

January 2018 District Councillor Report – Balsham Ward

Balsham Ward Combined Parishes District and County Councillors Meeting

The next combined combined Parishes meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 31st January at Castle Camps Village Hall. We are expecting Nicola Burdon, Local Highway Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council

Planning

Local Plan

After receiving the inspector's draft modifications, the Council has published the Main Modifications which are available for comments during the public consultation period starting 9am Friday 5th January and closing at 5 pm on Friday 16th February 2018. The 100s of Main Modifications are described in Chapters 5, 6 and 7 of the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Main Modifications Consultation Report (RD/MM/010). These Main Modifications have been identified by the Inspectors as being necessary in order to make the plans "sound". Comments will only be recorded for modifications that are in bold underscored type.

- Land Supply - Of particular interest is "Policy 3: Spatial strategy for the location of residential development" modification CC- MM007 where the method to calculate the amount of land that is suitable and available for housing development, the Liverpool methodology plus 20% buffer, is described. This methodology is used to calculate the five year housing land supply.
- Affordable Housing – There is a modification to encourage more smaller developments so that affordable housing will only be sought in developments of more than 10 houses (11 or more houses or 1000 m2).
- Local Plan Review – a new policy has been introduced so that the Local Plans of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Council can be reviewed in 2019 with a view of preparing one joint Local Plan for the two authorities.

After the consultation period, the comments and a summary, will be considered by the Inspectors who may decide whether any further hearings are required or if any issues need to be revisited. The Inspectors will present their final conclusions in their Reports for each Local Plan. If the reports conclude that the local plans are sound, the Councils can make arrangements for the Local Plans to be adopted, subject to making the Modifications that have been identified by the Inspectors.

Determination of planning applications

Planning applications continue to be decided in accordance with adopted plans. Decision takers can give weight to emerging plans, depending on how advanced they are, how significant unresolved objections are and their degree to consistency with the NPPF. At the moment, the Council can not give significant weight to the Main Modifications (including CC- MM007) in decision making. This re-iterates that we do not have a 5 year land supply so we are still subject to speculative applications. Village Development Frameworks are still effective but have little weight at the present time due to a lack of 5 year land supply.

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All details can be found on the web page <https://www.scambsgov.uk/mainmods>

Planning Delivery Fund

On 4th December, a £11M fund was made available to encourage more innovation in the design quality of new housing developments, especially Garden Towns and Garden Villages, as well as to provide design advice and support to local authorities.

A garden town is a development of more than 10,000 homes. Garden villages are smaller settlements of between 1,500 and 10,000 homes.

This £11 million is equally split over the financial years 2017/18 to 2018/19, and will be administered under three dedicated funding streams: a Joint Working Fund, a Design Quality Fund, and an Innovation Fund.

Housing chiefs at South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Councils say they will look at the funding arrangement in further detail and investigate the possibility of a joint bid between the two authorities.

Greater Cambridge Partnership

Cambridge South East Transport Study Consultation 2018 (A1307 and A1301)

The Greater Cambridge Partnership will be consulting on all three strategies identified and developed during Local Liaison Forums and workshops. The consultation will start 9th February and close 9th March 2018. The comments will be used to develop the strategies further to allow the Executive Board to identify a preferred strategy that will be progressed.

Full details can be found on the web page

https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/cambridge_south_east_study/

Answers are provided to the frequently asked questions including

- **Why aren't you dualling the A1307 to Haverhill?**
- **Why don't you reopen the old railway line?**
- **What other projects are linked with the A1307?**

A1301 This is a road lying south east of Cambridge from Trumpington, through Gt Shelford, bypassing Sawston over the roundabout with the A505 ending at the M11 junction past Sanger Institute (Human Genome).

Dual Carriageway Action Group

A meeting was held at West Wickham Village Hall by West Wickham Parish Council on Tuesday 2nd January to facilitate the set-up of a Dual Carriageway Action Group to oppose a new dual carriageway, north or south of the A1307 as proposed by the A1307 Strategy Board. The A1307 Strategy Board is working on behalf of Haverhill Chamber of Commerce. The Greater

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Cambridge Partnership invested £25,000 in transport modelling as part of pre-strategic outline business case work. The dual carriageway promotes the use of car transport so has opposing aims compared to the City Deal objectives. A form was handed out at the meeting so that interested persons could join the Action Group. A representative of the Action Group is to report to West Wickham Parish Council.

