### Histon & Impington Parish Councils Business Case for the creation of a single Parish Council to represent the parishes of Histon and Impington

7 November 2011



### Synopsis

Order: "That South Cambridgeshire District Council be requested to proceed to pass an order under section 11 of the 1972 Local Government Act to group the Councils of Histon and Impington to co-incide with the election timetable, May 2012"

Dissolution:

Histon Parish Council Histon & Impington Recreation Ground Committee (1972 LGA Section 101 joint committee) Impington Parish Council

Title of Council: Histon & Impington Parish Council

Number of Councillors: Nineteen (19)

**Election Arrangements**: New Parish Council elected 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

Warding: None

Effective date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012

**Interim Arrangements**: Current Histon and Impington Parish Councillors to serve until new council elected.

### Summary

### Introduction

- 1. The community of Histon & Impington has, since 1894, been represented by two Parish Councils, but is nevertheless regarded by many as a single community and a single settlement.
- 2. The Councils recognise that many decisions (the first such dating back to 17 March 1897) need to be taken jointly and that process has continued to the present day.
- 3. Meanwhile complex arrangements have been put in place to cope with the management of community assets arrangements that reduce efficiency and should be opportunities for cost savings.
- 4. Particularly in the current financial climate the Councils undertook to review the opportunities for back office savings and improved decision making.
- 5. Community engagement involved leaflet drops to all households, articles in the community newspaper (delivered to all households north of the A14), website and community mailing list items, a public meeting, and an open event on Histon Village Green.
- 6. The culmination of this sequence being Parish Meetings of the two parishes, run in sequence on 14<sup>th</sup> October, each voting through the motion by a significant majority:

That South Cambridgeshire District Council be requested to proceed to pass an order under section 11 of the 1972 Local Government Act to group the Councils of Histon and Impington to co-incide with the election timetable, May 2012

7. This process has had the wholehearted support of the District and County Councillors representing the community.

### Process

- 8. The Councils have sought to proceed via the s11 of the 1972 Local Government act for a number of reasons:
  - a. simplicity there are no changes to District or County arrangements, there are no significant staffing issues, and many regard this arrangement as being in place already;
  - b. expediency by following this route it is possible to effect the creation of the new Council in 2012;
  - c. cost savings replacing the cost of two elections in 2012 and allowing efficiencies & savings to start sooner;

### Background

- 9. Histon & Impington are situated to the north of Cambridge, with Impington split by the A14, with Histon further to the north. In formal planning terms they are a single settlement, designated as a rural growth settlement.
- 10. The total population is 8,350 (2010, County Research Group).

- 11. The complex ecclesiastical parish boundaries that originally defined the Parishes were reviewed and simplified in 1980. Whilst the boundary is simpler, and people know which of the Parishes they live in, few can correctly identify the actual boundary.
- 12. In order to manage community assets a range of complex arrangements are in place, including:
  - a. An LGA 1972 S101 joint committee (Recreation Ground Committee) employing currently 4 staff. This is fully funded by both Councils on a year on year Band "D" equivalence varying formula. In addition, the Councils have taken out loans (using the same formula similarly cross charged) for a variety of purposes;
  - responsibility for management lying with one or other Council and a portion of costs cross charged (there are different formulae in the different cases);
  - c. cross charging for staff time;
- 13. Total spend in 2010-2011 amounted to approximately £400,000 including precept, grants and spend from reserves.
- 14. The two Councils share a common Clerk (on two separate contracts) and a total of 7 staff are employed by the Councils and Recreation Ground Committee. A single shared office is used at the Recreation Ground.
- 15. Nominally there should be a total of 26 Parish Councillors (Histon 15, Impington 11), but with vacancies and double representation (two Councillors sit on both Councils) there are just 21 at present.
- 16. Issues affecting the whole community are typically considered at each Council.

### Consultation

- 17. The Councils launched a community consultation "Two Villages, One Community, One Council? Your Community - Your decision" at their Parish Meetings (which were held concurrently) on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this consultation was to determine the level of support for the creation of a single Council. This was supported by a leaflet drops to all households, articles in the community newspaper (delivered to all households north of the A14), website and community mailing list items, a public meeting, and an open event on Histon Village Green (as part of the Histon Feast Market).
- 18. The wide geographic spread of the individual household responses, representing all areas of the community, and the high positive vote for change (>93%) indicated that even a significantly higher response rate would not change the outcome, which gave the Councils the impetus to proceed with calling the Extraordinary Parish Meetings.

### Introduction

Joining the two Parish Councils to reflect the integrated community of the two villages has been a long debated consideration in Histon and Impington.

In the twenty-first century, the two Parish Councils met first in 2004 under the auspices of the then CALC county secretary, Keith Barrand, to look at ways of working closer together, but had previously formed a joint committee that met infrequently to consider major issues affecting both councils. Most significantly, this committee met in the 1990's when plans for a Regional Shopping Centre for Sainsburys, at what is now Orchard Park, were defeated, and again in 2006-2008 when Impington Parish Council became heavily involved in the planning for the development, and the formation of a new community council at Orchard Park. In 2008 the setting up of a joint parish council for the two villages became a regular topic at meetings held between the two Chairmen of the Parish Councils.

At the beginning of 2010 it was suggested that a working party of three councillors from each Parish Council be set up to consider the benefits of creating a single Parish Council. The working party first met in March 2010 and in November 2010 met with Ian Dewar, the County Executive Officer of CPALC (CALC) to discuss the experiences of other councils that had joined. By early spring of 2011 the discussions had reached a stage when it was felt that a consultation exercise with residents was called for.

