

The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Mayor Palmer explains his plans to Town Council

On Wednesday evening James Palmer, the Mayor of the Combined Authority of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough was welcomed to this months Town Council meeting.

Two years on from being elected some of Mayor Palmer's plans are taking shape.

Recently the business case for the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM) was published which gave a big thumbs up for the scheme.

The independent study found that it would unlock significant growth, offer high value for money and provide transformational change.

The report also stated that the costs, estimated at £4 billion, could be met through a range of funding sources.

sustainable transport solution that will support the future growth of the whole area. The economic and strategic case was described as particularly compelling, creating up to 100,000 jobs and 60,000 new homes.

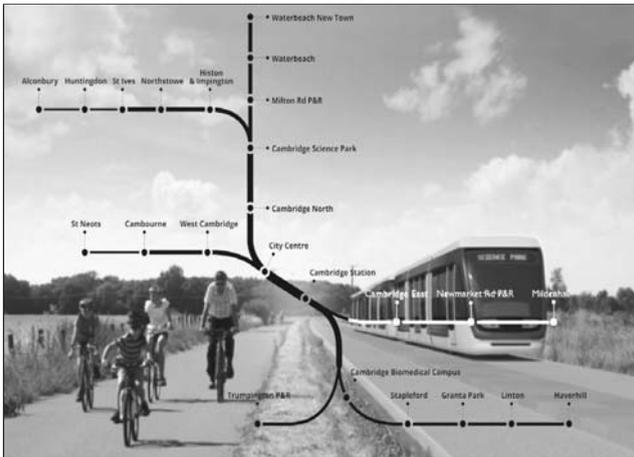
The 'benefit-cost ratio' (BCR) figure of the CAM is considered to offer very high value for money, greater than other major infrastructure projects such as Crossrail.

The scheme would include 12km of tunnelling under Cambridge city and

Day of Dance set for Sunday 2nd June



Cotton Morris (above photographed by John Sergent) will be dancing in the Old Riverport of St Ives, along with Ely & Littleport Riot and Sutton Masque. Details will be announced nearer the time.



The route of the CAM (right) will extend to around 88 miles allowing people working in the city to have a reliable and fast route to and from work.

The ambitious project would, it claims, offer a world class,

two underground stations, one at the city centre, and one at Cambridge Station. As well as serving the Greater Cambridge area it would also serve the regional area, with corridors extending to St Neots, Mildenhall, Haverhill and Alconbury via St Ives a total of 142km.

After speaking on his plans Mr Palmer took questions from Town Councillors which discovered that the Metro would supercede the Busway and that the scheme would include cycleways alongside and up to 4 miles from each station.

Asked about funding Mr Palmer referred to Land Value Capture, Tax Increment Financing and the development of garden villages as ways to fund CAM.

Following the meeting *The Riverporter* was able to get more details from Mr Palmer.

Quizzed about the underground

section in Cambridge Mr Palmer said that despite being half the cost of the project this was vital to ensure smooth passage through the City on a dedicated line, allowing bigger buses carrying more passengers on time, away from grid-locked streets. In case you were wondering - Land Value Capture is where land owners are offered a premium on agricultural land values, rather than the full commercial rate of land with planning permission. This could save £millions on the cost of the project. Tax Increment Financing is the expected increase in revenue created

by the project, which is 'set aside' for a period to cover some project costs. Mr Palmer seemed very confident that with the support of the Government and commercial investors his ambitious scheme could get off the ground with construction starting as early as 2021 and the core metro being built between 2023 and 2029.

Of course it's success may depend on the cost of tickets, but with Ultra Low Emission Zones and congestion charging likely in cities like Cambridge, it may well be that the CAM is just what we need.

Bulls secure third place



Is this the Bulls Bogey Man?

St Ives Rugby Club experienced the highs and lows of sport over the past fortnight. Needing to win all of their remaining matches to stand an outside chance of being promoted, the Bulls lost 41-12 away to Belgrave in an error-strewn performance, which meant that promotion was impossible and keeping third place was not guaranteed.