Rural Travel Hubs

Four South Cambridgeshire villages have been proposed as possible areas for new “rural travel hubs” to better connect residents with public transport, walking and cycling routes.

The three villages being proposed for extra facilities are Oakington, Sawston and Whittlesford. Foxton missed out this time.

Plans for the three pilot areas will be discussed at the Greater Cambridge Partnership’s Joint Assembly on Thursday 18 January, and Executive Board on Thursday 8 February. If approved, full business cases for two of the rural travel hubs will be drawn up, including expected construction costs. Residents and partners in each of the three areas would then be invited to help shape new facilities at their hub.

Sawston’s possible hub could see new sheltered bus stops, a drop-off area, secure cycle parking, cycle lockers and 50 car parking spaces. It could be set up to the north of the village, close to the junction of the A1301 and Cambridge Road. This location would help residents benefit from improved connectivity to Shelford Railway Station, several bus routes and the National Cycle Network.

Combined Authority Board.

On 29th November 2017, Board members agreed funding of £150,000 for a strategic review of commercial, subsidised and community services, which will then be fed into the new Local Transport Plan.

The 2017 Bus Services Act enables Mayoral Combined Authorities to consider franchising as a potential option for bus service provision. The current situation is that bus services are deregulated and privatized. Local authorities have to tender contracts to run bus services to less lucrative destinations or to provide services at quiet times such as evenings and weekends. This is something that will be fully explored by the strategic review.

The aim of the review is to identify a number of options for medium and long term service improvements. The review will look at wider economic and social benefits of an effective bus service.

Community Awards 2018

Final Reminder.

Nominations for “Community Awards 2018” close midnight 19th January 2018.

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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

Community Chest

So far, £80,000 in grants has been awarded this financial year. Funds still remain so please continue to make applications.

Parish Planning Forum

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

Report for Parish Councils – January 2018

PINPOINT Conference

PINPOINT is the charity that helps parents with children with additional and special needs. They are planning a conference on February 1st with workshops, speakers and the chance to have one-on-one sessions. This is also free for Cambridgeshire parent carers. More info at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pinpoint-conference-2018-a-force-for-families-parentpower18-tickets-38491345651?aff=es2>

County Council Funding

The County Council will soon be deciding its budget for 2017-2018. It's quite boring but does have an impact on things we use every day, such as roads. The government announced some changes before Christmas, mainly allowing local authorities to raise council tax by 3% instead of the current 1.99% without a referendum. The current administration has chosen not to increase this in recent years. The recent announcement means that Cambridgeshire remains the 3rd worst funded county council in the UK. More to follow.

Street Lighting

Due to deductions for unsatisfactory performance by Balfour Beatty in their delivery of street lighting in the county, there was a £384,000 underspend in the budget. We argued that this should be paid back to the Parishes that suffered the worst during this transition, but this was unfortunately dismissed.

Park and Ride Parking Charge

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has agreed to subsidise the removal of the charge to park at the Cambridge P&R sites in April this year. Since the charge was introduced, usage of the service has dropped significantly.

Supported Lodgings

The County Council relaunched the Supported Lodgings scheme and is looking for people with a spare room or annex who can support a young person leaving care aged 16-21. An allowance of £250 per week is granted to anyone offering this support. More information available on the Supported Lodgings section of the County's website or speak with the fostering service on 0800 052 0078.

A1307 Improvements

The final option for the A1307 will be consulted on from 9 Feb. There are three options but the proposals for the Haverhill to A11 are the same for them all. As this first phase of road safety and bus priority measures is, hopefully, non-contentious work could start possibly as early as this summer. Detailed proposals can be seen on the website: www.greatercambridge.org.uk look for 'Cambridge South East Transport Study'