

District and County Councillor's Report - February 2021

A1307 Update

The process of upgrading the road continues and we have an update this month. The proposed west-bound bus lane past Linton, which would have served very few buses (and little purpose) for a £1m+ investment, is now recommended for removal from the scheme by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), this was down to some good campaigning by your parish councils and local councillors. The much-needed signalised pedestrian crossing at the Hildersham junction is now making forward progress, with a re-designed scheme more acceptable to the landowner.

However, some negative news is that the travel hub (a mini park and ride) at the end of Bartlow Road, Linton has been removed from contention due to a lack of confidence that it would receive planning permission. There is space for a travel hub, albeit it isn't in the GCP's plans to build one with the funds that they have. Also, there currently aren't any plans to build any pedestrian foot/cycle/equestrian paths to the east of Linton, meaning some villages, which aren't located on the road, wouldn't be able to feed into the A1307 corridor and use the new upgrades – the main thrust of the GCP funding was to get people out of cars and onto public transport/greener modes of transport. Pressure will be maintained for this and as much support that parish councils and members of the public can put onto the GCP for this, the greater the demonstration is that this is wanted!

Vaccines

The local surgery, Granta Medical Practice, has begun rolling out the Covid vaccinations from the Sawston centre and are making good progress. Feedback on delivery has been positive so far but do let Geoff and Henry know if anyone has come across any issues. There is support for those that need help travelling to their appointment available from the County Council.

Local Authority Covid Support

At time of writing, we are still in national lock-down, with restrictions as laid out by government, which can be seen here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Small support grant for business that is forced to close due to Covid, available from the District Council - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/businessgrant>

There is also financial support for 'wet pubs' from the District Council, this is to support pubs, and other businesses, whose income is more than 50% from drinks alone - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/financial-support-for-south-cambridgeshire-s-pubs-now-available/>

Also available from SCDC is a 'Covid Co-Ordinator' who can assist with most things Covid related, including advice and directing to these various grants. Her name is Vicky Hoover - Vicky.hoover@scambs.gov.uk

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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>

Budgets

February is budget month, where local authorities will agree a budget for the forthcoming municipal year. It's likely that council tax will be increased on both District and County councils, we will report back in March with specifics after they are agreed.

Parliamentary Boundary Review

There will be a review of the parliamentary boundaries this year. These are the areas that our MP's will cover. Interestingly, given the increase in numbers, the East of England will need to have more MP's, so it will be interesting to see where they are allocated. There will be a public consultation later in the year, which Geoff and Henry will keep you up to date on.

Census

This year marks the next Census, which will take place on March 21st. The County Council has a liaison team helping with the roll out and completion of this process.

Local Directory

South Cambs have set up a local business directory to help promote local business during this time of difficulty, which looks set to continue. Businesses can register themselves on the website and be seen publicly -

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/local-business-directory>

Doubling Nature Strategy

A high-level strategy for 'Doubling Nature' in South Cambridgeshire, setting out an approach to increasing wildlife-rich habitats and the tree canopy and improving access to green spaces, has been given the go-ahead by the SCDC Cabinet. As part of the strategy, SCDC will aim for 20% biodiversity net gain from new developments.

Climate and Environment fortnight

Starting on Monday 22 February, the District Council will be marking Climate and Environment fortnight 2021 with a series of free online webinars featuring guest speakers, activities and information to help people think about how to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and in turn help tackle climate change.

The topics covered will be: Greener businesses - Thursday 25 February; Sustainable farming in Cambridgeshire - Friday 26 February; Greening your older home, tips and inspiration - Tuesday 2 March; Shrinking your carbon footprint

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webinar - Wednesday 3rd March; Food for our Future workshop - Thursday 4 March. For more details see <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-change/climate-and-environment-fortnight-2021-events/>

Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant

Of the three sites considered, Anglian Water have selected the site between Fen Ditton and Horningsea to relocate Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant