

District and County Councillor's Report – November 2022

City Access Consultation

A 'Sustainable Travel Zone' road user charge has been put forward by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (the body currently implementing the upgrades to the A1307) for private vehicles between 7am and 7pm on weekdays. The plans are part of a package to improve public transport, reduce congestion in the city and help the environment through lower emissions.

A £5 congestion charge to drive into and around Cambridge is being considered as part of a 'once in a generation' plan to shake up how people travel during the working week.

These proposals are now being publicly consulted on and it is vitally important that as many people as possible respond to this consultation with their views. It will be one of the largest decisions that will affect the way that we travel in and out of Cambridge for generations to come.

The consultation, plus all of the related documents, can be seen here - <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2022>

There will also be pop-up events around the area, with one proposed in Linton. Details TBC.

A1307 Update

The majority of the work here is complete but the remaining schemes to be implemented are:

- The new roundabout on the A1307 at the end of Bartlow Road, Linton – due Spring 2023
- The remodelling of the highly dangerous Dean Road junction, again, on the A1307 – due Spring 2023
- The implementation of the 'Greenway', the non-motorised user route between Linton and Cambridge. The route of this, through Abington, is still TBD with the likelihood the preferred route will be via Pampisford Road and not through the village centre.

Local Highways Improvement Scheme

The Local Highways Improvement scheme (LHI) is now open and will remain open for bids until early January. The scheme allows parish councils/community groups to bid for small scale schemes that will improve the local highway network, such as reduced speed limits, doubly yellow lines, re-modelled junctions etc.

It's worth noting that this year the criteria scoring the schemes has slightly changed. The simpler, more straight forward, schemes, such as reduced speed limits, mobile speed cameras etc, will be looked at separately to the more complex, expensive schemes so that they aren't in direct competition – in theory increasing their chances of success. Full detail of this is yet to be released but we will circulate once it has been.

Full detail and application forms can be found at - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/local-highway-improvement-funding>

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

Ukrainian Refugee Update

The most recent data shows that 720 Ukrainian guests have now arrived in South Cambridge over 71 parishes. SCDC officers have made 278 welfare visits and have undertaken 790 DBS checks.

Due to the cost of living, an additional payment of £150 per month is being offered to hosts and council officers are directly contacting host families with this offer.

If you know anyone interested in becoming a host, then please do contact the District Council – HFULiaison@scambs.gov.uk

Electric Vehicle Charging Grant

It is expected that proposals will be approved by the end of November for a new grant scheme to parish councils and operators of community buildings, for grants of up to £5,000 to support installation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points in order to encourage electric vehicle uptake within the district.

This would be for 'fast' chargers (7-22kW). Installations of a dual-socket 7kW chargers are typically £6,000-8,000 so this scheme could complement existing funding such as the Government's On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme, or could top up existing funds for EV charging.

In addition to serving residents without off-street parking it also allows anyone visiting South Cambs villages to recharge while they visit, for whatever reason it might be, effectively doubling their EV range.

Cultivate Cambs Grant

Cambridgeshire County Council has announced that the next deadline for Cultivate Cambs grant applications will be 16 December, with pre-application advice appointments beginning the month before.

Cultivate Cambs awards grants of £2,000 to £15,000 for new initiatives which support adults and older people with care and support needs, and children, young people and families, to live independently, safe and well in thriving and inclusive communities. The fund is open to voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises based in and outside of Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. Project proposals must benefit Cambridgeshire residents and also reduce pressure on council services.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.cambscf.org.uk/cultivate-cambs>

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