

## Melbourn Parish Council June 2017 County Councillor Report

**Changes at County Council:** After ticking along for several months with no decision-making due to elections, the County Council is back to business as usual. All committees start the new municipal year with a clear message to members on the need to prepare for further significant cuts in the 2017-18 budget, as government revenue support grant to councils winds down to zero.

The composition of the council has changed and is now under overall Conservative control – as opposed to a hung council over the past four years. Hopefully the service committees will continue to work constructively – these have been an exemplar of cross-party work over the past few years. I've been appointed to the Health Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board, which offer excellent perspectives over public health prevention work (this can include road safety projects, to help encourage people to walk more), NHS transformation, and deprivation and inequalities across individual wards and the county as a whole; and also Education Transport Appeals and the steering group for bus and community transport subsidies.

**Cam Vale Bus Users Group:** The new Cam Val Bus Users Group, designed to provide a voice for local people who depend on bus travel, will rotate round the villages. Following a first meeting in Meldreth, it meets next on July 17, 7:30-PM, at The Limes Community Centre Bassingbourn. We'll aim for an early autumn meeting in Melbourn. Ironically of course there are few if any buses to call upon, but lifts can be arranged for anyone who'd like to come along. I've invited our new Mayor James Palmer, who holds new powers around bus franchising, to attend the meeting in order to get acquainted with public transport needs in our area.

**Safety improvements, path connecting School gate to High Street along car park:** As previously reported, following the village litter picker's report at a parish council meeting earlier this year regarding near-miss collisions of vehicles and children on bicycles exiting the path connecting the school gate to the High Street, I've been working with the County Council cycling team to investigate remedies. The parish council and school were invited to a site meeting with council officers and me. It was agreed that a simple chicane barrier effect near the High Street meeting point would be appropriate. The requirement was to allow pushchairs and prams good access, and encourage cyclists but not allow a free run. The site in question is on parish land, but understanding parish council budgetary constraints and the imperative to address children's safety, I asked if County could find a way of funding this. The solution was to add the project to the Shepreth-Melbourn cycleway scheme, which is City Deal funded. The final design was adapted slightly and has now been installed.

**Cycle path snagging list:** Thanks to the Cherry Park site owner and county council cycling team for their quick joint work to improve visibility at the Cherry Park entrance. Directional and multi-use signage has been ordered and will be installed hopefully soon. The cycling team will meet on site with us to discuss smoothing out verges and clear away any areas of abandoned building materials left by the contractors. AstraZeneca at Melbourn Science Park hosts the next A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign on July 5, 7 for 7:30PM. This will be a good opportunity to take stock of the new path.

**New Meldreth Station Master:** It is great to report Govia Thameslink have now hired a new station master for Meldreth Station. Bernie is from Royston and his sister lives in Meldreth – so as local as David Piggott. The Rail User Group has thanked Andrea, the temporary staff member who has looked after the station in the 18 months since David's retirement, and welcomes Bernie.