

County Councillor Report for Parishes – January 2024 – Cllr Anna Bradnam

Highways – Forthcoming roadworks

Horningsea - ST JOHNS LANE HORNINGSEA Road closure 02/01/2024 - 01/03/2024

Highway improvement works [CL900SCHEMES-HIGH-ST-H-1](#) Footway repairs. Horningsea residents are looking forward to speed reduction measures to be installed along the High Street, providing they don't block access to driveways. Following discussions with the parish Chair and residents I have been asking for consideration to be given to making all roads adjoining the High Street to be made 20 mph. Returning to a 30 mph limit in Dock Lane and St Johns Lane seems mad, bad and dangerous - and has spawned a forest of poles (for the 30 mph signs). I have asked officers to meet with the parish council to explain their plans.

Waterbeach

NETWORK RAIL BURGESS DROVE WATERBEACH Road closure overnight 06/01/2024 to 06/01/2024 Works for Rail Purposes [KL736BGK-61-20-060124](#)

Milton - Junction 33 interchange - I have reported the new potholes which have opened up on the southbound overbridge since the recent re-surfacing (Nov/Dec 2023). Temporary repairs have been done but I hope more permanent finishing will be done soon.

Fen Ditton - Pavement outside 25 High Ditch Road – Following a site visit 7 August 2023 with the Local Highway Officer, the LHO said he would get a quote for works. I am seeking an update 14 December 2023.

Church Street / Green End pavement – on the same site visit we examined the areas of footway that need to be surfaced. Only the section outside the Kings Head was repaired. Latest update - I have requested an update 14 December 2023

Work in the Committees:

Full Council, 12 December 2023

Five motions were debated at the Cambridgeshire County Council full council meeting on 12 December. Four were passed:

1. Noting the crisis in adult social care caused by chronic Government underfunding to councils, and asking officers to be ready to take advantage of any future change in Government policies.
2. Asking the council's Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee to consider actions to ensure a more diverse council.
3. Expressing concern at the lack of availability of NHS dentistry, particularly for our Children in Care and committing to take action to address the problem.
4. Welcoming options for more flexible working, and committing to promote these within the council and among local employers.

County Planning

County planners have received funding of £368,000 to help respond to proposals for major infrastructure in Cambridgeshire, following successful bids for funding from central government.

The monies will help support Cambridgeshire County Council with the administration of Development Consent Orders (DCO) for schemes like East West Rail, the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet upgrade and Fenland Reservoir, as well as others known as Nationally Important Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) like the Wastewater Treatment Centre Relocation. The funding award comes following representations from the County Council to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities (DLUHC) highlighting the

importance of supporting local authorities, as Councils like Cambridgeshire face increasing numbers of these complex schemes, which are put forward by both developers and central government.

Reponse to government 'Cambridge 2040' vision.

The Rt Hon Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, unveiled updated plans for the Government's 'Cambridge 2040' vision on Tuesday 19 December 2023. This plan envisages over 150,000 new homes around Cambridge as part of a major new expansion of the city.

The leaders of Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, and the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, said:

"Despite working hard to engage constructively with Government officials since the Secretary of State's initial Cambridge 2040 announcement in the summer, it's deeply disappointing that once again Government plans for Cambridge seem to be being negotiated through the press.

We note in the latest announcement that the number of new homes put forward by Rt Hon Michael Gove MP has come down from 250,000 to 150,000, but this is still substantially more than the over 50,000 homes we have identified as needed in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (to 2040) - a number which will already be incredibly challenging to bring forward. We are ambitious for high quality sustainable, green growth but can't stress enough how vital it is that Government supports us to tackle the issues that will otherwise act as roadblocks to sustainable growth.

We have written to the Secretary of State a number of times over the past month to stress the importance of committing to sustainable growth, and to reiterate the support that is needed to enable us to plan for the homes set out in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

This includes prioritising sustainable public transport, community infrastructure such as schools and GPs, and water shortages in this region, which are putting our chalk streams under extreme pressure - an issue which the Greater Cambridge Planning Service warned in January 2023 could delay existing plans for housebuilding if not addressed by Government. We are still waiting for responses to these questions which would detail how Government proposes to support us in delivering a proposed 50,000 or so homes responsibly, let alone 150,000.

Clarity is also needed as to who is involved in the 'Cambridge Delivery Group', what it will do, and how it will be governed. Devolution works best when local politicians are empowered to lead and deliver sustainable development and we will continue to work hard to represent our residents and ensure that Cambridge and its surrounding villages grow in a sustainable and carefully planned way."

Following a visit to Cambridge by the Secretary of State in November, leaders from Cambridgeshire County, Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councils, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, the Greater Cambridge Partnership, and local business wrote to urge Government to make a number of commitments, including water supply and transport, necessary to support sustainable growth in the area.

Council Budget Consultation

Consultation is to begin on the council's proposals for its 2024/5 budget, in what is being called 'the toughest year to set a balanced council budget'.

