

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils December 2017

Whilst transport and traffic issues generally continued to be the most dominant subject of the emails I received from local residents in December, one particular issue concerns me greatly. During the month I heard from parents of primary aged school children whose safety when cycling to school is put at risk by the behaviour of some motorists. Our cycling infrastructure is far from perfect, our roads are very busy particularly at peak times and there is no doubt that drivers become stressed sitting in traffic queues but surely we should all watch out for and consider each other. I have spoken to the Headteacher at Girton Glebe about the possibility of some pupil designed signs that might prove to be a more powerful way of reminding road users about the need for care and in the new year I will be following up on this with Bar Hill and Dry Drayton to see if they too are interested and feel that this would be useful. I think, too, that Lolworth also expressed an interest in this type of signage a little while ago [for different reasons].

The work has finally been completed on the last section of the in-bound cycleway on Huntingdon Road and it has been confirmed that the works order has now been placed for the out-bound cycle route improvement between Victoria Street/Castle Street and Girton.

The current works over the bridge at Bar Hill have been completed for the time being. The structural investigations will recommence in the new year. There is no confirmed date for this as yet as County Highways requires at least a month's notice to issue the appropriate TTROs.

In his **Budget Statement** he Chancellor of the Exchequer has allocated £5 million for 2018-19 with a further £135million for the following year to promoting East-West Rail, beginning with total funding of £10 million in refining the Cambridge South station project. The National Infrastructure Commission report into the Oxford Milton Keynes Cambridge corridor contained some eye-watering numbers regarding additional Gross Value Added and a million more homes. Phase 3 of East-West Rail involves reconnecting Bedford and Cambridge. This will bring into being a new transport corridor, with the expectation of opening up the opportunity for further new settlements, for example around a new Cambridge Parkway station.

This month the County Council launched a new website '**Be Well Cambridgeshire**'. www.bewellcambridgeshire.co.uk provides information and advice about mental health issues, active living, healthy eating, sexual health, alcohol, drugs and smoking and offers links to organisations and support groups. The first campaign to be promoted on the new website is 'Stay Warm, Stay Well'. The weather forecast is changeable but includes days when temperatures are anticipated to plummet so please do watch out for vulnerable relatives, friends and neighbours.

Adults Committee received a report on progress towards the County Council's ambition to use its own assets to intervene in the Care Home market. The currently existing shortfall of bed spaces of all types results in limited choice for purchasers [including the County Council] and leads to increased costs. The plan is that the Council will use its own land and through partnering with a Care Home provider, will increase capacity and secure affordable provision for Cambridgeshire residents. Agenda pack: <http://bit.ly/2kMPDzZ>

Please do contact me with any questions or comments that you have about these or any other matters. I hope you all enjoyed a good festive break with family and friends. My best wishes to you for a happy and healthy 2018.

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