Consultation leaflets, asking for residents to indicate their views, were delivered to every residence in June 2011. As well as the poll by return of the "voting slip" on the consultation leaflet, an electronic poll was established on the council website. The usual stall taken by the Parish Councils at the annual feast Saturday open air market was dominated by the information about potential joining. A further public meeting was requested to discuss the issue and was held in September. This extensive consultation led up to the extraordinary Parish Meetings held in October 2011

### Background

### Location

The twin villages of Histon & Impington lie to the north west of Cambridge and are considered by South Cambridgeshire District Council as one settlement for planning purposes (see Appendix C). Designated as a rural growth area, they have a joint population of 8,350 (2010) with Histon's population being slightly larger at 4,510 (54%). In terms of land area, the two are evenly matched, each being half a percent either side of fifty, and comprising a total of 1408 hectares.

The B1049, built in 1963 to take traffic away from the railway level crossing and the narrow roads that were under increasing pressure from traffic, bisects the settlement north to south. However, the village boundaries run diagonally from

the south west to the north east and cut across the B1049 roughly about half way up.

Villagers know which village they live in but it can be an irritant for residents of Impington that outsiders refer to the settlement as "Histon", shortening the official "Histon & Impington", that appears on the road signs for instance. At the Feast market stall mentioned in the introduction, residents were asked to define the boundary between the two villages in the built up area: none were able to do so.

The majority of the housing to the west of the B1049 lies in Histon and the A14 trunk road cuts off all but a small number of Impington residents who live to its south.

The Chivers family, of jam making fame, have dominated the community for more than 150 years and their successors are still part of the industrial sector in Histon, having also created a business park known as the Vision Park on part of their original site. A local radio station, Chamber of Commerce and Barclays Bank Regional Banking and others all have their bases here, astride the Histon/Impington divide.

Other commercial areas have been allowed by the District Council to convert to a more profitable, to the developer, residential status, including the second largest company, Unwins Seeds, that moved out of Impington after being sold in 2004.

The community has five churches, with each village having a St. Andrews Parish church, with Histon Parish Church and the Methodist and Baptist churches residing in Histon and Impington Parish Church and the Salvation Army in Impington. Six pubs remain within the villages: four in the central Histon High Street/Village Green area, one on the Impington border side of the village green and one; the Railway Vue sited at Histon Station, is in Impington.

Most of the shops are focused on the (Histon) High Street; and include: two general convience stores, run by the Co-op and Tesco, butchers, shoe, betting, florist, baker and toy shops, a nail salon. Other services include the (Histon) library, two banks, a post office, a local building society, a garage, a print, card and gift shop and a cycle shop. Along the same road are Indian and Chinese restaurants and running southwards from the High Street to the station, along Station Road, is a kitchen fitter's shop, a fish and chip shop, picture framers and further down a petrol station and another fast food outlet. Closer to the Station, in Impington, are what used to be the Impington Post Office, (recently stripped of this public function and now a general stores), Funeral Directors, Anglian Fireplaces and the Station (grocery) Stores. Further south a second industrial area, wholly in Impington, had until recently a DIY store, Cycle shop and a packaging company (now being eyed up by property developers for residential development) and the trials grounds of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) situated mainly in Impington and Girton but with an access through Histon.

Completing the picture, the secondary school that serves both villages, as well as the villages to the east and west, is Impington Village College and is in Impington, whilst the junior, infants and nursery schools are all in Histon.

The local football club, which had risen to arguably the premier football club in the area on at least a par with Cambridge United, is called Histon Football Club and is based next to the Histon & Impington Recreation Ground in Impington.

### Parish Councils

Histon Parish Council has 15 elected councillors and shares a Parish Office and Parish Clerk with Impington. The Parish Clerk, having been employed as a part time clerk, was able to make it a full time position with Histon Parish Council when the Impington post became vacant. There are separate employment contracts for each council but the terms and conditions of employment the same, having been jointly agreed. The joint Parish Office was constructed as part of the Recreation Ground redevelopment; previously clerks worked from home and then from a port-a-cabin situated in the Recreation Ground Car Park in Impington.

Impington has 11 elected councillors and since Orchard Park was devolved into a separate parish, have had problems in electing or co-opting councillors. The Council currently has three vacancies.

The Recreation Ground is owned jointly by the councils, who took out a PWLB loan jointly to purchase the freehold of half the area (the other half is on a long lease from Chivers Farms Ltd.) when the owners decided to sell the long lease property in the last decade. The Recreation Ground is run by a committee consisting of all councillors of both parish councils, under the 1972 Local Government Act, as being the only way to operate jointly and make decisions that require full council support. This committee meets twice a year. A management sub-committee with representation from both councils, and with agreed delegated powers, runs the day-to-day operations and meets approximately monthly. Funding is agreed by the joint committee and then ratified by the individual parish councils. Funding is allocated on the agreed principle of "Band D" property equivalents in each village as notified by the District Council when setting the annual precept.

The Recreation Ground employs its own staff, including a separate Recreation Ground Clerk, Handyman, Groundsman and Assistant. Work done by these individuals for the separate councils is billed to them, usually on an agreed apportionment of hours. The Recreation Ground Clerk/Manager also operates as an assistant clerk to each council and in that role does the accounts and payroll for each council, as well as keeping separate books for the Recreation Ground itself.

On the Recreation Ground, apart from the sports pitches, there is a Multi Use Games Area, bowls, a hard tennis court, three grass tennis courts, a community

centre with community room for hire, an outdoor gym, an all weather perimeter path and an extensive recently refurbished children's play area. All of these are joint assets for both villages.

Additionally, Impington runs sub-committees dealing with matters concerning the Environment, (including the Burial Ground which is managed by Impington Parish Council despite it being entirely within Histon Parish, and Homefield Park an area of several acres of public open space located totally within Impington but owned in parts by both Parish Councils), Planning and Finance Committees.

Impington PC appoints a tree warden, playground inspector and has a Councillor on the Youth Committee. The latter is a separate, non Parish Council body, to which both councils contribute significant annual sums, appoint representatives but have no control over its spending. This was considered at the time to be the most efficient way to establish a joint body, with outside representation, getting round the decision making problems of the separate councils.

The War memorial, located in Histon, is managed on behalf of both villages by Histon Parish Council.

Impington also has four working groups jointly with Histon dealing with employment, community facilities, merger/grouping and an A14 working group. In addition, it appoints three councillors to the Recreation Ground Management Sub-Committee, Histon appoints four councillors.

Both councils appoint representatives to the Village Warden Scheme, Day Centre, Police Committee, CPALC, JAG (Joint Area Action Group) and the local Poors land Charity.

Histon Parish Council similarly runs sub-committees consisting of Environment (including managing the Village Green), Planning, Finance & Legal and Highways, Traffic and Transport, to which Impington send representatives. It appoints a footpath officer, tree warden, allotments officer and playground officer. Both councils have a Health & Safety Officer and the Clerk acts as the "Responsible Financial Officer" to both councils.

### **Synergies**

It can be seen that there are many ways in which the two Parish Councils already work together. It can also be seen how the argument can be made that savings could be achieved and both organisations run more efficiently if they were a single Parish Council. Already being housed in the same buildings and employing the same staff would lead naturally lead one to suppose that there is already a single council, but apart from management of the Recreation Ground, all other communication with outside bodies has to be done in duplicate. Further issues and confusion arise when residents contact one Council or Councillor, when the issue involves the other Council. Residents are not interested in who does what, but only that they get the attention required.

For planning purposes, the two villages are treated as one (see appendix c) although the District Council (usually) makes sure that small local applications go to the right body. As a result, both councils will comment on any larger development plans, either separately, copying each other in, or because of time constraints, may submit a joint response that will be adopted by the other council with perhaps some minor alterations.

Because the Councils meet on different nights (and must do with a shared clerk, District and County Councillors), items are raised at one Council before the other. The originally informally agreed joint approach can be modified by the debate at the first Council to consider the matter formally. This can lead to one of the biggest frustrations to both Councils when the other Council makes a decision that affects both Councils, however indirectly. So, for instance, staff contracts, pay rises, appraisals, financial regulations, standing orders, bye-laws, office costs, risk assessments, support and/or donations to local groups and grant applications can lead to perceived obligations on each other without full debate taking place or consensus being reached.

Over the years, both Councils have relied on the Clerk to work long hours (partly unpaid) and attend many evening meetings, some of which could, potentially be combined. Similarly, our District and County Councillors attend both Councils' meetings and outside bodies end up presenting twice on issues that cross boundaries.

Direct cost saving could be obtained by co-ordinating contracts, insurances and audit fees.

In addition, both councils have independently developed "best practice" ideas and methods that could and are adopted by the other side.

Not all savings can be quantified in financial terms. For instance, Councillor time that is given free and perhaps could be more productively spent cannot be costed. But efficiencies in this area are important, especially as the burden on Parish Councils to comment on so many things has increased dramatically over the last decade and quite often relies on an individual Councillor being willing to increase their commitment. In effect the time that Parish Councillors' volunteer is not used to best advantage, and in addition, the awareness that the time is not being used effectively can engender a reluctance to commit further time. The effect is that the community loses.

### Consultation exercise carried out jointly by the Parish Councils

### Working Committee

Three Councillors from each Parish Council have met regularly since March 2010 with a remit to explore the feasibility and method of forming a joint Parish Council and reporting back to their respective Councils on progress. In early 2011 it was agreed that enough progress had been made to issue a leaflet to all households

explaining the work that had been carried out and seeking opinions from residents on the formation of a single Parish Council.

### Leaflet (Appendix A)

A leaflet was produced in time for distribution at the Annual Feast Market held on the 9th July. At this event the two Parish Councils have jointly exhibited for many years items of general interest for residents that are in progress\_or completed and that affect the two villages. It is also an opportunity for villagers to ask questions regarding the Parish Councils' activities and suggest improvements to village life. This year's display was heavily slanted towards looking at the known effects if the two became one. After this event, at which residents were invited to ask questions, take a leaflet and fill in the form on the reverse side, leaflets were distributed by Parish Councillors to every household in the two villages.

### <u>Website</u>

The information on the leaflet was also placed on the website with an opportunity to fill in the form online. This was left there until the middle of September. All responses were collated from both the website and returned leaflet forms. Boxes were available around the villages for posting returns.

### Local Paper (Appendix D)

An article was published in the local Histon & Impington Courier in June and a follow up article published in September. This paper is distributed to all households in the two villages north of the A14. i.e. it excludes Kings Meadows residents. It was also picked up by the Cambridge News at the end of May as a result of sending a Press Release out at that time.

### Public Meeting

In response to two requests to hold a public meeting, one was advertised in the local paper and on the website and held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September when more than twenty residents turned up to ask questions about "Joining".

### Leaflet (Appendix B)

A further leaflet was published and distributed again to all households in the two villages requesting attendance at the (two) Extra Ordinary Parish Meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011. There was some confusion from residents who, having "voted" via the website and leaflet form, wondered why they had to "vote" again. There were a number of residents who asked if they could vote without attending. Those who did so were invited to send their apologies in and record their preferences but it was made plain that this would not count in the vote for the resolutions proposed.

### Extraordinary Parish Meetings

Each person attending the meetings on the 14<sup>th</sup> October were registered using the local electoral roll information, given a voting slip, (a different colour for each village), and requested to sit in the chairs allocated for each village. A few chairs were provided for attendees who were not eligible to take part in the voting. The meetings were slightly delayed due to the last minute rush of people wishing to take part. The minutes are attached and show that the resolutions were read out and people were invited to ask questions before the vote was taken on the resolutions. Attendees were invited to raise their voting papers firstly if they were in favour, then if they were against and lastly if they were abstaining. The results were an overwhelming majority from both villages in favour of the resolutions.

### Decisions to be made for Grouping

### <u>Timing</u>

We understand that the EAC is due to meet on 20<sup>th</sup> November and the Parish Councils would like an order made in time to meet the deadlines for publishing for candidates to stand in the Parish Council elections due to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012.

### Interim Arrangements

### **Elections**

Elections will take place on the ordinary day for elections (3<sup>rd</sup> May).

Thereafter elections will take place every 4 years (2016, 2020 et al)

### Interim Arrangements

Until the councillors elected to the new Council at the elections to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May come into office the new Council shall be represented by the elected Councillors holding office immediately before the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 for Histon and Impington Parish Councils.

### <u>Accounts</u>

The new Council will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

### <u>Title</u>

The title of the new Parish Council is to be called "Histon & Impington Parish Council". It is noted that this title is often already used by SCDC, notably but not limited to planning considerations (see for instance the survey of outside recreation facilities).

### Number of Councillors

Although we have been advised by the Chairman of the electoral arrangements committee Cllr Robert Turner that there is no prescribed limit, looking around the District we note that the largest single Parish Council is Sawston (population in

2001of 7,150) with 19 Councillors, followed by ten councils with 15 Councillors including Cottenham (5,650), Fulborn (4,740), Waterbeach (4,430), Milton (4,280), Great Shelford (3,949) and Melbourn (4,410). Histon Parish Council (4,360) currently has 15, whilst Impington (4,030) has 11 parish councillors.

With our joint population of 8350 in 2010, we propose that we reduce the combined total of 26 down to 19.

### **Election Arrangements**

Warding:

The villages of Histon and Impington do not lend themselves naturally to warding, being no obvious dividing lines within the two villages that do not blur the current parish boundaries. It is the belief of the two current Parish Councils that the new Parish Council should act on behalf of the whole community.

For instance, most of the retail provision is within the current Histon Village but is a common interest to all residents: to treat the matter on a warded basis would be inappropriate. The same would apply to the Recreation Ground, Homefield Park, The Village Green and the Burial Ground. The benefit of good governance in grouping the two Parish councils is to get a consistent treatment across the two villages: warding could lead to a lack of consistency.

It is noted however that there are currently approximately 360 residents of Impington that live in Kings Meadows, across the other side of the A14. Efforts by Impington Parish Councillors to involve these residents in the activities of the village have proved challenging and are ongoing.

### Conclusion

The Electoral Commission guidance on community governance reviews (Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 Chapter 3 of Part 4), requires that local people are consulted during a review and that representations received in connection with this are taken into account. It also places a duty on principle authorities to ensure that it reflects the identities and interests of the local community in the area, that it is effective and convenient and that the two principal criteria which influence judgements against the identity and interests being the impact on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries of the proposed are taken into account.

The Parish Councils have reflected all of this in coming to the conclusion that a single Parish Council with a single election for both parishes best represents local interests and democracy as well as offering the potential of time and cost savings in the future

October 2011

### Appendix A

### Leaflet

<ul> <li>Parish Council Consultation June - September 2011</li> <li>"With Councils at District and County level reconsidering their services to the community, and with the coalition government proposing devolving more powers to local communities. I am delighted that two Parish Councils have taken the initiative to consider how they can improve the effectiveness and value for money for their residents" Jean Hunter, Chief Executive South Cambridgeshire District Council Parish Council and Histon Parish Council spent over £400,000 last year and are seeking residents' views about forming a single Parish Council for both villages.</li> <li>The Parish Council for both villages.</li> <li>Reduce duplication and speed of response</li> <li>Simplify dealing with issues affecting both villages</li> <li>Provide consistent services to residents of the two villages</li> <li>Provide consistent services to residents of the two villages</li> <li>Provide consistent services to residents of the two villages</li> <li>Tuesday May 24th 2011 Joint Village Annual Parish Meeting Launch of consultation period - talk to any Consultation period - talk to any Consultation period - talk to any</li> </ul>	Improve value for money Reduce duplication and s Simplify dealing with issu Present a unified voice for Provide consistent service Ach item listed below is an questions and raise issues Tuesday May 24th 2011 June to September 19th June to September 19th Saturday July 9th June, July and August
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# he decision

he two Councils will hold open Extraordinary Parish Meetings hether to proceed with joining together or not iscussion, time for questions and a chance for you to vote on rovisionally scheduled for October 14th. There will be further

# fter the decision

arish Council elections are due in May 2012 for the two councils eparately, or a single parish council if the decision is taken to join

# hat will change under a single Parish Council?

- Fewer councillors up to 19, down from 26 in total now
- More staff time will be available to respond to residents' needs
- Simplified management of The Recreation Ground
- Committees and meetings will be better coordinated
- Committees and meetings will be fewer
- Only one Full Council meeting a month
- Single combined Committees for both Villages

