

**Huntingdonshire District Council Councillor's Annual Report
Brampton Annual Assembly, Wednesday 20 April 2022
6.30 pm, Brampton Memorial Centre, Thrapston Rd, Brampton**

1. Recovering From The Pandemic

The past year has again been a very challenging year for our local councils and our local community as we begin to slowly recover from the impact of the pandemic.

The pandemic has shown the remarkable resilience of our community. Many volunteers continue to support Brampton Village Hub who provide many valuable services for our community. In recent months both the Brampton Men's Shed also known as 'Bramshed' has opened on Brampton Park as has the Brampton Craft Club which is located in a property next door to the Bramshed on Montague Road. Both have got off to an excellent start and new members are always welcome.

2. Councillors' Surgeries

We have held 'Surgeries' on the first Saturday of each alternate month from 10.30am to 11.30am in front of the High Street shops by the dental practice. We have also held a monthly 'surgery' in Huntingdon Market Square from 11.30am to 12.30pm on the last Saturday of each month and have in recent months held surgeries at Brampton Park by the new Co-op and in Hinchingsbrooke by the convenience store.

3. Political Composition of Huntingdonshire District Council

Huntingdonshire District Council had 52 elected councillors and is Conservative controlled with 29 of the seats, 57% of the total. The current political composition of the council is:

Conservative – 29
HDC Independent Group - 10;
Liberal Democrats - 7;
Labour – 3
Independent - 2;
Vacancies - 1

4. Huntingdonshire District Council Elections on 5th May 2022

On 5th May all 52 seats at Huntingdonshire District Council are up for re-election. Brampton & Hinchingsbrooke residents can vote for 2 candidates at the HDC election. This year we will have 2 polling stations in Brampton, one at the Memorial Centre on Thrapston Rd and one at the Lady Olivia Centre on Brampton Park. Your poll card will state which polling station you can vote at. You can only vote at the polling station that is printed on your poll card.

John Morris has announced that he has made the difficult decision to stand down on 5th May to concentrate his efforts on promoting active travel, healthy lifestyles and supporting wider environmental issues in the district. John was first elected in 2013 and has been a member of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth) and the Corporate Governance Committee. John said: "It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Patricia Jordan for the 9 years I have served Brampton as a district councillor. Patricia continues to provide great

service to local people and has a well deserved reputation for supporting many vulnerable people in our community". Patricia is standing for re-election on 5th May.

Patricia has served for 15 years as a Brampton district councillor was first elected in 2007. She is a member of the Employment Committee and Licensing & Protection Committee.

Dave Shaw has stepped forward and is also standing as a Lib Dem Councillor for Brampton on 5th May. Dave is well know by many in the village having served as the sub postmaster for Brampton for 15 years from 2006 until 2021 when Post Office Limited took the decision to relocate the post office to the Brampton Nisa on Miller Way. Both Patrica Jordan and Dave Shaw live in Brampton.

The two Conservative Candidates are Raz Ansary and Cameron Reed. Cameron also lives in Brampton and Raz lives at an address in Huntingdonshire.

5. Council Tax - HDC element increased by 3.43% in 2022/23

HDC increased the HDC element of the Council Tax for 2022/23 by 3.43%. The impact of the pandemic has had a considerable impact on finances with HDC leisure centres being closed during lockdown and loss of car parking income when a decision was made to temporarily suspend car parking charges - which have now been reinstated.

6. The Future of 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 respond to the changing face on the high street.

7. Brampton Men's Shed - Bramshed

This is a really exciting project for the whole village. Peter Menczer, chairman of the Brampton Village Hub and his project team which includes Steve Hodgson a long time Brampton resident have been working tirelessly on this project. Loneliness, social isolation and poor mental health have been issues that have been increasingly highlighted during the pandemic. The Men's Shed which opened in early 2022 is helping tackle some of these issues.

8. Brampton Craft Club Goes From Strength to Strength

Brampton Craft Club moved into new premises on Brampton Park, provided by Ermine Street Housing in January 2022. The new venue at 4 Montague Rd has proved very popular and meetings are well attended with many people making new friends and learning new skills. The club is grateful for the support of funding provided by Brampton PC and HDC. For more details, contact the founder members, Sue Rowlands or Lesley Morris or search for Brampton Craft Club on Facebook.

9. 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.

10. 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. We wish to encourage children, parents and carers to be considerate road users while doing the school run. There are a number of schemes that can help alleviate parking problems around the school gates, promote healthier ways to travel to school and improve pupil safety. More info

here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/road-safety/road-safety-education-for-schools>

11. Buckden Landfill Site - Smells

There appears to have been some progress made since September 2021 by FCC Ltd the company that manage the Buckden landfill site . We hope that we will continue to see progress in the coming year.

12. Volunteering in our community

A big thank you for all those in our community who continue of volunteer their time to help provide a wide range of voluntary services. Many truly are unsung heroes and we thank them all.

13. Cost of Living Crisis

During the current cost of living crisis with more and more people struggling to make ends meet due to high levels of inflation exceeding wage increases, rising fuel and energy bills, rising food prices etc, we will continue to support our residents as best we can and in particular try to help some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community.

Patricia Jordan & John Morris

Huntingdonshire District Councillors for Brampton & Hinchingsbrooke

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