

District and County Councillors' Report – March 2023

A1307 Update

The upgrades to the A1307 are moving forward at some pace now. The Greater Cambridge Partnership (the body implementing these schemes) are now in the final phases of making the changes to 'our' section of the road, between Haverhill and the A11. The next phases that are being constructed are:

1. Completing the improved footpath between Pilgrims (previously Dalehead Foods) and Hildersham. This work includes the removal of the eastbound layby as that is needed to accommodate the widened path. This work has started now and will take a few months to complete.
2. The installation of a new roundabout at the Bartlow Road, Linton junction of the A1307. This is a relatively major piece of infrastructure and will take at least 9 months to complete. There will be minimal disruption whilst the work is happening as the plan is to construct a temporary carriageway around the construction site so that the A1307 will very rarely need to fully close. There will be some other road closures as a part of the works, so there may be some slight disruption to residential streets.

20mph schemes

The County Council have now implemented a new 20mph speed reduction scheme. This is where parishes can apply for specific roads to be considered for a reduction in speed down to 20mph, which may not have always been in line with policy, previously.

Full details and application - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-the-local-highway/20mph-funding>

Acorn Bioenergy Proposal - Suffolk

For those wondering what all of the 'Muck Off' (great slogan) signs are relating to in and around Haverhill, these are referring to a proposal by a bio energy company to build a new plant just on the Suffolk side of the border, on the outskirts of Haverhill. The company is called Acorn Bioenergy and their website is here - <https://www.acornbioenergy.com/> - there is a lot of interest in this site, particularly from the Suffolk side of the border, as there are concerns about the environmental impact of the surrounding area, specifically smell, noise, traffic etc.

A planning application is suspected to be submitted this year, which will be decided by Suffolk County Council. It's an interesting scheme that will have an effect on our area, especially those in the vicinity of the site, so do keep your ear to the ground and feel free to comment on the planning application, when it is submitted and in the public domain.

Cambridge City Car Parks

There was a news release last month saying that the cost of the car parks in Cambridge (Grand Arcade etc) will be increasing this year, by around 20p per hour.

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

Weston Colville Warm Hub

Cambridgeshire ACRE and South Cambs District Council are working with communities all across the district to open Warm Hubs to help people struggling with fuel cost or just wanting an opportunity to get together. There are now 20 up and running with another 7 on the way. Weston Colville has opened its first Warm Hub, which is open:

- Reading Room - Monday - Friday - 11am – 5pm

Electric Vehicle Charging

The District Council has introduced a grant of up to £5,000 per application for electric vehicle charging points on community/public buildings within the district. It's a great opportunity for us to expand our electric charging network and make our area more accessible for those wanting to travel here via electric vehicle.

<https://www.scamb.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/grants-funding-and-community-support/electric-vehicle-charge-point-grant/>

Asylum Seekers

The government has announced that they are going to use the hotel at Bar Hill as temporary accommodation for asylum seekers. This will be for families and single woman. The local authorities do not have any role in this arrangement, we do assist refugees such as those from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria but asylum seekers who do not have permission to stay are the responsibility of government agencies. Local schools and health facilities in Bar Hill will be supporting the people that come.

Contact Information

District Council – Geoff Harvey – geoff.harvey@gmail.com

County Council – Henry Batchelor – henrybatchelor89@gmail.com