

## **District and County Councillor's Report – November 2024**

### **Community Roadshows**

The District Council have organised a series of in-person community roadshows, alongside some of their partners, to showcase the community services and grants that they have available for local communities to apply for. These roadshows are a great opportunity to see exactly what resource the local councils in South Cambridgeshire have for us to tap into, a lot of which we may not know about.

We're pleased to see that there is one being held in Linton, to cover our area. Please do register to attend if you have an interest in this opportunity.

This event is on November 12<sup>th</sup> between 7pm and 8pm and you need to register attendance beforehand

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/linton-community-roadshow-tickets-1030034590187?aff=oddtcreator>

If people can't make the Linton event there are two others that anyone can attend:

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Melbourn Hub – 6:30pm - 7:30pm

November 28<sup>th</sup> – Impington Village College – 6pm – 7pm

### **Residents Parking Scheme Consultation**

There is a consultation opening on October 31<sup>st</sup> and running until December 12<sup>th</sup> on proposed changes to the County Council's policy on Residents Parking Schemes. This is to attempt to make the policy marry up with the new Civil Parking Enforcement officers (traffic wardens) that have been operational in South Cambridgeshire since February this year. Some people approach us about implementing residents parking schemes in specific areas. If you, or anyone you know, feel strongly about this policy, please do comment - <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/residents-parking-scheme-policy-review>

### **Kingsway Solar Farm**

The proposal by Downing Renewables/Kingsway Solar for a very large new solar farm on the land between Balsham, West Wratting and West Colville, will be moving forward for informal public consultation starting on October 31<sup>st</sup>. This is an 'informal' consultation being run by the proposers of the scheme, who are looking to gather local feedback on the plans, as they currently stand. We understand that this consultation will involve public events, an online webinar as well as marketing material to be posted to every property within a kilometre of the proposed site.

It's worth reiterating that, given the size and scale of this scheme, the decision to approve, or not, will be made by a central government planning inspector, rather than any of the local planning authorities. This will be a major development covering a very large part of our countryside, if it does go ahead, so please do engage if you have any views on this proposal.

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

### **Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) update**

The upgrades that we have seen on our stretch of the A1307 over the past 5 years have been a part of a wider package of upgrades in South Cambridgeshire to improve transport to and from Cambridge and employment sites. Those that have kept tabs on this will recall that there was a proposal for a new Transport Hub (park & ride site) just outside Babraham and a new off-road bus route linking the new Hub to the hospital site. This part of the scheme had stalled over the past few years but is now moving forward, the County Council agreed to proceed to the next stage, which is to present a business case to a government inspector, who will decide whether this proposal is sound or not.

An important part of this scheme is that the Linton Greenway, which currently finishes in Abington, can't progress until there is an agreed plan for what will be happening on the Cambridge side of the A11.

### **Bus Franchising Consultation**

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) launched a consultation on the concept of bus franchising in the county and how the authority can help reform bus travel. It's a very big step forward, as the idea of introducing a road charge in Cambridge to pay for more busses in Cambridgeshire has been binned, this is a more realistic alternative to improving public transport, but will involve more public funding to get it off the ground and possibly an increase in the Mayor's precept to help fund it, so please do contribute to the consultation if possible.

<https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-franchising-consultation/>

The consultation runs until November 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Police Community Engagement Panel**

Cambridgeshire Police hold quarterly public forums where they give updates on the service in South Cambs as well as take questions from the public. The next one is to be held online on November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. To register for the event, follow this link - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/south-cambridgeshire-community-engagement-meeting-november-2024-tickets-772923213137?aff=oddtcreator>

### **Household Support Fund**

Every year the County Council manages a fund called the Household Support Fund which is aimed to support individuals who are in receipt of benefits. The fund has different tranches of application and is currently asking for applications from 'Trusted Partners'. Direct applications will be opening soon so please do keep an eye on this, as it is a very popular and helpful pot of money that we can tap into.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/household-support-fund>

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

### **Mobile Warden Scheme**

The District Council has had a scheme running for many years, aimed at supporting mobile warden schemes within South Cambridgeshire. They have just agreed to continue this scheme for another 10 years. Applications to extend existing schemes or start new schemes are now open -

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/mobilecommunity-warden-scheme>

### **Winter Gritting Scheme**

The County Council is always looking for people to volunteer to help with community gritting in the winter months. If you're interested in this, please do register via the website or your local Parish

Council - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/gritting-roads-cycleways-and-paths/help-with-gritting-and-clearing-snow>

### **Small Business Support Grant**

The District Council have announced a new grant which is available to support small businesses in South Cambs. Small businesses can apply for up to £5,000 from a £100,000 pot and is a part of the wider Rural Prosperity Scheme, mentioned below, from the Combined Authority.

SCDC still offers free advice to small businesses and startups. Full detail can be found here -

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/small-business-grant/>

### **High Street Improvement Grant**

There is a new grant available from the Combined Authority, facilitated by the District Council, aimed at supporting local business, charities, community groups and parish councils. There is between £5,000 and £20,000 per project available. Please do take a look at the criteria and apply if eligible.

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/improving-the-high-street-grant>

### **Local Highways Officer Update**

Our local highways officer (LHO), Bradley Southwell, has now moved to cover a different area of Cambridgeshire. This leaves our area without a permanent LHO and the workload is being covered by a collection of other officers until a permanent appointment can be made. The message is keep reporting highway issues via the County Council website.

### **Contact Details**

District Council – John Batchelor – [johndbatchelor23@gmail.com](mailto:johndbatchelor23@gmail.com)

County Council – Geoff Harvey – [geoff.harvey@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.harvey@gmail.com)