The Government's one-year Local Government Financial Settlement announced last month does not compensate for the levels of demand and inflation the council faces, particularly in children's social care, home to school transport and provision for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities. A fair funding review for local councils promised by the Government has never materialised. As a result all local authorities face significant financial uncertainties. The council proposes a council tax rise of 4.99 per cent (two per cent for adult social care services, and 2.99 per cent for general services) and aims to cover a remaining £2 million gap. A final budget recommendation will be considered at Strategy, Resources and Performance Cttee before being debated at Full Council in Feb. The Council aims to support social services, continue to provide free school meals vouchers for children during holidays, pay the Real Living Wage to those providing adult social care and prioritise highway and cycleway maintenance. Potential savings have been identified:

- Changing to LED streetlights (£1m energy savings each year)
- Rationalising office accommodation (saving £1.5 million over 3 years)
- Reviewing highest cost children's placements and home to school transport (>£2 million)
I am seeking to ensure we retain the school bus from Milton to Impington VC.
- Driving down bad debt (£0.5 million)
- Reviewing income from permits and parking charges (Just under £1 million)

An online public survey has been launched and is open until Tuesday 16 January

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/budget-consultation-2024-5>. Please have your say.

Adults and Health

Covid-19 Like others, I had Covid (again) before Christmas. Thanks to vaccination, most of us have not suffered too badly and my GP surgery advised me no testing was necessary and to view it like flu. Others have been very poorly with recurring waves of illness. So please be aware of your symptoms and be mindful of those who might unexpectedly suffer more severely than yourself, since our responses seem so variable.

Preventing falls

Falls are a major cause of disability and injury-related death in people aged 75 and over, and have a large impact on quality of life. As our population ages, this will become even more of an issue. Around one in three people over 65 years old and half of those over 80 experience a fall at least once a year. In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in 2022/23, there were 2,699 emergency admissions due to falls and 1,015 admissions due to a hip fracture. The estimated combined total cost of these hospital admissions was £16.3 million, an increase of over £1.9 million on the previous year.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Adults and Health Committee has endorsed a three-year **Falls Prevention Strategy** and detailed delivery plan, working with the Cam & Pet Falls Prevention Strategy Group. The aim is to reduce the number of hip fracture admissions, and to improve the quality of life of those who experience a fall or fracture.

Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee

Holiday Voucher Scheme

The supermarket voucher scheme continued to operate over this Christmas school holiday for all eligible families in Cambridgeshire. Cambridgeshire County Council is running the

scheme until the February 2024 half term using the Household Support Fund from the Department for Work and Pensions and additional funding provided by the Council. Eligible families are automatically emailed vouchers which can be used at a choice of 10 supermarkets. The voucher scheme has been a huge success since it was introduced and appreciated keenly by families struggling in the current financial climate. In addition to the holiday voucher scheme, there is further support available in response to the cost of living, which can be found here: [Support with the cost of living - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Libraries offer a helping hand to stay connected this winter

A successful pilot scheme offering free mobile SIM cards to those unable to afford internet access is now available in eleven of Cambridgeshire's libraries. Cambridgeshire Libraries have signed up to the National Databank, an initiative run by Good Things Foundation which provides free mobile SIM cards to anyone over the age of 18 who is on a low income.

Environment and Green Investment Committee

Cambridgeshire residents who wish to use Royston Household Recycling Centre in Hertfordshire will now need to apply for a digital permit. Hertfordshire County Council announced last year it would be restricting access to non-residents at Hertfordshire's network of sixteen recycling centres.

However, the county council has reached an agreement with HCC that enables continued cross-border access to Royston HRC for Cambridgeshire residents living close to the county boundary, whilst allowing Hertfordshire residents to use Thriplow HRC in South Cambs. Resident-only policies are becoming increasingly common across the region and indeed the country, with many neighbouring counties having had this policy in place for some time.

Highways and Transport

20mph speed limit for Ely approved A city-wide 20 mph zone for Ely has been approved following a consultation and a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process.

Electric vehicle charging

An estimated 10,000 public electric vehicle charge point sockets will be needed across Cambridgeshire by 2030, as motorists choose electric vehicles over more polluting petrol and diesel cars. The sale of new petrol and diesel cars is set to be banned by government from 2035. Using up to £5 million in Local Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding, the council is working with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority on how to meet this need, with fewer than 500 public charge points currently installed. Officers will develop a plan informed by technical mapping and seek public engagement to find suitable charge point locations. They will report back to the Highways and Transport committee in March, prior to a decision by the Environment and Green Investment Committee later in 2024.

Civil parking enforcement starts in South Cambridgeshire

New Civil Parking Enforcement powers are now in effect across South Cambridgeshire following a decision by Government. Drivers are now far more likely to receive a fine for parking incorrectly where there are restrictions, such as on single or double yellow lines.