

## **District and County Councillor's Report - August 2021**

### **A1307 Update**

The process of upgrading the road continues the next schemes to be implemented will be the signalised crossing at Hildersham, the junction work at Dean Road and the roundabout installation at the Bartlow Road junction, Linton.

The local liaison forum meetings are still occurring, they are public so please do register to attend the forthcoming ones to have an input.

An update that might be of interest - the County Council deferred the GCP's planning application to build a new 'Travel Hub' just outside Hauxton - a similar application to the one that is being proposed on the Babraham side of the A11, so it isn't a given that these will get permission at the first time of asking.

### **New Business Growth Fund**

The District Council has launched a new fund that businesses looking to grow and expand can now apply for. It's aptly called the 'Growth Fund' and between £1,000 and £50,000 can be applied for at one time. Full eligibility criteria can be found here -

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/business-support-and-advice/growth-fund-grant-scheme> or by email [openforbusiness@scams.gov.uk](mailto:openforbusiness@scams.gov.uk)

### **Flooding**

The downpour at the end of July caused significant flooding in many of our villages. There are examples in some areas where the flooding was particularly bad and caused some serious damage. The Highways department has responsibility for making sure that the highway drains that take surface water away from the highway are clear. Jetting of some of the system in some parishes has been ordered to try to remedy this, but if there are any particular drains in your areas that could benefit from being cleared out, do let Henry know.

### **Consultation on Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

As a county, Cambridgeshire has well below average tree cover and relatively little land managed for nature. A new draft SPD is now open for consultation. The new SPD aims to ensure that planning applications of all scales properly consider biodiversity, and how to enhance it, from the start. It sets out how we expect developments to meet the policy requirements for increasing biodiversity, including policies within the 2018 Local plan, as well as national legislation. The aim is to ensure a minimum of 10% biodiversity new gain is achieved on all projects, and that this will benefit the specific ecology and wildlife of Greater Cambridge. The public consultation closes on September 17<sup>th</sup> -

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/biodiversityspd>

Councillors Henry Batchelor & Geoff Harvey

### **Grass Verges**

Councils nationally have been under pressure to cut verges less and have more wild flowers in response to collapsing bee populations and concern for the natural habitat generally a change in policy was announced in March

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/wildflowers-bees-and-plant-species-to-thrive-in-cambridgeshire-after-changes-to-roadside-verges>

Verges should have been cut back around junctions and blind corners, but if there are any locations of particular safety concern, please let Henry know.

### **Cycling Consultation**

Another cycling consultation is now open for comment, this time run by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP). It's asking for comment on the 13 cycle corridors that were identified as being well used, that could benefit from some improvement and possibly join up with the active travel network. The consultation runs from now until August 16<sup>th</sup> and can be accessed here - <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/cycling-plus> or by emailing [consultations@greatercambridge.org.uk](mailto:consultations@greatercambridge.org.uk)

### **Contact Information**

District Council – Geoff Harvey – [geoff.harvey@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.harvey@gmail.com)

County Council – Henry Batchelor – [henrybatchelor89@gmail.com](mailto:henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)