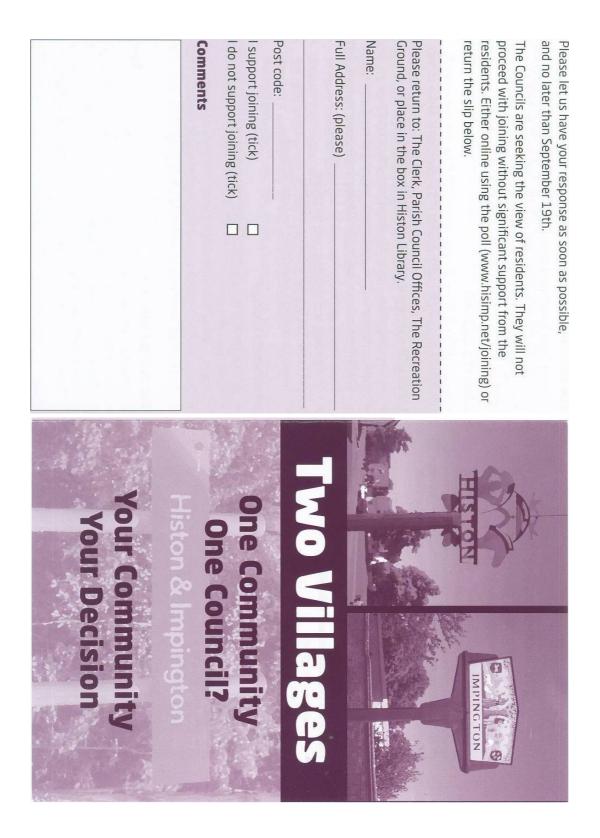
# hat won't change?

- Accountability, representation and transparency
- Meetings open to all
- Opportunities for formal and informal questions of Council
- Councillors will still be unpaid but elected residents The level of commitment required from Councillors

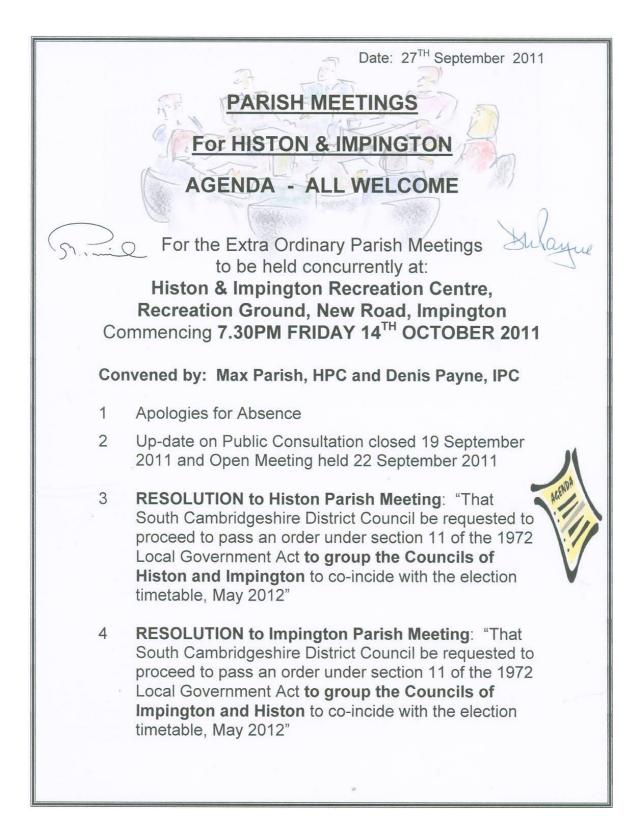
# he Council will still:

- Have the same excellent management and staff
- Have offices at The Recreation Ground
- Listen to view of local residents
- Run the community website
- Work with others for the benefit of Impington and Histon

www.hisimp.net/joining



### Appendix B





Appendix C

LDF extract

"Policy ST/4

1. The following villages are identified as Rural Centres:

### a. Cambourne

- b. Fulbourn
- c. Great Shelford and Stapleford
- d. Histon and Impington
- e. Sawston

<u>2.</u> Development and redevelopment without any limit on individual scheme size will be permitted within the village frameworks of Rural Centres, as defined on the Proposals Map, provided that adequate services, facilities and infrastructure are available or can be made available as a result of the development.

<u>Rural Centres: Histon & Impington.</u>: It was necessary to take into account the fact that the built-up areas of some of the settlements listed above are conjoined. Histon and Impington are effectively joined together. In terms of the planning policies contained in the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, for a number of years it has been accepted that Histon and Impington should be treated as a single planning unit. Whilst the separate identity of the villages is indisputable, the services available in, for example, Histon, are easily accessible to the majority of residents of Impington, and vice versa. For this reason it is logical to treat these two pairs of conjoined villages as single settlements for the purposes of determining Rural Centres. The population figures of Histon and Impington have therefore been added together to provide combined totals.

Appendix D





June: Ju

...turn to page 6

### 400 Homes to Get FREE Solar Panels in Village Energy Project

Appendix E

### HISTON EXTRA ORDINARY PARISH MEETING

Draft minutes of meeting held at Histon & Impington Recreation Ground Centre, New Road, Impington Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011 7.30 p.m.

### Present: <u>Histon Electors</u>: 55 residents; <u>Impington Electors</u>: 56; <u>Others</u>: 4

**The Parish Meetings were held concurrently** for only the second time in 117 years, the first being the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2011. The Chairmen of each Parish Council welcomed all to the meeting. Max Parish, Chairman Histon Parish Council, had called the Parish Meeting and took the Chair

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Rob Plumbly, Janet Houghton, Paul Malpas, Hilary Knightly, Sula Armstrong, Will Russell. All of whom indicated they were **in favour** of the motion tabled. Also Alan Eade.

Impington Parish apologies for absence were also recorded from: Hooda Abdullah, Maureen Hazelden, Tim Ewbank, all **in favour** of the matching motion on the Impington agenda. Apologies also reported from Philip Biggs who was **not in favour** on the basis he felt it would lead to identity of Impington becoming diminished

### 2 UP-DATE ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION CLOSED 19 SEPTEMBER 2011 and OPEN MEETING HELD 22 SEPTEMBER 2011

Cllr Parish outlined the results of a consultation undertaken jointly by the Parish Councils showing votes of those that voted: **Yes – 472; No – 32; Other – 8**. A map showing these results was available from the Parish Council on request (**Appx 1**). The number of "yes" and "no" votes were broadly spread across the 2 villages. A public meeting had been held 22 September with a question and answer session, attended by 20+ residents. The Parish Meeting now called, on proper notice, was to vote on a resolution to request South Cambs District Council to proceed to pass an order to group the Parish Councils of Histon and Impington under a common Council.

