

## Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils January 2018

Happy New Year Everyone!

The proposed locations for the first **Rural Travel Hubs** have now been revealed; Oakington & Westwick's bid together with those of Sawston and Whittlesford will be discussed by the **Greater Cambridge Partnership's** [GCP] Assembly on 18 January and will then be on the agenda for the GCP Board on 08 February. If approved, full business cases to include anticipated construction costs for two of the rural travel hubs will be drawn up. The proposal for Oakington would be located off Station Road, adjacent to the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway with its adjoining footway and cycle path. The proposal is for facilities that will include secure cycle parking and cycle lockers, a stop that will allow for buses to turn round, a drop off area and more than 40 car parking spaces. This proposal provides benefits to more than just Oakington and has my full support.

The report commissioned [and paid for] by the **Greater Cambridge Partnership** on the **A10 [Ely to Cambridge Transport Study]** has now been published. The report was written jointly by County Council Officers and an independent consultant. The subsequent press release by the County Council did not cover the detail that may be of interest to many of you. There is much of significance for residents to the north of Cambridge and importantly, in the context of the planned new town at Waterbeach, it demonstrates that high quality off and on-road links to Waterbeach are both possible to build and economically justified. The key report can be accessed at: <http://bit.ly/2Di5Rwb> In particular look at: page 30 for the 5 options; pages 31-35 for the maps and page 62 for the crucial table of cost/gains.

A recent survey of the **Cambridgeshire Guided Busway** by the **Greater Cambridge Partnership** has revealed the following: since the busway opened in 2011 the two operators have between them carried over 20.2million passengers; nearly half of those surveyed said that if they hadn't been able to use the busway, they would have travelled by car; 6 in 10 said that the busway's reliable service was its most important feature with over 90% expressing satisfaction with the service; 1 in 5 thought that increasing the number of buses would encourage higher ridership and 1 in 4 said they had also used the busway route for journeys by foot or cycle.

The list of **Local Highways Improvements** for 2018/19 applications has now been published. Details and next steps can be accessed at: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-your-local-highway/local-highway-improvement-funding/> The internal advisory panel meetings for SCamb have been scheduled for 09.30 on Monday 05 and Wednesday 07 February 2018. Although these are not public meetings, members of the public may ask to attend. If you wish to attend contact: [local.projects@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:local.projects@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) Please may I ask all of you to consider how you might want to make a future application to this scheme that will benefit your local community. Increasingly parish councils are taking responsibility for minor highway improvements and indeed, without this collaboration, lower priority projects will wait a long time for the County Council to be able to progress them.

The County Council's new **Innovate and Cultivate Fund** offers funding for community initiatives that support and strengthen local communities and, in so doing also reduce pressure on County Council services. Applications are being invited from organisations and groups that offer support for adult social care, children and families' services and the waste service. There are two funding streams: the 'Cultivate' stream offers small grants of £2,000 - £10,000 and the 'Innovate' stream is for larger grants of up to £50,000. Deadlines for the next round of applications are: 01 May for 'Cultivate' and 09 March for 'Innovate'. Application forms and further information is available on the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation website, [info@cambscf.org.uk](mailto:info@cambscf.org.uk). Meanwhile the County Council is offering an opportunity for prospective applicants to talk through their ideas prior to submitting an application. The Innovate and Cultivate Fund Advice Session has been arranged for Thursday 08 February 2018 between 09.45 and 12.00 midday at Ely Community Centre. You can also book a group advice session on writing a good application or sourcing data to support your application. If you are interested in attending you do need to book an appointment at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/innovate-cultivate-fund-advice-session-tickets-41337609904> It is expected that demand will be high and, as a result, those without appointments are unlikely to be able to be seen on the day. For any queries on the advice sessions, contact [lianne.parrett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:lianne.parrett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

I have for some while been concerned about the approach taken by the County Council when negotiating S106 contributions and have on more than one occasion expressed my disquiet to County Officers. A recent experience though has reminded me that this really is something that needs to be addressed. I have already had an initial meeting with the County Council's Director of **Economy, Transport and Environment** to discuss this and will be meeting with both him and the County Council's Chief Executive in the near future. One of the concerns that I have and which has been raised with me by more than one parish council is that the County Council does not work with parishes on its S106 requirements. The whole point of these provisions is that they should provide benefit or effective mitigation for the community that is being asked to take development. Any council, parish, district or county, should remember that it is asking for provision on behalf of the community and there are concerns that the County Council doesn't always observe this priority. I think that some of the bigger, stronger, better resourced parish councils may have more influence in this regard but it should be the County Council that automatically facilitates this for all parishes. Please do let me know if you have any particular concerns that you would like me to raise.

I look forward to receiving any questions or comments that you have about these or any other matters either at your meetings or by email.

*Lynda*

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