

Report for Parish Councils - February 2020

A1307

As everyone will have seen, the upgrades to the road are moving forward. The eastbound bus lane and speed limit changes outside of Linton are now implemented, along with the upgraded foot/cycle path next to the road. The next dates to note - the work on the traffic lights and altered pedestrian crossing at the junction at the top of Linton High Street will begin on February 11th and run for up to 6 weeks but are likely to complete sooner, so expect some disruption to journey times.

Local Plan Consultation

The next phase of public consultation on South Cambs forthcoming Local Plan began on January 13th and runs until February 24th. It's a document that will mould how South Cambridgeshire will look for the next few decades. Full detail and comment form can be done here - <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/greater-cambridge-local-plan/>

Council Tax Bill

South Cambs are trying to encourage people to sign up to receive their council tax bill digitally, rather than receive a paper copy. As an incentive, there is an iPad up for grabs to those who do sign up - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/council-tax/sign-up-for-council-tax-e-billing-to-win-an-apple-ipad/>

East-West Rail

For those who have an interest in rail travel, you may have seen that the government have announced that the route for the new rail line between Oxford and Cambridge, named East-West rail. This is what is called the 'Northern Route' and will come into Cambridgeshire via Cambourne and then go south down the side of the city to link up with the new Cambridge South Station at Addenbrookes hospital.

Cambridge South Station Consultation

Which leads us nicely into a plug for a consultation by Network Rail on the detail of this new station. They are the ones who are implementing it, so are consulting on the detail around final location, access, connectivity etc. The consultation is open now and runs until 2nd March. Full detail and ability to engage can be done here - <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/anglia/cambridge-south-station>

3 Free Trees

Councillors Geoff Harvey and Henry Batchelor

The District Council, in their bid to achieve their carbon neutral target, are offering each parish in South Cambridgeshire 3 free trees to plant in their village. It's a relatively small step, but one in the right direction as well as an indication that they are taking this seriously.

Marshalls Relocation

The relocation of Marshall's airfield has made some progress in identifying a site for this. They had a shortlist of 3 locations, with Duxford airfield being one. Marshalls have now ruled out Duxford, so the relocation will be one of the other two sites, which are both some way from the city and us.

Bus Passes

Unfortunately, the County Council no longer offers bus passes in paper form. To apply for a concessionary pass you need to call 0345 045 1367 or go to <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/buses/free-bus-pass/>

Zero Carbon Community Grant

This was a new grant offered by the District Council to encourage community groups and parish councils to engage in green projects that will reduce their carbon footprint. The pot for this fund will be topped up again soon as the number of bids in its debut year was staggering.

Business Support Service

South Cambs have started up a new business support service, to assist small-medium sized enterprises in South Cambridgeshire. The assistance is advice only, not financial, but has a team of 4 professional officers who are willing to help. Details here - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/new-business-support-service-for-south-cambridgeshire/>

Uttlesford Local Plan

As we have previously reported, there has been a longstanding proposal in Uttlesford's (Essex) Local Plan to build a 5000-house new town at Great Chesterford, just over the border from us in South Cambridgeshire. Some relatively good news on this, the government inspector who is judging this plan has unequivocally told Uttlesford that this location is hugely unsuitable for development and if they were to continue with this idea, the Local Plan would be outright refused. They actually said, out of the 3 locations in Uttlesford that were being considered for a new town, the Gt Chesterford site was the worst. So, it's back to the drawing board for them. A flip side of this is that they no longer have a 5-year land supply, so we may see small-medium sized developments springing up on our side of Essex.