

District Councillor Richard Turner

November District Councillor's Report for the Balsham Ward
13th November 2017

Balsham Ward Combined Parishes District and County Councillors Meeting

Next combined Parish Meeting to be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 29th November at Castle Camps in Castle Camps Village Hall.

Local Plan

We continue to wait for the inspector's draft modifications. Once received, officers will engage with lead council members who will raise any concerns with the inspector informally. The inspector will then publish the modifications and will ask council to conduct public consultation.

If the modifications are considered sound, then our joint trajectory with the city carriers **more weight** in planning considerations relating to the 5 year land supply.

Neighbourhood Planning Guidance.

Update.

The consultation period on the draft guidance designed to help local communities decide whether they want to get involved in creating a neighbourhood plan closed on 30th October. The report from the consultation is due to go to the Planning Portfolio Holder's meeting on 11th December 2017.

Domestic Waste Collections

Bin Collections

Paper caddies will continue to be collected up to and including Friday 8 December 2017. From Monday 11 December 2017, they will no longer be collected, and from that date paper should be placed directly into the blue bin.

Greater Cambridge Partnership

A1307 Local Liaison Forum Workshop – Three strategies being submitted for consideration

Time line:

The LLF meeting held in September was unable to identify a preferred strategy, so all three strategies will be taken to the GCP Executive Board meeting to be held **on 22nd November**. At the meeting, one strategy will be selected for progression. The chosen strategy will then develop following a timeline so that it can be taken forward to Public Consultation sometime in February 2018.

December 2017. There will be further development of the recommended Strategy components.

February 2018. There will be public consultation on the recommended Strategy.

Spring 2018. A business case will be developed for the preferred Strategy as all current strategies

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are over budget and are in the range of between £38M to £145M

July 2018. GCP Joint Assembly and GCP Executive Board decide to proceed to the next stage.

Whatever Strategy is chosen, it is to be completed 2022.

Community Awards 2018

Reminder.

Nominations are currently being accepted for “Community Awards 2018” until midnight 19th January 2018.

The 7 awards categories available last year have been reduced to the following 6 losing the “Special Portfolio Holder Award”;

There are six award categories:

- Village Hero – for an outstanding individual’s contributions to community life.
- Parish Councillor of the Year - for great work carried out by parish councillors, giving their time to improve the local community for everyone
- Outstanding Youth Initiative - for excellent work by youth groups and local businesses to support young people in South Cambridgeshire
- Outstanding Local Service/Amenity - for amazing services provided by local shops, pubs, post offices, libraries, and many more besides
- Environment Award - for the valuable contribution made by groups who seek to improve villages for residents in the long and short term
- Wellbeing Award - for the many groups improving residents’ health and wellbeing, both mental and physical

A panel of elected Councillors and officers will judge all nominations received before the closing date. The awards will be announced at the Awards Evening on Thursday 08 March 2018, to which all nominees will be invited.

Community Chest

Funds still remain so please continue to make applications.

Elite Athlete Award Scheme

Reminder.

The Elite Athlete Award Scheme has £10,000 available to help support local elite athletes reach their potential. The last date for applications is 30th November.

The scheme is open to both able-bodied and disabled athletes, who live in South Cambridgeshire, whether competing regionally, making progress nationally or representing Team GB.

Grants can be used to fund any aspect of equipment, training or competition costs. The maximum

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grant award will be £2,000 per applicant.

Full details and an online application form can be found at:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/eliteathlete>

Application to list The Bell Balsham as Asset of Community Value

Further evidence of the pub's non-ancillary uses is required in Balsham Parish Council's re-application as a ACV. More details regarding the types of groups and community uses, including when and how often they meet / have met are needed.

For further contact Siobhan Mellon (siobhan.mellon@scambs.gov.uk) or 01954 713395.

Cambridge Ice Rink construction start date announced

A 20 year wait to build a new, permanent ice rink on the edge of Cambridge is finally over. The developer behind the sports and leisure venue has confirmed that building work will start on **Tuesday 28 November**.

South Cambridgeshire District Council is providing a £1.85 million loan to Cambridge Leisure and Ice Centre (CLIC) for the new venue by the Newmarket Road Park and Ride site.

