

My personal observation on the self styled 'political elite' in Cambridgeshire.

So after the Lord Mayors Show now is the time to send in the donkey cart but who will be in charge of clearing away the stinking mess?

The planning application to build a bridge at Kings Dyke was placed in March 2016 but three years and four months later the viability of the project is as it stands in doubt.

Could Whittlesey Town Council's credibility as a representative body be questioned after all the project is on their patch but did, they fight hard enough to see this important infrastructure scheme become a reality?

We hope that people who choose public life are reasonably well educated with common sense, but do we have that here?

Kings Dyke was a cock-up from the start blighted by not having a competent leader in place to handle a relatively small infrastructure project and further weakened by inadequate administration, just read what Mayor Palmer is quoted as saying in the Cambs Times. 'No confidence in the management of the project'. 'Incredibly poor management'. 'CCC should tell Combined Authority to take on scheme. On the other hand Cllr Count blames Kier for everything and Cllr Boden reckons that traffic will be using the bridge 'before the end of next year'.

Those not up to the job should not be allowed anywhere near this project if another chance comes up, but the question is what were the three above doing over the last three years to keep the project on track?

What we have now, apart from a dispiriting public relations disaster is the appalling situation accompanied by potential financial implications brought about when people of mediocrity rise to their level of incompetence.

Is local government to blame and could Steve Barclay and James Palmer the big beasts running things around here done more and did they have early warnings that all was not well with Kier.

Stratospheric blunders cost us millions while useless officials and low calibre service at all levels demoralize us all, but we never seem to pin things on those who are just thick.

Michael Gove once said we may be a Rolls Royce of a country, but we tolerate a fair few chimpanzees at the wheel.

Peter Baxter.

