

## County Councillor report - Sawston & Shelford Division

(includes Sawston, Little and Great Shelfords, Stapleford, Babraham, South Trimpington, Hauxton, Harston, Newton and Haslingfield)

Brian Milnes (Brian.Milnes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) & Maria King (Maria.king@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

January 2023 update

### Government settlement

Just before Christmas the Government issued its 'provisional local government finance settlement'—the annual indication to councils of the money they will have available for local services next year. The Government proposes that Cambridgeshire County Council's 'core spending power' (the overall revenue funding available for council services) should increase by 9.5 per cent.

However

- That is less than the current rate of inflation, so overall it will buy less.
- Half of the 9.5 per cent is from the council's power to raise council tax—in other words, the Government expects local tax payers to shoulder a lot of the extra costs.
- Some of the remainder replaces lost business rates income

### Director of Public Health annual report

The annual report of Cambridgeshire's Director of Public Health to the Adults & Health Committee in December argued strongly in favour of universal, rather than targeted, approaches to health inequalities. She observed that targeted public health interventions risked missing the majority of people needing these services. Her conclusions and recommendations were as follows.

The renewed interest and commitment to tackling health inequalities as a result of the pandemic, is very much welcomed. Historic approaches at tackling these inequalities have not been successful, in fact inequalities have widened.

The automatic response to tackling inequalities is to target, however, as demonstrated in this report, universal approaches can be far more effective at reducing inequalities, than targeted approaches. Universal approaches are also necessary in identifying those individuals who are in need of further intervention. Targeting has also often been carried out on geographical basis or using IMD [Index of Multiple Deprivation] quintiles, as argued in this report, this can often lead to the majority of individuals in need, being missed.

To be fair to our residents we need to successfully reduce inequalities in health outcomes. To be successful in this we must be more intelligenceled and evidence-based.

We need to:

- Keep a focus on universal interventions as a key way of improving outcomes, reducing inequalities in health in our population.
- Make sure that any universal offer is systematically planned and delivered to enable access to all and give additional support according to need.
- Start early (pregnancy and childhood) before inequalities become entrenched.
- Ensure that any targeted intervention is based on need, ideally through universal identification of need or risk rather than grouping by easily available information such demographics or geography evidence-led as to approach.
- Be transparent and explicit around considerations for interventions clearly articulating the proposed individual and population benefits, draw first on evidence-based approaches with proven cost effectiveness and where evidence is not available, research and evaluate the impact of new and innovative approaches.

### Mobile library service review

A review of the Council's mobile library service took place last year, resulting in a number of improvements. Twenty-one additional stops were added and routes were rearranged, enabled by storing vehicles within communities, rather than centrally.

- Mobile libraries are now available to the public nearly 20 per cent longer, due to reduced driving between stops.
- Travel has been reduced, with over 150 fewer miles travelled a month and so less fuel used.
- The service visited several events around the County, such as Thriplow Daffodil weekend, Ely and Cambridge Prides, fetes in Sutton, numerous outdoor The Library Presents events, Our Place in Space, and many more summer fetes by local staff using the new book bikes.
- 300 new members joined between May and September; and there were 6,296 visits to the vehicles and over 20,000 items issued—a stronger recovery than many of the service's static libraries to pre-pandemic levels.
- Bessie the book bike and Jessie the Jubilee bike attended twelve events to raise awareness for the service, including a royal reception at Cambridgeshire Day.

## **Sofas, chairs and bin bags have been banned from recycling centres from January 2023**

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are found in various Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS) such as sofas and upholstered dining chairs. Such materials should not be landfilled. The law against landfilling of POPs was introduced in 2007, but the Environment Agency recently announced it would become more rigorous in its enforcement.

The Environment Agency announced in August 2022 that it would soon expect councils to cease landfilling upholstered seating, and instead to incinerate it. It published its Final Regulatory Position Statements on this matter on Monday 19 December 2022, with implementation starting on Sunday 1 January 2023. The short notice over Christmas has provided little time to organise incineration capacity, and the Council is therefore seeking an extension of at least a month while it works through options and liaises with its waste contractor Thalia (formerly Amey) and with the district councils who collect Cambridgeshire's waste. This does however mean that from 1 January the Council will not be able to dispose of soft furnishings until a method of disposal acceptable to the Environment Agency has been identified and put in place.

## **20MPH schemes**

The Highways & Transport Committee approved the changes to the Council's policy on 20MPH speed limits outlined in last month's report. The proposed timetable for applications for funding for new 20MPH speed limits is as follows.

- Go 'live' with application process on-line for new schemes (February 2023)
- Application period (February to April 2023)
- Prioritisation (May to June 2023)
- Committee report for approval (July 2023)
- Programming and delivery of schemes (August 2023 onwards)

## **Local Highway Improvement scheme updates**

The deadline for applications for Local Highway Improvement schemes for the 2023/24 round is 5:00PM on Friday 6 January 2023. Applicants can apply for funding of up to either £25,000 for complex projects or £10,000 for non-complex projects. These can include applications for lorry weight limits. The applicant is expected to provide a minimum of 10 per cent towards the total scheme cost.

## **Making Connections consultation**

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Making Connections 2022 consultation closed on Friday 23 December. Around 23,000 responses have been received, and the Greater Cambridge Partnership expects to publish a final report on the consultation outcomes and next steps, for consideration by its Board in June 2023.

The consultation is about proposals for public transport improvements, and better cycling and walking options, as well as about the element which has been most talked about: establishing a sustainable travel zone in Cambridge which involves a charge for driving in, out and within the zone. Any decision on a charge for driving on roads in Cambridge—or anywhere else in the county—would be a matter for Cambridgeshire County Council.

There is an expectation that the proposals in the consultation, including the proposal for a congestion charge, will be subject to change following public response to the consultation. As elected representatives we will be taking greatest care to understand the responses from our residents and balance the urgent need to reform our public transport with concerns brought on by the proposals in the current form.

## **Plans for Cambridge South Station gain approval from Department for Transport**

The Department for Transport has granted permission to build the Cambridge South station and carry out improvements at Shepreth Junction. Work will also take place to create a new connection between existing lines at Hills Road to improve access, but construction cannot begin until full details have been approved by the local planning authority. (More info [Cambridge South infrastructure enhancement: Transport and Works Order - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cambridge-south-infrastructure-enhancement-transport-and-works-order))

## **Safe and Dry**

The Council has used a data interpretation and modelling tool to process information about local flood locations. As a result, it has identified a 'Safe and Dry' programme of 115 locations where work is needed to improve flood resilience, and work has begun on the first 50 of these locations. The remaining locations will be kept on a 'long list' for future works, which will be added to on an ongoing basis.

The Council is also in the process of delivering a two-year programme of works to clean and plot all gullies and surface drainage features countywide using the Kaarbontech Asset Management System.

## **King Charles III coronation street parties**

The Council has published guidance for local groups seeking to organise street parties and highways events to mark the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023. All street party applications must be received by the County Council at least eight weeks in advance (Friday 10 March 2023) via the Council's website. Highway Events applications must be submitted at least twelve weeks in advance (Friday 10 February 2023). More information about the process can be found at [Coronation events - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)