

Report for Parish Councils - September 2019

A1307

The next upgrades of the A1307 improvements are beginning this month. The new bus lane leading into Linton from Dalehead Foods is commencing on September 16th and running until early December. Whilst the work is happening the left-hand lane will be closed and the right-hand lane will have a 40mph reduction in place, this could cause some delays, so plan ahead. The works will also include the upgrading of the foot/cycle path running alongside the road, some surfacing on the central reservation and the permanent altering of the speed limits to 40 and 50mph respectively.

There is also a briefing on the forthcoming consultations relating to the A1307 scheduled for Wednesday 11th. It's by invite only, so isn't a public meeting.

Household Details

South Cambs has to annually ask people for their updated household details (should there be any changes), they do this via letter. The council is urging people to pre-emptively respond online to this, so they don't have to send out a paper letter, which carries a cost, both financial and environmental. If possible do urge those who haven't responded to do so online here <https://www.householdresponse.com/Home/Welcome>

Street Lights

You will have been contacted by now about the change in street light charging. The County Council used to buy the electricity for street lights in your parishes, then charged for this service, with an admin fee on top. They are now passing this responsibility onto Parish Councils, so there is now an opportunity to broker a better deal than the County Council had. Some villages in the county have clubbed together and purchased a group deal with a supplier, generating a saving overall. I have a good contact at the County Council if there are any questions on this.

Ice Rink

As previously reported the ice rink in Cambridge, next to the Newmarket Road Park & Ride site, was built using a loan from various parties, including the District Council. The work is now complete and the ice rink opened to the public over the August bank holiday weekend. Do use it, as the District Council would like their loan repaid ASAP! Tickets can be booked here

-<https://better.legendonlineservices.co.uk/enterprise/onlineticketing/browse>

Zero Carbon Grant

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As previously reported, SCDC has a new grant with £91,000 available for community groups to bid into. Grants are between £1,000 and £5,000 per group. Full criteria on what can be bid for can be seen here -

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/bid-now-for-cash-to-spend-on-zero-carbon-community-projects/>

New Council Houses

South Cambs bought 144 new houses last month, 81 at Northstowe and 63 in Sawston. The money for this came as a 'reward' from central government, generated from the new homes bonus and right to buy receipts. Good news as the council's target is to acquire 70 new homes each year.

Brexit

Hate to say the 'B' word, but the leaving the EU is looking ever more likely and businesses and people in our area do need to prepare for it. The Chamber of Commerce has a Brexit Hub on its website which is updated daily and is very useful. The Combined Authority will be running a series of meetings, through its subsidiary body 'Signpost2grow', called Brexit Basics. Businesses in our area should be encouraged to engage with this, to ensure they are prepared, should we leave the EU.

It will affect some of our 'ports' too. As Cambridge and Duxford airports are classed as such, following Brexit each will have to be manned by a Brexit Officer, who has to check food coming into the country, which is not permitted by our laws. This officers cost will be charged to the tax payer.

Finally, if an EU citizen hasn't applied for Settled Status yet, do encourage them to do this now. Info can be found on government websites, and soon will be on the District Councils website too.

GCSE Results

Well done to Linton Village College who have kept up their high standards in this years GCSE's with 76% of students achieving grade 4 or better, with English and Maths, and 53% getting grade 5 and above. This is a significant improvement on last years results.

School Places

Parents applying for primary and secondary school places for their children now have slightly longer to do so, as the County have extended the window. The applications will open, as usual, on September 12th but will run until October 31st for secondary and January 15th for primary.

Overnight Support

The county council will be running some session in September for how best to offer overnight support to children with disabilities. This is currently mainly provided outside of the child's family home in residential

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services or with foster carers. The next closest consultation event is in Orchard Park on September 17th between 10am - 1pm.

If you are interested in attending the officer running this is Siobhan Macbean - Siobhan.macbean@cambridgeshire.gov.uk - 01223 699041