

Huntingdonshire District Council
Annual Report for 2016/17

During the past year, I have been involved with many aspects of the council's proposed strategies and the implementation of new policies.

As part of the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Panel I was engaged in several meetings concerning the proposed merger of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital with Stamford and Peterborough Hospitals. The merger was proposed because Hinchingsbrooke was said to be neither clinically nor financially viable. We were told that the merger would save a projected £9M a year, £4M of which related to Hinchingsbrooke. However, when the threat of the closure of vital services at the hospital were made, I took part in a march through Huntingdon, arranged by Jonathan Djanogly MP, against the proposed merger.

The outcome of several months of meetings and public consultations resulted in the merger of the hospitals with Hinchingsbrooke retaining its A&E, paediatric and maternity units.

On this panel, I also heard and discussed items such as the One Leisure Active Lifestyle report for 2015/16, The Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2015/16, The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group Performance Report, and the Houses of Multiple Occupation report.

I engaged in meetings and helped resolve local issues concerning the bin round reconfiguration earlier this year and of course the consideration of Devolution was something all District Councillors were involved in during several full meetings on the subject.

More recently I was part of the CCTV Task and Finish Group at which we discussed with the local police and HBAC (Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime), the effectiveness of CCTV and viability of it in rural areas, this particularly related to Hemingford Grey Parish Council who have been looking into the installation of CCTV cameras following a recent spate of anti-social behaviour and burglaries. However, until the system goes digital, it will not be financially viable in the Hemingfords and will be re-visited later this year when that happens.

I have also attended meetings and supported the sale of the Houghton and Wyton shop as a community asset, helped constituents with issues such as planning and their entitlement to benefits, and most recently I have attended meetings regarding the proposed waste recycling centre in Hemingfords Abbots which I am vehemently against and wholeheartedly oppose, along with residents.

Councillor Alison Donaldson
27 May 2017