



# SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2010

AGENDA AND REPORTS

South Cambridgeshire Hall  
Cambourne Business Park  
Cambourne, Cambridge  
CB23 6EA

The law allows Councils to consider a limited range of issues in private session without members of the Press and public being present. Typically, such issues relate to personal details, financial and business affairs, legal privilege and so on. In every case, the public interest in excluding the Press and Public from the meeting room must outweigh the public interest in having the information disclosed to them. The following statement will be proposed, seconded and voted upon.

"I propose that the Press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item number(s) ..... in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that, if present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) ..... of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act."

If exempt (confidential) information has been provided as part of the agenda, the Press and public will not be able to view it. There will be an explanation on the website however as to why the information is exempt.

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

TO: The Chairman and Members of the  
South Cambridgeshire District Council

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the next meeting of the **COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR** at **2.00 P.M.** on

**THURSDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2010**

and I am, therefore to summon you to attend accordingly for the transaction of the business specified below.

**DATED** this date

**GJ HARLOCK**  
Chief Executive

**The Council is committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to its agendas and minutes. We try to take all circumstances into account but, if you have any specific needs, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you.**

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**AGENDA**

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman, Leader, the executive or the head of paid service.

**(Pages 1 - 2)**

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Department for  
**Transport**

Councillor Charles Nightingale  
Chairman of the Council  
South Cambridgeshire District Council  
South Cambridgeshire Hall  
Cambourne Business Park  
Cambourne  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 6EA

Edward Bunting  
Senior Policy Adviser  
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Department for Transport  
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Web Site: [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)

Our Ref: O1/004179/10  
Your Ref: CN/JC/LET

17 February 2010

Dear Councillor Nightingale,

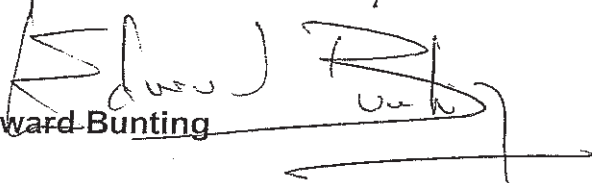
Thank you for your letter of 2 February 2010 to the Minister of State for Transport, conveying your council's resolution on the clearing of snow by members of the public. I have been asked to reply.

There is no legal restriction preventing members of the public from clearing snow and ice from roads managed by a local highway authority. Provided that they are reasonable and careful, it is unlikely that a member of the public would face any legal liability, and those using the road or footway have a responsibility to be careful themselves. Action by citizens to clear snow and ice outside their properties does not remove the duty placed on the local highway authority by section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 "to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice". With regard to the clearing of snow and ice from private property the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have worked with the Health and Safety Executive to provide advice ([www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1431227](http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1431227)).

The Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), the chartered body for health and safety professionals, issued a press notice in January urging businesses and communities to be community spirited and clear snow and ice from public areas ([www.iosh.co.uk/news\\_and\\_events.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/news_and_events.aspx)).

My Secretary of State has also set out the Government's position on this matter (House of Lords, *Official Report*, 8 Feb 2010: Column WA100). However, clearing snow and ice is, for individuals, a personal matter; and we would wish to avoid the suggestion either that the Government is imposing a duty, or that individuals who do choose to take action have some immunity from the results of their actions simply because the Government said that they could act.

Yours sincerely,

  
Edward Bunting

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