

Report for Parish Councils – July 2018

A1307

At the recent meeting of the A1307 Local Forum we were presented with the results of the recent public consultation on the 3 different schemes being put forward by the Greater Cambridge Partnership. The majority favoured Scheme 1, which included a designated public transport route through/around Sawston. In the first tranche of funding the improvements to our stretch of the road will be actioned with all of the proposals being put forward to the next stage of the process, with some considerations being given to the no right-turn out of Linton High street, closing Dean Road junction and speed restrictions between Linton and Horseheath. The next stage is the proposals will be put to the Assembly, who then feed into the decision makers, the Executive Board. All being good, we should get some action before the end of this year.

Local Highways Improvement Scheme

This is the main opportunity of the year to bid into the County Council Highways department to make local improvements to the local roads and footpaths. These have included over the years, speed reductions, pavement erections and zebra crossing installations. This is a well-used and very popular scheme that attracts bids from most of the Parishes in Cambridgeshire. Schemes are worked up with a Highways engineer and applications are limited to one per Parish. The closing date for applications is Tuesday 31st July. You can download the forms here -

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-your-local-highway/local-highway-improvement-funding/>

Business Advice

South Cambs are offering free advice and business support sessions for residents and businesses that are thinking about starting up or need some free advice. The sessions are being run by Nwes, an independent body that are the UK's largest not-for-profit enterprise agency. The free sessions are all held at South Cambs offices in Cambourne and can be booked here - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/latest-news-workshops-events-support-awards-funding-and-grants-0>

Shire Hall

At a recent County Council meeting it was agreed to relocate the County Council from Shire Hall in Cambridge to a new location, most likely Alconbury. This is in a cost saving exercise that should save the Council £50(ish)million. The downsides are that Alconbury is very far away from Cambridge and not easily accessible by public transport, we believe the negatives for the staff and residents of this move outweigh the positives.

Cabinet and Parish Liaison Meetings

The new cabinet at South Cambs is offering themselves to Parish Councils on a regular basis, whereby all Parishes in the South Cambs bracket are invited sit down with the cabinet, receive and update on their work, future plans and then open the floor to questions. It's an ideal opportunity to speak directly with the decision makers at the Council. Do attend if you can.

Planning Update

We are expecting the final report from the Local Plan Inspector later this month. Once we have that, together with SCDC having met its 5 Year Land Supply threshold, it will mean that our planning policies will be back in place and protecting our villages from unwanted housing developments. Disgracefully, this process has taken well over 4 years, the longest inspection ever in the UK.