3 RESOLUTION: "THAT SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL BE REQUESTED TO PROCEED TO PASS AN ORDER UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE 1972 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT TO GROUP THE COUNCILS OF HISTON AND IMPINGTON TO CO-INCIDE WITH THE ELECTION TIMETABLE, MAY 2012"

Max Parish read the Resolution to the meeting and invited questions. An elector asked whether the grouping would re-categorise Histon and Impington into a town? Max Parish confirmed this would not be the case. Another elector asked whether the grouping would affect the Council Tax? Max Parish advised this was unknown. Put to the vote, of those that voted all were in favour, there were no votes against or abstentions. **Motion therefore carried** 

and Parish Council would be asked to prepare the case for a grouping request, together with Impington Parish Council. A mirror resolution to the Impington Parish Meeting followed

The meeting was reminded of a meeting to be held 18 October at IVC to discuss conversion to Academy Status.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and looked forward to the next stage of a historic situation for the 2 villages

Meeting closed 7.45 p.m.

### **IMPINGTON EXTRA ORDINARY PARISH MEETING**

Draft minutes of meeting held at Histon & Impington Recreation Ground Centre, New Road, Impington Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011 7.30 p.m.

#### Present: Impington Electors: 56 Histon Electors: 55 residents; Others: 4

**The Parish Meetings were held concurrently** for the second time in 117 years, the first being the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2011. The Chairmen of each Parish Council welcomed all to the meeting. Denis Payne, Chairman Impington Parish Council, had called the Parish Meeting and took the Chair. By agreement Max Parish of Histon reported on agenda items 1 and 2

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Histon parish apologies were recoded from: Rob Plumbly, Janet Houghton, Paul Malpas, Hilary Knightly, Sula Armstrong, Will Russell. All of whom indicated they were in favour of the motion tabled. Also Alan Eade

#### 2 UP-DATE ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION CLOSED 19 SETPEMBER 2011 and OPEN MEETING HELD 22 SEPTEMBER 2011

Max Parish outlined the results of a consultation undertaken jointly by the Parish Councils showing votes of those that voted: Yes – 472; No – 32; Other – 8. A map showing these results was available from the Parish Council on request (Appx 1). The number of "yes" and "no" votes were broadly spread across the 2 villages. A public meeting had been held 22 September with a question and answer session, attended by 20+ residents. The Parish Meeting now called, on proper notice, was to vote on a resolution to request South Cambs District Council to proceed to pass an order to group the Parish Councils of Histon and Impington under a common Council.

3 RESOLUTION: "THAT SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL BE REQUESTED TO PROCEED TO PASS AN ORDER UNDER SECTION

### 11 OF THE 1972 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT TO GROUP THE COUNCILS OF IMPINGTON AND HISTON TO CO-INCIDE WITH THE ELECTION TIMETABLE, MAY 2012"

Denis Payne read the Resolution to the meeting and invited questions. A mirror resolution to Histon Parish Meeting had proceeded. Questions put to the Histon Parish Meeting were noted but there were no questions for Impington. Put to the vote the majority of those voting were in favour, 3 against, no abstentions. **Motion therefore carried** and Parish Council would be asked to prepare the case for a grouping request, together with Histon Parish Council.

All were thanked for attending what was a historic time for the 2 Councils. The meeting was reminded of a meeting to be held 18 October at IVC to discuss conversion to Academy Status

Meeting closed 7.45 p.m.

### Appendix F Impington Residents who said "No"

- If you unite this will be the death knell of Impington Village and Impington St Andrews Church I wish Impington to remain a separate parish
- With less Councillors there will be less representation and less time available to deal with issues. Furthermore Impington will probably lose out as Histon issues take over the priorities. I can only see one advantage of joining - a guarantee that the Parish precept is significantly reduces to residents -no - one can offer me this. keep the villages separate - this proposal is the thin edge of the wedge
- I oppose turning the two villages into one community as I consider Impington will be completely taken over by Histon. Impington will always be "the poor relation". Up to the present, Impington has been serviced admirably by its Parish Council and in particular by its Enviro Group. Their efforts on our village have worked wonders in the village and made it a village to be proud of. I value our independence and hope that the majority of its residents will support this view point and with Impington Feast Sunday, recently revived, will not be the first of many loses
- Impington should retain its distinctive identity. No change please
- Impington is the older of the 2 villages and should remain independent, fewer Councillors representing both villages will undoubtedly favour Histon more as it is larger of the two - Impington is already the 'poor' relation (no shops or facilities). Fewer meetings would be a bad decision as constant revision and monitoring of all aspects of village life is even more vital
- I feel the 2 should remain separate because I am afraid Impington will be lost within Histon (it does not appear on a lot of maps where Histon does appear). Impington face problems which Histon is not concerned with proximity to A14, to Orchard Park, Cambridge, IVC the football parking issue. We already have almost no facilities, they are all down in Histon, and the reduced bus service hinders access for older or car-les residents. Fewer Councillors and meetings will bias everything towards Histon. (I previously lived in Histon, and if I still lived there i would still vote the same way and have the same comments)
- I would like to see Impington retain its own special character
- I believe every village should be independent. Money can always be saved by each parish council by utilizing financial management and tactful administration
- Prefer smaller unit. More accountable; quicker decisions; responsible for own affairs only
- Two totally different types of community. More different than similar as previous efforts to consider this has shown repeatedly
- I am of the opinion that if it isn't broke, don't fix it. The advantages that have been listed in the leaflet issued to all households are valid but the one Parish Council meeting taking place instead of two should be twice as long if you give equal time to both villages issues; I'm not sure this would be the case! Also, I am assuming that the number of councillors from each

village will be allocated using the population of each village. I fear this would result in Impington not having an equal share of time to discuss issues. If the decision is taken to merge both parish councils I fear this would be the thin end of a very thick wedge and the two villages will merge to become Histon

