County Councillor Report for Parishes – July 2023 – Cllr Anna Bradnam

Children's Services

Children's Services, with staff previously shared with Peterborough are being teased apart and new appointments are being made for Cambridgeshire. **Martin Purbrick** has been appointed as the new Executive Director for Children, Education and Families**. Jonathan Lewis**, Service Director for Education will be returning to work solely for Cambridgeshire. **Samantha Howlett**, has stepped up to the role of acting Director for Children's Social Care and Targeted Support. **Brian Relph** is the Interim Director for Quality Assurance for Children's Care, and until a new Director for the Fostering Service is appointed, I as Chair of the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee, will be working with Brian as we consider the needs of our Children in Care.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Support for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) in Cambridgeshire is now available through a new information hub.

The website has been developed with local experts such as parents, health professionals and community organisations, and has been produced to help families and young people navigate the special needs journey and access information and advice.

Adults and Health – initiatives to reduce smoking

There are an estimated 62,500 smokers in Cambridgeshire (13.2% of the population) and national estimates suggest that smoking costs society approximately £12.6 billion a year - including costs to social care, the NHS and lost productivity. Since 2011 there has been a downward trend in smoking rates in Cambridgeshire, but in Fenland, rates are increasing at 27.8% of the population.

On 29 June the Adults and Health Committee agreed a strategy with shared targets to cut smoking and improve health. The strategy includes new research into the behavioural obstacles for local people in their efforts to stop smoking, new public campaigns, an emphasis on a 'whole school' approach to deterring young people from starting smoking, to increase the number of people using stop-smoking services and tightening up enforcement action against the sale of illegal tobacco.

Unpaid Carers' Experiences of Domestic Abuse

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership are working with partner organisations to improve the support available to unpaid (family) carers who are experiencing domestic abuse from the person they are caring for.

Unpaid carers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough can complete an anonymous survey about their experiences of domestic abuse and how support and services can be improved for survivors. The survey is completely anonymous and confidential. The survey has been given approval by Cambridgeshire County Council's Research Governance Framework.

The survey is available at https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WVCYQY/ and will be open from 13th June to 13th August 2023

Highways and Transport

County Councillors are set to consider ways to improve transport across Cambridgeshire at the Highways and Transport Committee (4 July).

Public transport has a key role to play in delivering the Council's ambition to improve safe and sustainable travel across the County, and so at the meeting Members will discuss the

current challenges and the potential means to improve public transport and access for communities and businesses in Cambridgeshire.
They will also consider information resulting from recent activities that have been undertaken by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, and Greater Cambridge Partnership, aimed at improving public transport and connectivity.
The report that Councillors will consider highlights that there is strong support being fed back from all recent consultations for an improved public transport offer across Cambridgeshire, in particular improvements to bus services. The bus market outside London has remained deregulated since 1985 and private bus companies focus on providing services that they feel are the most commercially profitable for their shareholders, although some services are kept viable by public sector subsidies. This means the bus network is not based on the connectivity needs of all of our communities nor does it seek to plan for future demand. Deregulation also limits the ability to create an integrated bus offer which delivers a single ticketing and timetabling system across the whole network.
During the COVID-19 pandemic the government did provide bus subsidies - but as these have been gradually phased out, many less profitable routes have come under threat - with 18 of those threatened, now being supported on a temporary basis via intervention from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). *(Services like the 9 which were curtailed have not yet been re-supplied on the original route. AB)*
The report confirms that improvements to the bus network offer the fastest way to improve public transport in the immediate to short term. However, to secure sustainable and transformational change, long term financial investment will be needed.
There are a range of ways available to local areas to raise the required funding, which include but are not limited to, a sustainable travel zone (such as that consulted on as part of the Making Connections programme), mayoral precept, workplace parking levy, future bids to central government, and direct subsidies from developers and large employers, as already happens with the U bus in Cambridge.
Later in July, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Board is also set to consider and discuss bus franchising options, which would enable public sector control of the bus network, against alternative reform options.
Members of the committee will be invited to note the strategic direction of the council and its partners to improve transport, and current activities in support of this, the results of the GCP Making Connections consultation – and to note that subject to identification of a preferred option by the GCP Board, that an outline business case must first be developed to inform any future decision by Full Council on any Sustainable Transport Zone.
The officer recommendations are
a) Note the overall current strategic objectives of the Council and its partners for the improvement of transport and connectivity for the County as outlined at 1.1
b) Note the current activities on the implementation of the Bus Strategy, and the relationship between the City Deal Programme and the Bus Reform Model being advanced by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)
c) Note the results of the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Making Connections consultation as set out in Appendix A
d) Note that, subject to identification of a preferred option, any future decision will require the development of an Outline Business Case (OBC) that would be considered by Full Council in October 2023.

The Highways and Transport Committee will meet at the Council's New Shire Hall headquarters from 10am on 4 July, but the meeting will be live streamed on the council's YouTube channel. The committee papers can be found on the council's website.

Procurement of Civil Parking Enforcement Services

At the same meeting the Council will be deciding whether to authorise officers to seek a service for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District. This would enable us to enforce against illegal parking, with the fines generating revenue to run the service.

High Ditch Road, Fen Ditton

White edge lines have painted along High Ditch Road and up to the railway bridge. Hoorah!

Countywide Quality of Life Survey

The County Council is conducting an annual countywide survey, speaking to 5,500 residents to understand their views on the quality of their lives. The annual survey aims to track the responses over time to see how changes to council decisions and policies affect people's views, and to give Members vital insight when they make business planning decisions.