One week later their disappointment turned to elation following a home win against Bugbrooke 64-33, which guaranteed third place and an impressive first season at this level. With just one game left, away at nearest rivals Coalville, the Bulls will end their season as the leagues' highest scorers by a considerable sum. Having beaten Coalville by 55-6 earlier in the season the Bulls should easily exceed 800 points for the campaign, scoring over 37 points a game on average. It's not surprising that support for our Rugby club is growing. Well done Bulls - promotion next season?

Flea on the Quay

THIS SUNDAY

SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

St Ives Quayside 10am to 2pm



This years Festival logo revealed

As well as four days of great music the Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival has become well-known for its logo and T-shirts image. Since the programme appeared in the last issue of *The Riverporter* there have been two minor changes of venue with the wonderful Dickie de Vere and the Dorchester Mavericks now appearing in the Taproom at 8pm on Saturday 21st September and earlier in the day the

Cambridge Jazz Youth Band will be playing on The Quay. Full details will appear on the Town Team website at: www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk. Of course the 'fabulous' T-shirts will be on sale soon and still only £5!

Screen St Ives

Doors open at 7.30pm and films start at 8pm. Refreshments are available before the screening. All tickets cost only £5, and are available online or in person at the Corn Exchange, St Ives.

Friday 19th Apr 2019
Screen 1
BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY
 Director: Bryan Singer
 UK | USA 2018 2h 14m



A glorious big screen celebration of legendary rock band Queen and its charismatic lead singer. Featuring a stand-out performance by Rami Malek as Freddie Mercury, this film charts the rise of an iconic group through their songs and revolutionary sound.

Thursday 2nd May 2019
Screen 2
FACES PLACES
 Director: JR, Agnès Varda
 France 2017 1h 34m



The most charming of road movies stars 90-year-old Agnes Varda, legendary French New Wave director, who teamed up with 30-something photographer JR to drive around rural France in a van meeting people from all backgrounds and photographing the many faces and places they come across. An utterly delightful odd-couple film.

SLEPE HALL HOTEL

LAS VEGAS

CHARITY DINNER & DANCE

In aid of St Ives Rotary Charities & Dementia Friendly Community Group

Welcome Drinks on Arrival
3-Course Dinner
Casino Tables & Croupiers
 Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Highest Rollers

Raffle Ticket Prizes
Disco until 12.30am
Carriages at 12.30-1am



FRIDAY 26TH APRIL
 7pm for 7.30pm sit down

TICKETS £39 PER HEAD
 INCLUDES \$100 CHIPS (£5 EQV)

BOOK NOW - Groups Welcome
 Tickets available from Slepe Hall Hotel or ticketsource.co.uk/the-rotary-club-of-st-ives

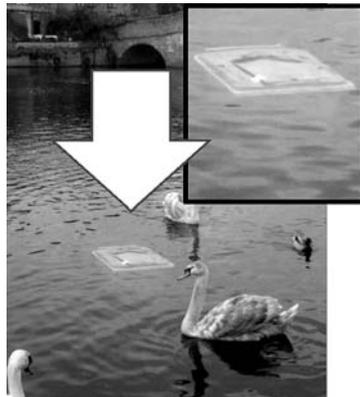
Ramsey Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 5RB
 01480 463122 slepehallhotel.co.uk
reception@slepehall.co.uk

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



SUTTON MASQUE SUTTON MASK

Bin sunk!



Riverside residents were entertained by locals who had the tricky task of rescuing a wheelie bin from the river that would certainly have given any passing cruiser a nasty moment. It seems the bin was probably pushed into the water sometime Monday night in a silly prank by local children, but this event does raise another more important issue ...

'Why are the bins there at all?'
 It seems that several town centre restaurants must drag their wheelie bins to a collection point some considerable distance from their premises and we are told that this is because the companies making the collection now have new trucks that are too large to access some of St Ives narrow streets.

Local residents have expressed a growing upset at having to have large numbers of food waste bins under their windows sometimes for days at a time as the collection times appear to be very unreliable. Residents are now complaining at both the smell, the noisy collections and the unsightly spoiling of some of the town's visitor areas.

