of which I am a member, met last week to agree a proposal to go forward to the County's Cabinet for final approval as part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan.

There has been much controversy about where the Household Recycling Centre site should be: on the old Bayer site in Hauxton on the west of the A10 opposite where the old buildings have been demolished or off the new Addenbrooke's slip road in Trumpington. A new site is needed not least because of the planned housing growth in Trumpington Meadows, Glebe Farm and so on.

The new brand of Household recycling centres is nothing like what we know in Thriplow. To begin with they are enclosed in modern buildings which not only look good but also avoid dust blowing around. More items can be recycled and instead of having to climb up steps to deposit things, users will be able to drop waste into skips at a lower level. And skip lorries and cars don't come into contact.

At the moment it seems that the Trumpington site could well get the go-ahead, though nothing is finally decided yet. While Thriplow will stay open the new site could nevertheless be of interest to people in our local villages: it could well be more convenient for people driving to Cambridge or the Trumpington Park & Ride and for the less muscular the thought of avoiding those stairs could be a real attraction.

Transport Innovation Fund

The Cambridge Transport Commission has now issued its report. The main conclusions are that Cambridgeshire should pursue its bid for £500 million funding for road and other engineering works to improve access to Cambridge. The report also seeks to de-fuse the contentious congestion charge by suggesting that the County should establish with the government a trigger point at which stage a congestion charge would be introduced. This would enable introduction of the charge to be delayed.

Initial reaction from the government is that such a procedure would not be acceptable as the principle of demand management is written into the rules of the Transport Innovation Fund. The opposition has made no commitment to funding the transport Innovation Fund without congestion charging.

What is more, the County has until the end of October to put in its bid within the original framework or it runs out of time.

The Transport Commission underlined the serious transport infrastructure deficit in and around Cambridge, suggesting that £500 million was far too little to invest, regretting the lack of a more ambitious programme and concluding that at some stage tunnelling would become inevitable.

We look forward to the County coming down off the fence.

Renault testing at the Airfield

The Imperial War Museum is to hold another open consultation – probably in late October – to gather public opinion on the continuation of Formula 1 testing in 2010.

Last year's public meeting, which supported the Museum in this year's trial, attracted only 40 or so participants. Perhaps this next meeting will bring more people out.

The testing has received the attentions of both the District Council's Environmental Health team and the Environment Agency. But there has been no communication from either that continuation of testing will be resisted.

The Museum makes it quite clear that there will be no vote held at the meeting and that it will be for the Museum to decide whether to go ahead or not.

Tim

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