

District Councillor's Report – October 2022

General

The recent Government Mini Budget and associated tax cuts has raised the spectre of from where these tax savings will be paid for as we wait for the OBR forecast. Of great concern is that provision, to address the impact of inflation and high interest rates, will not be provided to already 'cut to the bone' district councils, in preference to tax cuts. Furthermore, it seems possible that funding could be cut District Councils, such as Huntingdon, with substantive knock-on reductions in Council services.

Since the new administration was elected at HDC a new Section 151 Officer has been hired. Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires local authorities to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and appoint a S151 Officer, also known as a Chief Financial Officer (CFO), to have responsibility for those arrangements. Our newly appointed Section 151 Officer is a fully qualified account and is currently working through the HDC books to highlight any areas of inaccuracy, or potential concern, prior to budget setting.

Huntingdonshire Undefeatables [Diabetes] Scheme Launches Extension to Include Additional Long-Term Health Conditions

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) recognises the importance of healthy and active lifestyles and from October 1 2022, the 'Undefeatables [Diabetes] Scheme' that launched in 2021, will now support people with cancer, lung disease, long term anxiety and depression.

The scheme was set up to help those with long-term health conditions to be more active through it's in-house leisure provider, One Leisure. 'Undefeatables' is a discounted membership for a period of nine months, which includes activities such as badminton, squash, cyclone (indoor cycling), the gym, fitness classes, and swimming, amongst other targeted activities delivered across One Leisure.

The extension to the scheme means that you can now get help and support to manage your condition and lead a healthy lifestyle if you are currently inactive (undertaking less than 30 minutes of physical activity and/or exercise) and diagnosed with certain long-term health conditions, including diabetes (type 1 and 2), pre-diabetic/non-diabetic hyperglycaemia, lung conditions, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cancer and long-term depression/anxiety (6 months plus).

To find out more information about the scheme visit www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/undefeat

District Council Meetings Now Streamed Online

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) meetings will now be streamed live and offer residents the chance to witness proceedings first-hand from the comfort of their own home.

It's our priority to keep everyone informed and, following extensive testing, we are now ready to live stream our Council and Committee meetings. This means that from 12 October 2022, you will be able to view the following meetings online:

- Council

- Cabinet
- Overview and Scrutiny Panels
- Corporate Governance Committee
- Development Management Committee
- Employment Committee
- Licensing and Protection/Licensing Committees

You can view these meetings by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/user/HuntingdonshireDC> at the scheduled time which can be found on our website.

Installation of Final Play Equipment Complete

The final pieces of play equipment have been installed in the brand-new play areas at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park.



The new specialist accessibility equipment includes: a wheelchair swing, integrated roundabout, climbing frame and integrated seesaw, and are the final pieces to be installed to finish the new play areas as part of a large programme of District Council investment in Hinchingsbrooke Country Park.

Wishing you all well,

Martin

Martin Hassall

District Councillor for Buckden, Diddington and Southoe
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