(Appendix:B)

November PC REPORT

Changes to Postal and Proxy Voting

- **Identity checking requirements** - All absent vote applications (except for emergency proxy applications) must contain a National Insurance Number (NIN) or a reason why one cannot be provided.
- **Online absent vote applications** - From 31 October 2023 electors will be able to apply for most types of absent vote online
- **Maximum period for absent vote applications**
- **Changes to proxy voting limits –** limited to 4

A briefing note is available, which I will send to the Clerk

Question to Council about Weeds

" What are the implications for our staff workload and impact on our street cleansing equipment, (disruptions to work routine and equipment) as under the County Council's weed policy they are not routinely removing weeds from gulley's around the District?"

Answer from HDC Cleansing Manager
" There is some impact on the time taken to sweep each road. If there were no weeds, we would usually clear any detritus in 1 or 2 passes. With the weed growth and heavy detritus, we are having to go along the road 3 or 4 times in some areas to try and achieve a good standard.

The other impact is on the quality of the work. Even where we are going along the road 3 or 4 times, we are still not clearing everything due to the weeds trapping litter and detritus."

Local Plan Update
Planning have published some FAQs on our Local Plan update page in response to general questions from the public and our district and town and parish councillors
https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-update/
Join the Climate Conversation!
Are you passionate about our planet's future? Do you want to take meaningful action to combat climate change?

Then mark your calendars for Huntingdonshire's Climate Change Community Event!
Join us on Saturday, 18 November, from 10.00am to 3.30pm at Hinchingbrooke Country Park, Brampton Road, Huntingdon, PE29 6DB.

The event is open to everyone and there will be hands-on activities and space to talk about our changing climate and explore what each of us can do to make a difference. Visitors can also share stories about climate action they are already taking both at home and in their community.
https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/join-huntingdonshires-climate-conversation/?fbclid=IwAR0a-xWQYKQIA4Lr84-hM5rTF_Rqm2W7-60k06RqAIcrw-kFbsccZ57xzmI
Council Tax Support Scheme 2024/25
Report brought to Overview and Scrutiny last week and on Cabinet agenda this week - go to Full Council meeting on 13 December sets out the action taken to date to redesign the Council Tax Support scheme to leads to a recommendation that the Council approves the introduction of a new, income banded scheme for working age applicants with effect from 1st April 2024, increasing levels of support available to the most vulnerable residents across Huntingdonshire. Given that CTS is a reduction on the tax base, it should

be noted there would be financial implications for all precepting authorities - Cambridgeshire County Council, Parish and Town Councils, Police and Crime Commissioner, Fire Service and Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Mayor. £1m will need to be found across all preceptors.
https://democracy.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/moderngov/ieIssueDetails.aspx?IId=64977&PlanId=0&Opt=3#AI58749

Licensing emails to Clerks

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme

Presentation at last Overview and Scrutiny panel from Highways England updating us in Replanting Strategy.

Full survey carried out of the planting on the A14 project to date and was carried out over a three-month period by Chevron Green Services, National Highways' landscaping contractor for the East Region. The survey included the physical visual inspection of plants on the project.

As a result, we have now identified 165,000 plants that need replacing. This represents a far better survival rate compared to previous surveys.

The survey covered the planting from Alconbury through to Milton, which includes land owned by National Highways and Cambridgeshire County Council. The project's borrow pits, aquatic species and bulbs planted were not included in this survey.

- Planting season 2023/24 – Starting now
- All failed plants to be replanted where safe to do so
- Further replanting season 2024/25 - Final project replant
- Early 2025 - All soft estate to be handed over by adopting authority (National Highways Operations Directorate & Cambridgeshire County Council)