Up to £39,000 a year on offer to a brace of PR specialists to help Mayor James Palmer deliver his combined authority message

John Elworthy john.elworthy@east.co.uk Read more from John Elworthy
 April 8, 2019 Updated Monday, April 8, 2019 10:02

Metro mayor James Palmer is offering top dollar to a brace of spin doctors who can develop 'craft compelling communications' for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CAPC).

Mayor Palmer seems to court controversy on a regular basis. Issues raised include jobs for mates, large payouts to sacked staff, poor accounting and support for a dodgy charity (see issue 29 of *The Riverporter*).

Just this week the Hunts Post website headlined Mr Palmer advertising for two PR specialists with a salary of £39k each (see image above © Argent).

The piece went on to describe the posts as 'two spin doctors who can offer craft compelling communications'. *The Riverporter* asked Mr Palmer if his reputation was so poor it required two PR specialists? The answer was that actually the two posts were replacing three people as part of Mr Palmer's reorganisation of the Combined Authority and the Mayors Office.



Whoops! It's bus...ted.

At 6am on the 29th of March residents in Fenstanton were a bit shocked when a double-decker Stagecoach bus crashed into their front wall. Stagecoach said there were no passengers on board the bus and no injuries.



Digging around in Grey



Well there's a turn up, it seems that police acting on a tip off, turned up on a property in Hemingford Grey recently and arrested a man with several stolen construction vehicles. Among the items recovered were a digger a caravan, a road roller, trailer and a quad bike. The Police would only say that the man arrested was 48 and came from Huntingdonshire.

Kidney Cancer UK Fundraising Event

Buffet (with vegetarian option)
 * Live Music * Raffle * Mini Auction *



THE FABULOUS Neil Richardson
 on Saturday
27th April 2019
 7:30pm to 11:00pm
 At St. Ives Corn Exchange
 Market Hill, Saint Ives
 Cambridgeshire PE27 5AG.

Tickets: £16 per person
 Online: yourplace.news
 Or Directly from The Corn Exchange
 Or Call Shirley on 07718 920019
 Or From Shirley's Coffee Shop (in The Corn Exchange, St. Ives every Wednesday)
 Or scan the QR Code

Net Proceeds donated to Kidney Cancer UK www.kcuk.org.uk
 Kidney Cancer UK is a trading title of James Whale Fund Ltd. which is a registered charity in England and Wales (1120146)



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

Get it off your chest, email *Erik* at: editor@theriverporter.uk

Rogue Trolley

Dear Erik,
Recently I observed a Morrisons trolley at Kings Hedges. Apparently it was next seen in Burstellars but a few days later it got to Pig Lane and remained there for a few days before being sighted on Slepe Hall Field two days later. It seems the trolley hunter finally caught up with it.
The local record for distance must go to a Sainsbury's trolley that also found its way to Kings Hedges around the same time.

Colin

Ed. We looked it up and the Sainsbury trolley must have travelled over 5 miles and, at a walking pace, would have taken nearly 2 hours to get from the nearest store.

Dog snatchers spotted again in our area



Police have warned that again dog snatchers are operating in our area. A plain white van has been suspected of being used by the culprits. The theft of a dog can carry up to a seven-year sentence but this doesn't appear to put off these thieves who can get up to £700 for some of the more popular breeds. Police advise not leaving your dog unattended as this invites trouble. Currently police are investigating after two, a Siberian Husky and a Cocker Spaniel, were snatched from their homes near St Ives. Police say the dogs disappeared between 7 and 11.30am on Wednesday, March 27. We understand that the Cocker Spaniel was later dumped near Ely, but the Husky has remained missing. The loss of a loved pet in this way can be heart-breaking for the owner so perhaps Riverporter readers can be extra vigilant and keep an eye out for these unpleasant characters.

St Ives has the Community Pub of the year! ... yay!!



