

District and County Councillor's Report – October 2020

A1307 Update

After protests by Parish Councils and Local Councillors there has been a U-turn on the decision to drop the plans for a lights-controlled crossing at Hildersham. The crossing is back on the table and work is going on to try and overcome the problem of land acquisition that was one of the reasons the crossing was in doubt. We hope that local landowners will help to make this much needed safe crossing of the A1307 possible.

(Another) GCP Consultation

The GCP will be consulting on their preferred new off-road route between the new travel hub/park & ride site and Cambridge. The consultation opens on October 12th and closes December 7th. The documents can be seen online at - <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/cambridgesoutheast/cambridge-south-east-transport-eia>

Call for Sites

Many of you will have seen with interest the list of sites around South Cambridgeshire that were put forward by developers and landowners in our area. It is very important to stress that this is the initial raw list of ALL sites that have been submitted to SCDC. None have been judged by planning officers for suitability and the majority will be discounted at the first stage. We will hear back from the council, in around a year, as which ones are deemed to have some potential housing benefit to the area and therefore will be going through to the next stage.

Local Electricity Bill

In a motion backed unanimously at the most recent Full Council meeting, members of the District Council expressed their support for the cross-party bill which is currently making its way through Parliament.

The aim of the legislation is to permit smaller scale green energy schemes, such as community buildings with solar panels or community wind turbines, to supply this electricity locally via the grid. Currently the costs involved mean it is not viable for smaller scale schemes to sell electricity direct to local consumers; instead, they must sell it to a utility company who then sells it on.

Solar Together

South Cambs outstripped other participating Councils with well over 2,000 applications to the Solar Together Cambridgeshire group buying scheme for solar panels. SCDC worked with Cambridgeshire County Council to deliver the initiative, which is a group-buying scheme to help residents and businesses purchase high-quality and competitively priced solar panels and battery storage systems for solar panels. The scheme has now closed for registration, but if the final outcome of the initiative is successful, we cannot see why there should not be further rounds in the future.

South Cambs Hall

South Cambridgeshire Hall initially closed to the public back in March at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. It re-opened, for pre-booked appointments only, on Tuesday 15 September. Since then, fewer than 30 residents have visited the office as the vast majority of queries continue to be dealt with via the Council's website, My South Cambs portal, online platforms such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom or by phone. As a result, to help minimise the spread of Coronavirus, the building will be closed to the public once again.

Civil Parking Enforcement

There was general agreement at SCDC's latest Full Council that evaluation of the options for civil parking enforcement for South Cambs should continue. Currently the police have the responsibility to enforce parking restriction but in practice it is understandably a low priority for them. South Cambs officers have been studying the options for a while now but pressure is mounting for some action on this. There is a particular problem along the City / South Cambs border areas City have civil parking enforcement in place which exacerbates the problem in neighbouring South Cambs, where people know they are less likely to receive parking ticket.

Covid Community Grant

South Cambs will, on W/C October 13th, release a new grant available for community groups supporting people with Covid related issues. There is £50,000 available in the pot and we will send around the details once the grant is live.

Resurfacing

The County Council have released the latest list of roads which have been selected for a light resurfacing. These are namely: Linton – Chalklands, Palmers Close & Finchams Close. Castle Camps – High Street. Shudy Camps – Parkway. West Wickham – Maypole Croft. Some good news for the areas that are benefiting from this work, which is currently planned for December.

Marshall Airfield Move

Marshall's airport has officially announced the new site that they will be moving to. It's the Cranfield site, which is in Bedfordshire. You may remember that one of the sites considered was Duxford, some will be relieved it isn't moving there and others will be disappointed that the business is leaving the county.