
Huntingdonshire District Council Councillors Report

Brampton Annual Assembly, 21 April 2021

As Peter Downes has set out in his CCC report, due to Covid 19 this has been an exceptional and very challenging year for our local councils and our local community. Many people have been furloughed, some businesses have been forced to close during Lockdown and young people in particular have been hit hard by the impact of the pandemic.

The pandemic has also shown the remarkable resilience of our community. Brampton Community Support Network was formed which has now merged into the Brampton Village Hub, people have volunteered to help support their neighbours many of whom were shielding and undoubtedly there have been many unsung heroes who come forward to help others during their time of need.

HDC redeployed many staff to support some of the most vulnerable in our community.

Huntingdonshire District Council had 52 elected Members and is Conservative controlled. The current political composition of the council is:

Conservative – 27; HDC Independent Group - 10; Liberal Democrats - 7;
Independent - 1; Labour – 3; Vacancies - 4.

Subject to Covid rules we hold 'Surgeries' on the first Saturday of each alternate month from 10am to 11am in the Scout HQ behind the shops. We also hold a monthly 'surgery' in Huntingdon Market Square from 11.30am to 12.30pm on the last Saturday of each month.

Patricia was first elected in 2007 and is a member of the CPCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the Employment Committee and the Licensing & Protection Committee.

John was first elected in 2013 and is a member of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) and the Corporate Governance Committee.

1. Council Tax

HDC has agreed to freeze the HDC element of the Council Tax for 2021/22. This has only been possible by taking money from reserves to balance the budget. The impact of the pandemic has had a considerable impact on finances with HDC leisure centres being closed during Lockdown and and loss of car parking income.

2. Huntingdon Town Centre

All of our town centres have been hit hard by the impact of the pandemic and the growth in on-line shopping. HDC has agreed a Covid 19 Recovery Programme. Significant amounts of money will be invested in all of our town centres in the coming years to help them respond to the changing face on the high street.

3. Flooding

In December we saw our community again pull together in response to the flooding that hit the village on Christmas Eve. Many people went above and beyond to help protect properties.

4. Brampton Men's Shed

HDC planners have given the green light for a Men's Shed to be built near the corner of the Memorial playing fields near the new skate park. This is a really exciting project for the whole village. Peter Menczer, chairman of the Brampton Village Hub and his project team have been working tirelessly on this project with the support of Brampton Parish Council. Loneliness, social isolation and poor mental health have been issues that have been increasingly highlighted during the pandemic. The Men's Shed will help tackle many of these issues.

5. Supporting Healthy Lifestyles

We continue to promote healthy lifestyles and to encourage more people who are able to, to consider walking or cycling for shorter journeys rather than take the car. It is good to see Brampton Primary School continue to provide Bikeability training to help give children confidence to cycle safely on our roads.

6. Road Safety & Safer Routes to Schools

We remain concerned about the road safety around the village green and look forward to working with the parish council, the local police, the village school and CCC's Road Safety Education Team to improve safety around the school gates at drop off and pick up times.

7. Buckden Landfill Site - Smells

We continue to work closely with the Environment Agency and HDC Environmental Health in an attempt to find a long term solution to the problem. We have been advised by the Environment Agency that a criminal investigation is underway.

Finally, a thank you for all those who have volunteered their time in the past year to support some of the most vulnerable in our community. We continue to support our residents as best we can and in particular try to help some of the most vulnerable in our community.

Patricia Jordan & John Morris
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