The Riverporter learned that our beloved pub The Haywain has received the honour from members of the Campaign for Real Ale's Huntingdonshire branch. It all came down to a choice between The King of the Belgians and the Cambridgeshire Hunter in St Neots. The winner was announced at the Booze on the Ouse Beer Festival by branch chairman, Richard Harrison who presented the award to landlord Steve Lowe on March 21. (see the picture courtesy of The Hunts Post copyright). The Haywain was applauded for 'providing a well-presented range of real ales of varied styles and high-quality draught ciders from a premises with atmosphere and style, good service and a warm welcome, it was considered that The Haywain offered a good community focus and good value' ... What more can we say? ... **Well done Steve!**

Local pubs the brainiest

The Seven Wives in St Ives came third in the St Ives Rotary Quiz of the Year competition with near neighbours **The Duchess**, in Fenstanton crowned outright winners for the third time, the Prince of Wales in Hilton second and the Axe & Compass of Hem. Abbots fifth.

Erik was spotted in Krakow!



Now the secret of his impeccable grooming is out!
Theresa Norris

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Masterplan to start next month

The Town Council were advised that the long awaited Masterplan for St Ives would be starting in early May and Cllr Fuller stated that a governance structure had been agreed with the Town Mayor and Town Clerk invited to be members of the steering group. At present it is unknown who else might be asked to join the steering group, which one imagines should be representative of the whole town. He went on to say that the St Ives plan would be done at the same time as the Huntingdon and Ramsey plans.

Cllr Fuller also informed the Council that the A1123 St Ives Area Transport Study had started by looking at 16 interventions along the route which the County Council and its consultants called 'Quick Win' scenes that should help traffic flows around the area, before any major schemes are agreed in the longer term.

Plans for Warner's Park Pavilion presented

Initial plans for an extension to Warner's Park Pavilion were presented by Mr Mead to the council. The Town Council set up a working group to look at how the Pavilion could be better used. It is understood that Mr Mead has generously prepared these plans for free but more details of the proposals were unavailable. *The Riverporter* was informed by the Town Clerk that the working group does not provide minutes and although Cllrs Tiddy and Davies were chosen to represent the Council the other members of the working group are unknown.

Police announce new deputy chief constable

Cambridgeshire Constabulary has appointed a new deputy chief constable. Commander Jane Gyford, who is currently responsible for all operational policing and security in the City of London, will join the force on May 13. Commander Gyford has 27 years policing experience, joining the Metropolitan Police in March 1992 and served in a number of policing areas including: public protection, counter terrorism, child abuse and sexual exploitation, anti-corruption, homicide and major incident enquiries, specialist firearms and organisational change.

In a previous role she led on the Olympic torch delivery through the UK, and Olympic and Paralympic Games in London within the national domestic extremism unit and was awarded a commissioner's commendation for professionalism for this work.



When an automated reply says more ...

Continuing the Police theme - we reported in issue 30 of *the Riverporter*, that we contacted the Police & Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite, to ask why he had claimed that *'The Police and Crime Commissioner is now cheaper to run than the former Police Authority'* when in fact it isn't.

The request was sent on 12 March and we soon received an automated reply saying *'This is an automated response to let you know that your message has been safely received. We aim to respond to all correspondence within 10 working days.'*

Four weeks later we still hadn't received a response so on 10 April we asked again, and again we received the standard automated reply but still no comment from Mr Ablewhite.

Interestingly we noted a little piece in this weeks Hunts Post. In the letters section Editor Dan Mansfield, somewhat unusually, wrote *'Regarding the letter, 'A rare sighting for people of the town' (April 3), we have been asked to make the following clarification: The quote attributed to the police and crime commissioner for Cambridgeshire, Jason Ablewhite, was written as a parody by the letter writer and was not from the commissioner himself. Mr Ablewhite has asked us to point out that the quote is inaccurate and is not a reflection of the policing situation in St Ives or across Cambridgeshire.'*

The 'amusing' letter from Andrew Davies of St Ives was clearly a parody and not the 'real thing' but must have moved Mr Ablewhite to make speedy contact with the paper (possibly because there had been some comments on facebook about it) and it was clearly a more important issue than explaining a possible misleading statement made by Mr Ablewhite himself.

Easter on the Island - Holt of course

Oh boys, I'm so sorry. Been busy rowing on The Thames for the boat race (doncha just love that James Cracknell?) and painting my bottom for a pre-Easter launch - boat of course silly!

Soon I'll be out and about a bit more looking for snippets. I can tell you that those wonderful people who look after the nature reserve on Holt Island have whispered in my ear that it's already open and will be every weekend until late Autumn.

