

Cambridgeshire County Councillor's Report to Parish Councils March 2017

At the February meeting of **Economy & Environment Committee** members were asked to consider alternative funding arrangements for the Cambridge Park and Ride service. However, there were no real alternatives proposed and committee resolved to note the alternative funding options available, keep them under review whilst continuing to charge for parking and to continue to explore with the Greater Cambridge City Deal the possibility of funding free parking through the proposed Workplace Parking Levy.

At its March meeting committee considered a report on a proposed network of greenways. Whilst Cambridge enjoys the highest levels of residents commuting to work by bike in the UK, there has also been significant growth in levels of cycle commuting in South Cambridgeshire. Despite its rural nature, the levels of cycle commuting put it fourth for the UK as a whole. Creating safe, direct and attractive routes will encourage even higher levels of cycle commuting in South Cambridgeshire and consultation responses on specific projects and on transport strategies have shown there is demand to provide new routes and to improve existing ones.

Sadly the March agenda also included an item seeking approval for a new charge for Bikeability which is so popular and successful in our schools [over 6,000 pupils already trained]. Department of Transport Funding has been split into two pots, with the second one now covering bike maintenance and, whilst the Council is a beneficiary of this scheme, it means that there is less funding for the basic road safety scheme. The result is that the full cost will not be covered and the proposal was for a part charge to be made. Officers have been tasked with investigating options for commercial sponsorship to avoid the need for this and will report back to committee in April.
Agenda packs: February - <http://bit.ly/2ncBr7d> March - <http://bit.ly/2meYGJK>

Road maintenance is one of the subjects that we all have concerns about and at its meeting on 21 February the **Highways & Community Infrastructure Committee** received a report on the Council's Transport Delivery Plan [TDP] for 2017/18-2019/20. The TDP is a key component of the Council's Highway Asset Management Strategy which adopts a long term, preventative approach for programming highway maintenance. Schemes are prioritised on a condition basis. The calculation for funding on which the Council's maintenance programme relies is complicated by a mechanism implemented by the Department for Transport [DfT] said to incentivise authorities to develop, implement and maintain the appropriate strategies and policies. Failure to demonstrate that it is complying could cost the authority up to £500,000 for the next year. The TDP is part of the Council's evidence that it has the required long term approach. It will also support a bid to Central Government's Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund. Bids must be supported by a minimum contribution by the Council of 10% but notably previously successful bidders committed to funding at least 20% of the cost. The current proposal is that a bid will be made jointly by Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils and will be based upon repairing drought damaged roads in the north of the county. The TDP also shows those schemes that are in the 2017/18 budget [including Girton Road from Wellbrook Court to Huntingdon Road and completion of the footway/ cycleway from Bar Hill to Longstanton].

Full details can be found in the appendix to agenda item 1 at: <http://bit.ly/2myuWZ9>

The subject of roads is high on the agenda of most people when they consider the impact of new development particularly when it is major development such as that proposed on the old barracks site at Waterbeach. A six week consultation on proposals for a new town north of Waterbeach opened on 27 February and closes on 10 April 2017. The consultation on the outline application has begun after plans for the homes and facilities were submitted by Urban & Civic – the developer of the former Ministry of Defence land. The outline planning application proposes 6,500 homes as

well as space for retail, office, research & development and light industrial uses, a secondary school and community facilities. Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/waterbeach to view the planning application and have your say. Consultation events are also taking place at St John's Church Hall, Station Road, Waterbeach, CB25 9HL on Saturday 18 March [10.00-14.00]; Thursday 23 March [15.00-20.00] and Wednesday 29 March [15.00-20.00].

The progress report presented to the **Greater Cambridge City Deal Board** noted that 2016/17 marks the start of tangible delivery with the first transport infrastructure projects now being constructed. It was also reported that the Housing Development Agency has been established and is delivering new homes; 100 affordable homes have been delivered in the current year. It recommended new resource allocations following significant changes to the external environment in which it operates [most notably the establishment of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and the Brexit decision] and reported that work to develop a longer term investment strategy is underway.

Agenda pack: <http://bit.ly/2mzFSaI>

Locally I can report that Stagecoach seems to have accepted that a single decker bus was an inadequate alternative to the 95 bus service and is now providing a double decker. A small victory but it seems unlikely that the case for reinstating the 95 service will be accepted. Stagecoach has the freedom to make decisions on a purely commercial basis. Let's hope for some viable alternatives coming forward in the future under devolution.

Painfully slow progress is being made on relocating the bus stop at Cambridge Crematorium following the suspension of the original one due to A14 upgrade works. I followed up on this immediately it was brought to my attention more than a month ago. It now seems that the required health and safety test has been carried out and, although the location first proposed was not acceptable, an alternative has been identified which is likely to be approved. Hard standing has to be created so that the new location is safe for both pedestrians and wheelchair users. I will continue to chase and keep you updated.

The Wings for Life World Run 2017 will be held in Cambridgeshire again this year. The date for the event is Sunday 07 May and again the start time is midday. The route starts at Parker's Piece and follows a route through some of South Cambridgeshire's villages. An initial letter was sent out in December to over 65,000 residential and business properties and two information events were held in Cottenham and Over during February. A second letter is due to go out in April. This second letter will include information about the event including a route map and road closure timings. Please can you use your websites and any social media access you have to make residents aware. Last year's event was very enjoyable although the weather was possibly warmer than entrants would have preferred. I have already contacted some of the businesses on the route and will continue to do so to make sure that the event's impact is minimised. Full details on their website: <http://www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com/gb/en/cambridge/>,

As always I welcome your questions and comments on the foregoing and any other local or strategic matter in which you are interested.

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