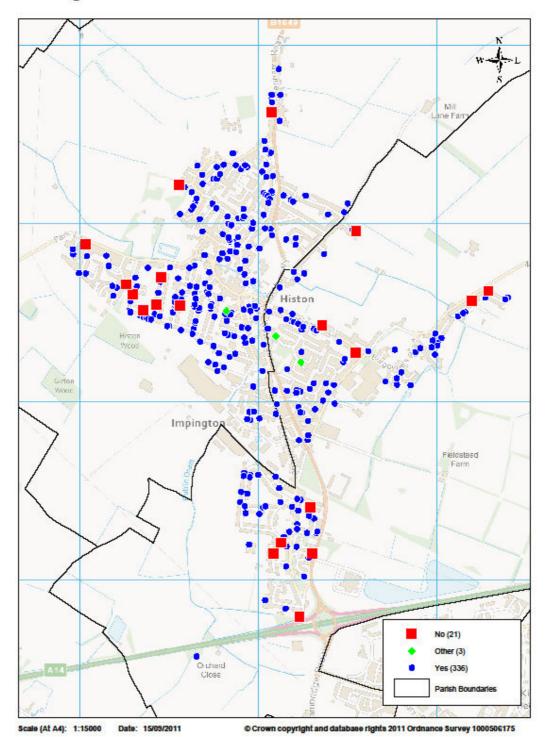
### Histon Residents who said "No"

- To have one council would inevitably lead to endless wrangling about the needs and priorities of the two communities
- My concern is that amalgamation will cause loss of village/parochial identity, which may in turn lead to Histon & Impington villages being swallowed into the city of Cambridge, as is happening to other villages e.g. Cherry Hinton
- My concern is that if the two villages become one council, one community the uniqueness of both villages will be lost. Also we are too near the A14 and I can see the day when as a united body the villages will become part of the city of Cambridge as has happened to Cherry Hinton
- I think we would receive less money for community projects if the villages join. At present joint ventures can pull funds from both budgets, lets keep it this way
- We wish to preserve the 2 parishes. Administrative economics could be made a single committee serving the 2 Parishes
- why change something that has worked well for years
- There's no convincing case made for it. The leaflet boils down to "We think it's good for you" with no sensible reasons given
- The documentation as shown does not show any substantial benefit to the merging of the two Parish councils. It seems to be a deliberate ploy by some members to foister through their own aims and objectives

Appendix G

Map of Responses

Joining Vote



Appendix H

### <u>Staff</u>

Parish Clerk for both Histon & Impington: Mrs Angela Young (Separate Contracts) Assistant Parish Clerk for both Histon & Impington: Mrs Lynda Marsh (Contract with Recreation Ground with recharge to both Parish Councils) Assistant Clerk Planning for both Histon & Impington: Miss Chelsea Presland (Contract Histon Parish Council recharge to Impington Parish Council) Burial Groundsman: Mr.Trevor Smith (Contract Impington Parish Council) Recreation Ground Staff Groundsman: Mr Steve Campin Assistant Groundsman: Mr. Terry Farr Seasonal Groundsman: Mr. I. Rush Recreation Ground Clerk/Manager: Mrs Lynda Marsh

### Bank Accounts

Histon Parish Council Scottish Widows Treasury Tracker Account 60 Day Notice Scottish Widows Account Treasury Call Account Scottish Widows Account 7 Day Notice Barclays Bank No. 1 account

Impington Parish Council Lloyds Bank plc No. 1 Account No. 2 Account (Youth Account)

Scottish Widows Bank plc

No. 1 Account No. 2 Account - 60 Day Notice Account Business 7 Day Notice Account

Histon & Impington Recreation Ground Committee

Barclays Bank plc

- 1. Main current account
- 2. Recreation Activity Co-Ordinator current account
- 3. Homefield Park current account

Scottish Widows Bank plc

No. 1 Business 7 Day Notice (General Fund) No. 2 Business 7 Day Notice (Machinery Account) Page 26 of 31

Public Works Loan Board Loans

Recreation Ground Development EIP Loan £331,000 (Joint). Outstanding at 31.3.2011 is £264,800

Parish Office EIP Loan £8,029 (Histon Parish Council). Outstanding at 31.3.2011 is £6,423.

Parish Office EIP Loan £35,950 (Impington Parish Council). Outstanding as at 31.3.2011 is £28,760.

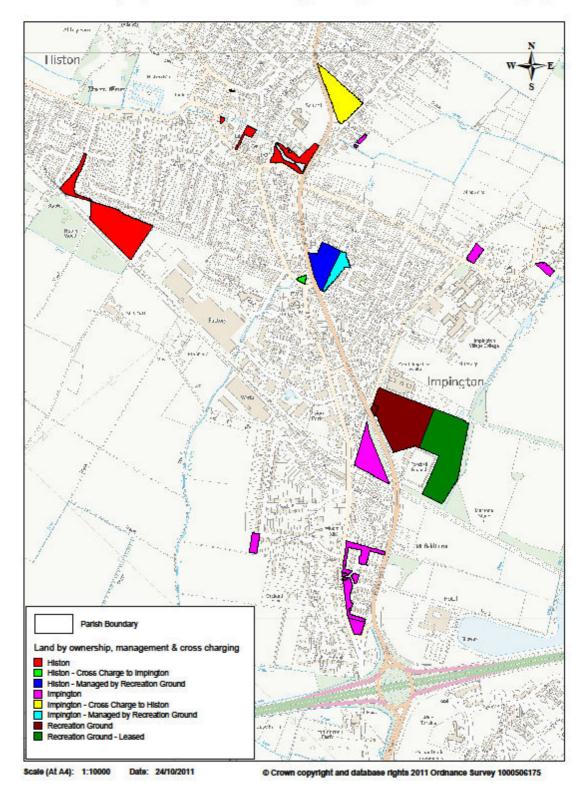
Final Recreation Ground Development EIP Loan £40,000 (Joint). Outstanding at 31.3.2011 is £33,333.