I'm so looking forward to the joys of spring amongst the greenery.

AND - big breaking news - they are finalists in the Mick George Skip of Gold competition for community groups. Pleease vote for them at www.mickgeorge.co.uk/huntsgoldvoting because they stand to win £1,000. And they do so deserve it - such a beautiful place.

Voting closes on 23 April. Oh, and there's still time to Adopt a Bird Box. Just visit www.holtisland.org to download a form. Such a nice thing for Easter-eggs-geddit?

Love to all
Byeeee Heidi xx

Right: secretly watching the wildlife?



New family joining the 'Hyperion Family' Adrian, his mother Louise and Grandmother are joining Hyperion Antique Centre. They will be specialising in coins and stamps in cabinet 21.



Hyperion Home and Antiques Centre offer the widest choice & variety in the area with over 25 independent dealers under one roof
New items arrive daily



LARGE PUBLIC CAR PARK NEXT DOOR
Open Every Day

Monday - Saturday 9.30 - 5pm. Sunday 10 - 4pm

Station Road, St Ives Cambs. PE27 5BHk

Telephone: 01480 464140 Email: hyperionantiques.co.uk



Anyone for tennis?

Apparently there isn't a tennis club in St Ives, but not to worry next door in the pretty village of Houghton & Wyton there is one.

Houghton and Wyton Tennis Club is a very family friendly tennis club and there are plenty of club tennis times - so no need to bring a tennis partner whenever you want to play.

Seniors are very well catered for with 'Bionic tennis mornings' (plenty of new hips and knees!). Junior coaching is arranged in the summer.

Do you want to give it a try?

Free tennis try out days are coming up on the 1st June from 10 am to 4 pm and also during Feast Week on Saturday the 6th July.

Not only is it good fun it's great exercise

Club times:

Monday and Thursday morning 10am to 12 noon.

Wednesday evening 6pm to dusk.

Sunday morning 10 am to 12 noon

All very good value.

If interested contact Jennifer on 01480 465117/

fortywinksbandb@gmail.com or go to the website

Houghtonandwytontennisclub.co.uk

Experienced administrator available for up to 15 hours a week

I am a retired Management Accountant seeking a part time administration or general office support role, ideally between 10 to 15 hours a week. I have had over 30 years experience at a high level and offer reliability, innovation and full commitment.

You can contact me on 07598 862246

Brian Leith

ADVERTORIAL

How much is your house worth?

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters assesses the current housing market



You've probably heard the answer before, 'whatever someone is willing to pay'!

But getting the right asking price is critical and is one of the areas where a good agent can add significant value. Getting the pricing wrong can result in you losing money or buyers, if you overprice and your house doesn't sell, you may then have to reduce to create interest. You risk creating the impression that there is something wrong with it or that it's undesirable.

Conversely, if you price the property too low, you risk selling it undervalued and not achieving the price you need to move on.

The price at which you should market is normally a combination of elements which together will create the best price strategy for your property at the time.

If you need to sell quickly to achieve other goals in your life you may price the property more keenly than if you are willing to wait until another buyer comes along who's willing to pay more.

Life events such as marriages, births, divorces or the death of a family member, will often be a trigger to sell and create a greater urgency.

Knowing what's currently on the market and what's sold in your area will give you a guide to a base level for your pricing and will also give a guide as to the general levels of interest in each property type in your neighbourhood. The Rightmove website offers a wealth of data, but, don't forget this information is also available to buyers who arm themselves with knowledge before they start viewing.

The wider economy also has an effect on prices but only on sellers coming out of the market completely, if you sell and buy another property immediately the market will affect both parties equally and so although Brexit seems to dominate everyone's agenda, if you are selling and buying it doesn't really matter. The same old mantra of supply and demand still dominates

and determines house values, more houses, less money - fewer houses, higher prices.

If you are thinking of moving and would like a rough idea of the value of your home or you are just curious, visit our website www.elliswinters.co.uk

We have an instant valuation calculator, it takes less than a minute for the result.

For an appointment with one of our experienced valuers call us on **01480 388 888**



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