The 15-minute telephone survey – run by an independent market research company Thinks Insight and their partner Team Search - aims to speak to people aged 18+ living in each of the five Cambridgeshire district area. In addition, they will talk to people from groups who are harder to reach, including people who may have been homeless or are from migrant or Gypsy/Roma/Traveller communities. The Council is also planning a specific piece of work with younger people via youth engagement teams. You can take part here survey on the County Council's website, if you'd like to.

Night-time disturbance Milton P&R

I raised the issue of (lack of) police attendance at Milton P&R with the Police and Crime Commissioner at the Waterbeach Community Forum on 7 June. I have been raising this as a concern with the Police since March and on Thursday 29th June I submitted yet another report to 101 online and separately emailed the Police Inspector of the Neighbourhood Policing Team saying,

"Please be aware that especially during the long evening s and warmer weather, residents of Milton are being disturbed by noisy driving and donut'ing at Milton P&R and on the A10. The screeching of tyres and the noise of tuned up engines and exhaust systems is very disturbing. I also hear occasional racing up and down Milton High Street and along the A14 to the Fen Ditton junction and back.

You can see the reports from this resident alone go back to October 2022. It is often worse on Thursday/Fri/Sat/Sun nights.

Please can you send patrols round the P&R site whenever you have offices in the area? CCTV imagery would be available via [the County Council]…."

I received the following reply this morning,

"We are aware of the issues and are already patrolling the area at the relevant times when not supporting calls for service. I will ensure these patrols continue and where possible, increased."

I will be raising the policing of Milton P&R at the **Police and Crime Panel on 19 July.**

Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority – Electric Buses – an update

In my last report, I reported that Cambridgeshire received 30 brand new electric, zero emission buses, which will replace some of our older buses and have been used on our P&R sites since 15 May. At a parish meeting in June I was asked about the carbon footprint of the zero emission buses. Darren Roe of Stagecoach confirmed that to charge the buses, **"…all power [is] drawn from the grid and all our electricity is from renewable resources."**

It was also suggested that our **Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service** electric bin lorries might be being charged by diesel generators. I asked the service how the vehicles are being charged and was told,

"What is stated is absolutely not the case. The Waterbeach Depot is a rented premises – the landlord has a grid connection that provides electricity for the premises. Additionally, SCDC has installed a solar PV system on the roof of the main depot building, so part of the electricity we obtain from the grid is actually offset by green on-site produced renewable energy.

GCSWS [Greater Cambridge Waste Service] currently has 3 electric RCVs [Refuse Collection Vehicles] which are charged via on-site electricity (as supplied by the grid and also on-site generated green electricity).

We have deliberately not purchased more electric RCVs until the new Waterbeach Solar PV construction is completed, or we can secure more electricity from elsewhere on the premises."

GCP – Milton Road – bus priority and active travel improvements

From 26 June, works started to move the Cadent gas main. Originally due to be done during the school holidays, the work has been brought forward so that all the major works are done at the same time. Phase 1 is the Arbury Road, Union Lane junction – which will take 6 weeks. Phase 2 is the section past the Milton Arms, past Downham Lane. Single lane traffic will be maintained throughout the works.

More details here Milton Road (greatercambridge.org.uk)

GCP – Waterbeach to Cambridge Busway

Waterbeach to Cambridge (greatercambridge.org.uk) Data from the 2023 consultation is being analysed, alongside carrying out further technical work on the P&R proposals, before it will be considered by the **Executive Board in September 2023.**

It was originally due to be considered in June but it was decided to delay until September. This provides the project team with the time to carry out further technical work on the Park and Ride. One Outline Business Case will be brought to the Board including the preferred route and the preferred Park and Ride.**CP Waterbeach Greenway (Cycle)** Waterbeach Greenway (greatercambridge.org.uk)

As I said in my last report, the preferred route near the railway is unlikely to be feasible, due to flood risk and the difficulty around running next to the railway. District Councillors Rippeth, Bearpark and I have explored options for the route with officers and have fed in our views. There will be a public consultation on any alternative route in October 2023.

GCP Horningsea Greenway (Cycle) Horningsea Greenway (greatercambridge.org.uk)

Following the presentation to the Executive Board Meeting in March 2023, early construction works have started, so that is consultation with landowners, as well as applications for planning, permits and legal orders. There is a useful report here Horningsea Greenway You Said We Did 2023 (greatercambridge.org.uk)

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

CFRS is currently preparing its next plan for 2024-2028 and is seeking residents' views on how to use resources (our taxes). You can take part here. Consultations (cambsfire.gov.uk). The survey is open until the end of July and you could win £50 shopping vouchers.

Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund (CPCF)

New funding to improve community facilities - Cambridgeshire County Council

Funding is being made available to improve community buildings across Cambridgeshire to bolster local services. Communities can apply for a grant of up to £40,000 for projects which will improve community cohesion, especially caring for the elderly in the community. Applications can relate to capital funding projects which includes buildings, indoor and outdoor equipment and installation services. Those applying will have to show how their projects will support the council to achieve its vision of becoming a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire through the delivery of **at least three** of its ambitions. These are:

• Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045 • Travel across the county is safer and more environmentally sustainable • Health inequalities are reduced • People enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs • People are helped out of poverty and income inequality • Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised • Children and young people have opportunities to thrive.

Applications which will support the council to achieve the aims and ambitions of its Care Together programme – to keep people remaining independently at home for as long as possible - are particularly welcome.

The fund will open in the summer with successful bids expected to be chosen early in 2024.

anna.bradnam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk 01223 862364 03/07/2023