Asset Renovation EIP 12 New Road Impington (Histon Parish Council). Outstanding at 31.3.2011 is £21,850.

Recreation Ground Freehold Fixed Rate Loan £80,726 (Joint). Outstanding at 31.3.2011 is £69,827.

Appendix I: Land Ownership and cross charging

Histon & Impington - land ownership, management & cross charging



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Appendix I

Assets - extracts from the asset registers

Histon

COMMUNITY	ASSETS				SUMS INSURED
1894		Gatehouse Roa	ad		NIL
1961	Area	The Green			NIL
1913	Village Green	The Green			NIL
1913	Manorial Waste	School Hill			NIL
1913	Manorial Waste Rail				6,429
On-going	War Memorial Site	Station Road			NIL
	War Memorial				33,418
	Car Park SCDC Lea	ise			NIL
1993	Section 52 Land	Narrow Lane			NIL
	Bus Shelter	School Hill			3,425
	Bus Shelter	Cottenham Roa	ad		3,425
1995	Bus Shelter	Cottenham Roa			2,381
Various	Seats	Various	12 No		7,665
Various	Notice Boards	Various	7 No		3,941
1960s	Play Equipment	The Green			11,349
1990	Village Sign	The Green			6,057
1890	Village Pump	The Green			6,303
1990s	Dog bins (2)	Home Close, P	ages Close		
2006	Dog bins (2)	Defra, Green	0		
2005	Feeder Pillar	The Green			1,607
	Dog bin (1)	Narrow Lane			
2000	Litter Bins	Various	5 No		
		Green, Youth S	helter Bin,		
2000s	Litter Bins	WM		3 No	2,947
2004	Play area fencing	The Green			2,475
2004	Youth Shelter	School Hill			5,742
2005/09	Christmas Lights				1,255
2008	Bollards for Village	Green			<u>2,036</u>
TOTAL					£100,455
	Half share of office (	(insured by Rec. 0	Committee)		£37,500
				<u>£3,877</u>	
TOTAL INSU	RED (Part A and Part	C)			£141,832
Additonal insurance cover for Street Furniture over and above amounts above <b>2</b> ,997 <b>£144,829</b>					

Impington

COMMUNITY	
ASSETS	

ASSETS				
1.4.1980	Burial Ground shed/furniture inc	Mill Lane	NIL	
	bins,seats	Mill Lane		15,070
	Sign	Mill Lane		229
	The Coppice	The Coppice	NIL	
	Amenity Land	Clay Close Lane		
		Ambrose Way		
20.11.53	Play Area	South Road	NIL	
20.11.53	Play Area	Doctors Close	NIL	
6.05	The Copse	New Road	NIL	
2010	Crossing Keepers Hut	New Road		8,755
	Fencing	Ambrose Way		2,272
	Village Sign	New Road junction		1,343
	Notice Boards (2)	New Road		984
2003	Notice Board	New Road		984
	Bus Shelters (2)	Various		4,488
	Seats (3)	Various, one replaced 2006 The Coppice (2), Mill Lane,		1,350
2000's	Dog Bins (4)	Clay Close Lane		
2002 (2)	Litter Bins (3)	South Rd, Copse, Coppice		
	Litter bins (4)			
	Climbing frame, rocking horse	South Road		6,541
2000	Goal posts			347
2006	Coppice gate			
	Parish Office contents laptop,			
2010	projector	Rec.Ground New Rd		922
	Burial Ground Tools &			
	Equipment Including:			3548
				£48,833
	plus half share office contents (i	•		3,877
	plus half share of office (insured by Recreation Ground)			37,500
				<u>90,210</u>

**Recreation Ground** 

COMMUNITY ASSETS			
2005	Recreation Ground Recreation Ground (Part - 8.5	New Road, Impington	£1
2000	acres)	New Road, Impington	£1
Various	Seats (11 No)	Recreation Ground	9,150
1990	Bowls Club Shelter	Recreation Ground	14,585
Various	Play Equipment	Recreation Ground	74,000
1978	Homefield Park	Bridge Road, Impington	£1
1999	Bowls Shed Recreation Centre & Parish Office	Recreation Ground	739
2006	inc. Ornamental Clock	Recreation Ground	758,504
2006	Cycle Stores	Recreation Ground	3,251
2006	Multi-Use Astro Turf/Hard Court	Recreation Ground	87,436
2008	Notice Board	Recreation Ground	684
2011	Outdoor Gm Equipment	Recreation Ground	12,911
2011	Perimeter Path	Recreation Ground	11,045
OTHER			
FIXED			
ASSETS			
1965	Groundsman's House	12 New Road, Impington	196,170
Various	Equipment New Fencing and Safety Fencing	Recreation Ground	50,020
2001 and 2008	(CPA)	Recreation Ground	11,000
2006	Store John Deere 3320 Compact	Recreation Ground	21,672
2007	Tractor Verti-drainer 'Redexim	Recreation Ground	12,355
2011	Charterhouse 7215'	Recreation Ground	12,500
2011	Cricket Wicket Roller 'Poweroll 12'	Recreation Ground	<u>7,895</u> £1,283,919