Plans for new Cambridge City FC stadium at Sawston approved..again

Plans for a new stadium for Cambridge City FC were originally approved by the Planning Committee in April 2014, however the decision to grant planning permission was quashed in February this year as the Court of Appeal ruled that Councillors did not give clear enough reasons and detail the exceptional circumstances for allowing construction to take place on the green belt site.

At November's Planning Committee meeting, council members voted again to approve it. Since the new stadium is still on green belt land, this decision must again be referred to the Secretary of State, who will determine whether he is content with the plan, or if it will be subject to a "call in" process that could see him take the decision out of the Council's hands.

Parish Planning Forum

Next scheduled meeting is 13 February 2018 at 6pm-8pm

Reference Additional Information

Establishing a Greater Cambridge Partnership Apprenticeship matching/brokerage service.

At their September Executive Board meeting, there was agreement :

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- (a) to refocus the skills workstream in order to facilitate the delivery of the up to 420 apprenticeship target agreed with Government as part of the City Deal agreement
- (b) to do this by establishing a GCP apprenticeship matching/brokerage service that has a focus on STEM apprenticeships
- (c) to allow officers to work with and commission, where necessary, external organisations to support this work
- (d) to work with the LEP, the Combined Authority and delivery organisations in the development of a skills strategy, including evaluating this new service to determine whether it would be suitable, in the medium to long term, for roll out across a wider geography

Rural Travel Hubs - 6th September, 6-8pm at the Main Hall, South Cambs

Rural Travel Hubs have been mentioned as options in the A1307 LLF meetings. The hubs could provide mini park & ride or park & cycle facilities. It is thought that they would be located at existing bus stops but they may also be sited at convenient village locations. There are thoughts that these spaces could be used as a base for council-led, on-demand community transport services. The concept is part of a wider strategy by the Greater Cambridge Partnership to get more people out of cars and onto public transport, cycling and walking, to tackle congestion and air pollution as the area continues to grow.

Six Parish Councils have come forward with possible sites for investigation however the project is district-wide. It is anticipated that a district-wide review will be conducted.

Next steps

This is viewed as a long-term project, undertaken in a number of stages, and the project team will bring its report, assessment and conclusions to the Greater Cambridge Partnership's Assembly in January 2018 and Greater Cambridge Partnership's Board meeting in February 2018, together with a recommendation about which should be the first two rural travel hubs to be taken forward to detailed design, local consultation and planning permission, and (if approved) construction, including a request for the necessary funding.

Project Manager Kirsty Human (SCDC) or James Blacow (CCC)

County Councillor Henry Batchelor

Report for Parish Councils – November 2017

City Deal

We are getting a bit closer to agreeing how around £40 million should be invested in improvements to the A1307. After a series of workshops over the summer three options have been developed. The City Deal Assembly has now agreed to recommend them to the next level, the Board. This seems like an endless process as, if the Board agree, the next step will be to go out to public consultation followed by further decision making. With luck we may see something actually happening on the A1307 before the end of 2018.

Highways

The LHI bids for next year are now closed, so the next steps are that each applicant presents their bid to the LHI Panel in January with decisions being made shortly afterwards.

Children's Centres

The decision of the County Council last month was to vote in favour of the proposed closures, which means the centre in Linton will be closed or 're-designated'. The nearest centre is Sawston. They are planning on conduct some outreach services in our area, just not from a base in Linton. The County are also in discussions with the Cathodeon Trust to help with this service. This is a new change, so if you or anyone you know is affected, please do let me know and I will pass any comments on to the team.

Secondary School Teacher Recruitment

There is a push to enhance recruitment of secondary school teachers for September 2018 in Cambridgeshire, with a growing population and new schools being built in the area. There are some free open sessions being run across the county which outline the job role and offer the chance to ask any questions that potential applicants may have. More info can be found at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/secondary-teacher-recruitment-event-tickets-38804272624> or by emailing contact@teachincambs.org.uk

Parking Charges

Cambridge City Council is running a consultation on charges for car parks in the city. If you frequently use these and have any views, do make your opinion heard at - <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/consultations/car-park-prices-consultation> the consultation closes November 17th with the proposed changes coming into effect April 1st.