

Godmanchester Town Council met on Thursday 20 October 2022 to go through a fairly full agenda. We were happy to welcome a number of younger members of the town to address us with regard to evening use of the skatepark, and their points will be considered at the next meeting of the Property Portfolio. The Mayor also gave a brief outline of an Ukrainian refugee family which has moved into the town, and requires some support.

The major items were:

- The Judith's Field carpark is now finished, with new areas and clear markings for parking bays.
- We are considering ways of improving the Mill Lade navigable waterway.
- We will be planting a new fastigate (or pyramid) oak on Queen's Walk as a memorial to her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.
- The incidence of vandalism at the Judith's Field toilets has declined since they have been locked earlier, and that new CCTV cameras have been installed and activated in the area.
- The paving at the rear of the Pavilion will be extended in order to provide a more useable area for events during the summer.
- We agreed to take the next limited steps to refurbish our Grade II listed Town Hall, by commissioning a measured survey of the building to provide a baseline for further improvement.
- The Business Portfolio gave an update on items including: the Youth Council; bike marking; twinning; and policy updates.
- The Business Portfolio advised that the Council needed to separate the cost for watering planters maintained by Godmanchester in Bloom to give a more accurate indication of the support given to them.
- The Nursery is considering using its new classroom building to provide a 'Warm Space' which could be used by local residents when the Nursery is open.
- The Planning and Transport Portfolio drew attention to the plethora of new reports from District and County Council laying out strategies for Huntingdonshire towns, and the need for all to read and respond to the suggestions. The links to these are:
 - o Greater Cambridgeshire Transport Study: <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/city-access-programme/making-connections>
 - o Huntingdonshire Transport Study: The survey is now live and can be accessed here <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/>
 - o Huntingdon, Ramsey and St Ives Masterplans: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/masterplans>
- Four planning requests were supported by the Council, and the Transport Study Working Group are continuing to seek ways to improve traffic management in the town.
- We are seeking to provide a speed camera on the A1198 between Romans' Edge and Judith's Field where traffic regularly exceeds the speed limit.
- The Speedwatch Group (which is independent of the Council) has also been reconstituted to identify problem hotspots.

Despite having relatively limited powers, your Town Council continues to work for you to improve your facilities and environment. If you have any suggestions, please write to us – or better still come and present them at a Town Council meeting; the next is due to take place on Thursday 17 November at 19.00 in the Town Hall.

Dick Taplin

Mayor