(Appendix: A)

Ellington Parish Council Meeting – November 23

I am also pleased to report that our new Local Highways Officer Karen Southwell has started in her new role. It has been agreed that we should meet on a regular basis, approx. every six weeks.

Dan Wiggs is the new Public Rights of Way Officer for Huntingdonshire and just started in the role at the end of October.

I have received a large number, of complaints about weeds along the edges of our roads. Following a lot of complaints from Parishes, residents and members particularly Conservative members. The Joint administration has decided to review its policy of not undertaking weed spraying at either the December or January meeting of the Highways & Transportation Committee.

The HDC Cabinet member for Street Cleansing, Cllr Simone Taylor, who is also a County Councillor and a member of the Joint Administration on the County Council, admitted at HDC's Full Council meeting that the authority was struggling to sweep the roads properly due to the weeds.

With regard, to next year's Local Highways Improvement Bids applications are now open until 5pm on Friday 12th January 24.

The County Council will undertake feasibility studies between February and May. With the Complex schemes going before members in June/July 24 with confirmation of the successful schemes being announced at the September 24 Highways & Transportation Committee.

The Leader of the Joint Administration on the County Council has said she will be looking for the maximum increase in Council Tax levied by the County Council of 4.99%

As of January 24, Parishes will be able to apply again for a 20mph scheme for their village. I will let the PC know when the application opens.

The County Council will be introducing Low Carbon streetlights across the county. The roll out of the more efficient LED lights is expected to cut energy consumption by more than a half. 47,500 street lights will be replaced with LED lights, work is expected to start next year and will last for 2 years.

The Fire Authority has started to introduce crews of 3 in Rural Areas. A back up crew of 4/5 will also be sent.

The benefits of the change in rural areas are :-

A Fire Engine arrives at the incident in a quicker time.

A quicker resolution to the incident

First Aid administered quicker, potentially saving life.

Crews from further away being available in their local area again quicker.

This is a crewing enhancement. We will send the same fire engines we would do now as well as the crew of 3. But if the other crews are not needed they can be sent back quicker.

Our on call firefighters get to use their skills and training more, which may help with the retention of On Call Firefighters

Suffolk Fire and Rescue have already adopted this policy.

No firefighter will be put at any additional risk because of this strategy.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County Councillor for Alconbury & Kimbolton