

County Councillor report - Sawston & Shelford Division

Maria King & Brian Milnes

February 2022

Update on 20 mph schemes

Progress on introducing new 20mph speed limits to improve transport safety in Cambridgeshire was discussed at the Highways and Transport Committee on 25 January. It examined how the council could establish a new process for the implementation of 20mph schemes. This would allow third parties – such as Parish Councils - to make an application for a 20mph limit in their chosen area, with a number of schemes then progressing following a period of assessment and prioritisation.

There are two types of 20mph schemes which can be introduced by the council – 20mph limits and 20mph zones. A 20mph limit typically covers individual or a small numbers of streets and requires signs only, while 20mph zones typically cover larger areas and require both signs and markings.

The former are more cost effective, but the latter have been found to have a greater impact in reducing speed limits, especially when accompanied by traffic calming measures. It is anticipated that details outlining how applications for 20mph schemes will be prioritised, once submitted, will be brought to a committee meeting later this year.

LHI schemes application

Well done to all parishes who presented proposals for the LHI schemes in our villages on 31 January. The results will be announced later in the year.

Thakeham and Southwest Cambridge Action Group: update for parish councils (mostly notable for Harston, Hauxton and Haslingfield)

Local Parish Council representatives have been invited to attend a virtual meeting with the Head of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, Stephen Kelly, in early February, for an update on the Local Plan and OxCam Arc in relation to Thakeham's 'Southwest Cambridge' affected villages.

Thanks to all who responded to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals, which make it clear that Thakeham's vision for 25,000 homes in and around our villages is simply not compatible with the principles of sustainable development. Thakeham's only route is via top central government channels where power exists to override local democracy.

Cambridgeshire County Council Budget

The Joint Administration is to consider a 4.99% rise in order to close the authority's £16m budget gap this year. Next year's funding gap is likely to be even worse. 4.99% would mean an extra charge of £1.04 per week for a Band B, and £1.19 for a Band C household. More than half of all homes in Cambridgeshire are in these two bands. Local government experts who visited in summer highlighted that historic decisions not to raise council tax in previous years had led to significant ongoing lost income to support services. The council is also proposing to set up and spend a £14m fund over the next five years to tackle inequality, improve lives and care for the environment.

The council consulted residents at the end of last year about spending priorities. It visited a representative sample of residents at home and launched an online survey.

In its first year, if agreed, the Just Transition fund will fund schemes that increase flood prevention in the county, continuing a recent rapid increase in gully clearing. It will also work towards tackling climate change; widen opportunities for children with special educational needs and disabilities; increase independent living services and expand direct payments and individual service funds – where adults assessed as needing support can choose and

manage their own care services; and Expand the 'Care Together' programme, providing care services close to where people live.

Mobile Library

CCC operates Mobile Library Vans which are free to join and use. Each Mobile Library vehicle carries up to 3,000 items of stock including fiction, non fiction, large print, books on CD & cassette and books for children of all ages. You can request books/cassettes/CDs/DVDs and they have access to all the books in Cambridgeshire Libraries. You can also request books online to collect from the mobile Library on our next visit.

Any books borrowed from the Mobile Library can be returned to any other Cambridgeshire Library and you can return books from other libraries to us, so no need to worry about missing your due date. You can renew and order books online and all vehicles have a lift for wheelchair users or those who find stairs difficult. You can also find free Hearing Aid batteries, sell stamps and reading glasses. You can view stops at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/mobiles/find-a-mobile-library-stop>

Household Support Fund

Reminder! There are circa 7,500 people in South Cambridgeshire receiving universal credit. They have recently lost out on the £20 weekly uplift and in the context of the rising fuel prices, unemployment due to Covid and growing cost of living we expect to see more and more people struggling to pay the bills. We are hoping to arrange some extra payments direct to individuals on universal credit, in the meantime we hope you can share that there's support available through the fund for those who need it. The criteria and a simple application form [here](#).

A poster for the Household Support Fund. The background is a photograph of a small white house model sitting on a red knitted blanket. In the top right corner, there are logos for HM Government and Cambridgeshire County Council. The text is as follows:

Do you need help this Winter?

Are you struggling to buy food or to pay for household bills?

The Household Support Fund is designed to provide short-term financial support for people struggling to pay for essentials such as food, heating and water.

Get in touch and see how the Household Support Fund could help you.

To apply directly to the Household Support Fund, please go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/household-support-fund or call 0345 045 5219

Maria.king@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Brian.Milnes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk