



## MAYOR'S JANUARY MESSAGE

The first Town Council meeting of the New Year took place on 20 January. The Minutes will be posted on our website, to be found at: <http://gmccouncil.com> We welcomed several members of the public some of whom spoke concerning a potential Local Highways Initiative centred on London Road, which is currently being investigated. As part of our consultative process letters seeking views are invariably sent by the Town Clerk to citizens who might be affected by local highways proposals, but it is also always rewarding to hear from residents in person at our monthly meetings.

As we look forward, it appears that perhaps many of the constraints which we have undergone over the past (almost) 2 years may be soon a thing of the past. However, Covid infection rates in our broader area are still alarmingly high, so we all need to continue to apply personal hygiene measures and use common-sense to stay safe and protect others around us.

Many of you have commented on the deteriorating state of our iconic Chinese Bridge. This is a listed structure and the County Council has the responsibility for its maintenance, under the watchful eye of the District planning department. I am pleased to report that we have been assured that refurbishment will commence in March.



I reported some time ago that our camera system at Judith's Field had enabled the police to identify a number of individuals who had vandalised the new toilet building as well as abusing some of the recreation facilities. Council is now receiving financial compensation from the parents of some of the culprits (who were minors) and police enquiries are still continuing.

On a happier note, after two years of planning, a new range of facilities is being completed at the Community Nursery site in Park Lane. This includes a large community classroom, an office and sales point and new fully-accessible toilets – all soon ready for use. In addition, a kitchen unit will be installed in the next month which will offer refreshments to the growing number of visitors, and a cycle/buggy store will enable people to more conveniently access the site on foot and by bicycle. The Council will let you know as soon as this area of the site is fully accessible so you can join us there.

Lastly, I am pleased to remind you that a Floodmobile event will be held at School Hill between 10am and 3pm on Saturday 29 January. A county-wide roadshow is being undertaken which is designed to help households and businesses located in areas that have previously seen flooding, receive expert advice, all onboard a special 'display vehicle – the Floodmobile. A specialist will be available and there will an interactive demonstration which provides examples of over 50 practical measures of flood resilience. I hope many of you can find time to visit as I'm sure we could all learn something from this.

Meantime, stay safe.

CLlr Cliff Thomas, Mayor of Godmanchester