



Lucy Frazer MP working for us

It has been a busy year locally and in Westminster

Significant progress has been made on the Ely bypass. Last month I had a meeting with the Rail Minister to press the case for a station in Soham and raised the importance of improving the A10 with the Chancellor. It is important to raise the profile of these projects in Westminster. Together with my neighbouring MP, councillors and local residents, I am working to ensure our services are retained at the Princess of Wales Hospital and I was pleased to have the opportunity to raise the importance of our local unit directly with Theresa May at Prime Minister's Question time.

I have continued to campaign for fairer funding for schools. In October I was delighted to lead a delegation of secondary school headteachers to meet Justine Greening, the Education Secretary, to explain why a fairer funding formula is essential to our area,



and to join other Cambridgeshire MPs at a meeting with the Junior Education Minister, Nick Gibb, to make the case further.

This year was the third year of my inter-school debating competition. The competition was kicked off with a day's training by the charity Debate Mate, kindly sponsored by Marshall. Debate Mate works with children from a variety of backgrounds to improve their

confidence. An internal school round is followed by the final in Westminster. This year's final is being judged by Lord Finklestein.

I am honoured to have the opportunity to represent this area and please do continue to contact me if you want to raise any issues.



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A YEAR OF PROGRESS AND GROWTH



This has been a year of growth for the Association. We have campaigned throughout the year and have seen a significant rise in our membership, our Patrons Club and with the Business Club continuing to be successful. In addition, we are identifying potential new branches and have held two centrally organised functions. The first was a hugely popular trip to the House of Commons with lunch in Westminster Abbey and the second, our Annual Dinner with The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health as our guest speaker. David Palmer, who you may know from Flog It, Bargain Hunt and Cash in the Attic was our auctioneer for the evening and in total we raised in excess of £4,000.

We remain deeply grateful to our sponsors, donors, members and supporters for helping us to maintain our Association. Do try to come along to the branch and Association functions if you can, you are guaranteed a very warm welcome.

We are now focusing on 2017 when we have County Council elections in May and possibly a Mayoral campaign. Efforts will also be concentrated on building upon the success of this year and you are all part of that success.

Ron Bradney — Association Chairman

Keeping South East Cambs Conservative

EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT by Leader Cllr James Palmer

East Cambridgeshire District Council continues to provide a high quality service. Whilst Council Tax has been frozen for the past 3 years, there have been no cuts to service and we are delivering new facilities for East Cambs residents.

With work on the Ely Bypass set to start soon, the new cinema site in Ely is well underway and will open next spring. Our new leisure centre will provide an excellent new pool, built without the need to increase Council Tax, it will open early 2018.

Our new trading company breaks new ground. Currently involved in exciting Community Land Trust schemes across the District, our aim is to use the company to develop high quality affordable housing modelled on our exemplar Stretham CLT.

We will improve our transport links and aim to open Soham Railway Station, remodel the A14/A142 junction at Newmarket and dual the A10 from Cambridge to Littleport. All schemes that can be achieved with funding through the new Combined Authority.

The Political Scene

Twelve months ago we were reviewing a very successful year for SECCA - a thumping majority for Lucy Frazer at the General Election, gains across the board in local elections held on the same day throughout the constituency and for the first time since John Major's time a Conservative Prime Minister ensconced in 10 Downing Street with a working parliamentary majority. A lot has happened since last autumn! We still have, of course, our excellent MP and our Conservative-run district councils - but much else has changed. In June the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union and this resulted in the departure of one PM and the coming of another and a sharp change of course for the Ship of State! The effects of the 'Leave' vote are mostly yet to be felt - for good or ill - and so comment is best left for the future but one thing that can be said is that our Conservative Party must remain strong and

united in order to see our country through what will be a time of both change and challenge.

It is important that this unity of purpose is reflected at local level since the next set of elections is already looming. In May 2017 we shall be electing a new County Council. At the moment no single party has a majority on the council and so our aim is to win at the very least the 31 seats that will give us overall control. Complicating the issue is the fact that division boundaries have been changed in order to reduce the total number of councillors but the good news in South East Cambridgeshire is that candidates have been adopted for all divisions in the constituency. Four divisions have been designated as 'target' seats - 'must wins' for the Conservatives and these are Ely North, Ely South, Fulbourn and Linton. To win them all we shall need to mount the sort of

campaign, and put in the same kind of effort that carried us to victory in May 2015. We can do it by seizing the moment; our opponents are in disarray at national level, we have the candidates and the policies here at local level - all that is now needed to 'seal the deal' is that we work together.

I know where you all live and I shall be in touch!

Chris Phillips
Deputy Chairman Political

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 10th December, 6.45pm—8.30pm

City of Ely Branch

CHRISTMAS SPARKLE at 80 Barton Road, Ely by kind permission of Colin and Lis Every. Tickets £10.00.

2017

February—details to follow

Sunday Lunch with guest speaker William Evans, former Valet to Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Saturday 11th March, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

City of Ely Branch

ANNUAL DINNER at The Golf Club, Cambridge Road, Ely

October—details to follow

South East Cambridgeshire Conservative Association

ANNUAL DINNER with guest speaker.



WE NEED YOUR HELP?

If you can help in any of the following ways, please contact us:

- Delivering leaflets
- Canvassing with a team
- I/We need a postal vote
- Displaying a poster
- Helping on Polling Day