

District and County Councillor's Report - December 2020

A1307 Update

The upgrades, managed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), to the A1307 continue with the next steps being installation of average speed cameras between Haverhill and Linton, a new roundabout at the end of Bartlow Road in Linton and remodelling of the Dean Road junction. The signalised pedestrian crossing at Hildersham is attempting to move ahead but are having difficulty securing the land required. The GCP are trying all avenues, including compulsory purchase, which will increase the project time as this isn't a quick process.

(Another) GCP Consultation

The GCP are still currently consulting on their preferred new off-road route between the new travel hub/park & ride site and Cambridge. This is a huge piece of infrastructure, so please do engage. The consultation is open now and closes December 14th. The consultation documents can be seen online at - <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/cset-eia>

Local Plan

The joint Local Plan, being drawn up between South Cambs and the City councils, is still moving forward. The latest update is that the findings from the consultation last year have now been collated and published. The councils will take this information on board whilst formulating their preferred options, which will likely be published next autumn. If you'd like to see any of the documents, including the proposed locations of developments, you can see all the information here - <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/document-library/>

Brexit

You may have seen the national advertising campaign urging businesses to prepare for Brexit, please do encourage local businesses in your areas to take heed of this. This is still happening and very soon. If commercial advice is needed, the Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce is always very useful - <https://www.cambridgeshirechamber.co.uk/brexit/>

Resurfacing

As previously reported, the County Council are resurfacing some roads in our area, this is due to occur in the first two weeks of December, please keep an eye out of the signs on the street.

Covid Support

At time of writing, we are about to exit the latest national lockdown and are coming out into 'Tier 2', which has its own set of restrictions, as laid out by government. This will of course have some impact on people and local business. There is a small support grant for business that is forced to close due to Covid, available from the District Council - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/businessgrant>

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

also available from SCDC is a 'Covid Co-Ordinator' who can assist with most things Covid related. Her name is Vicky Hoover - Vicky.hoover@scambs.gov.uk

There is also support available from the County Council, via their 'Hub' which can be contacted through their website -

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-coordination-hub-your-community-needs-you>

Social Housing Allocation Policy

As previously reported, SCDC are still consulting on minor changes to the social housing allocation policy. The consultation is running until December 18th. The info can be found here - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/comment-on-proposed-changes-to-social-housing-allocation-policy/>

Sunnica Solar Farm Consultation

Not strictly in our area, or District for that matter, but there are proposals for an enormous solar farm based in East Cambridgeshire, across 4 sites. The company is currently consulting on these proposals and anybody can comment here -

<https://sunnica.co.uk/proposals/>

Uttlesford Local Plan

Some of you may remember that last year Uttlesford District Council (directly to the south of us, North Essex) submitted plans to a government inspector to allocate 10,000 houses near Gt Chesterford as part of their Local Plan. The inspector told them to go away and start again, which they are now doing and are asking for public engagement in this process. Uttlesford still need to allocate these houses somewhere and there is still a risk of them trying to do so on/near to the South Cambridgeshire border, which will directly affect our infrastructure etc etc. Geoff and Henry will keep you as up to date as possible from the local authority angle, but do keep your ears to the ground!

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

The judging and selection process for this year's entries has started. The standard of creativity and imagination shown this year was impressive. The cost if all applications were funding would be about twice the allocated funding, so unfortunately, not all schemes will have been successful. I was noteworthy that at least one scheme not successful last year scored highly this year, with a much improved scheme and application write-up. So the message should be to keep trying, if as we would hope, funding is available to run the scheme again next year.