

## County Councillor Monthly Report - Sawston & Shelford Division

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

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May 2023

### Coronation events

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all our Parish councils, volunteers and communities for all the wonderful events and activities they organised and ran during the Coronation weekend, and especially on the big volunteering day 8<sup>th</sup> May.



### Cambridge welcomes 30 new electric buses

People will soon be able to travel on 30 new electric buses as part of the largest investment in Cambridge's bus network in a decade to help tackle air pollution and encourage more people to travel by bus.

Residents will be able to travel on the zero-emission, double decker buses as they are introduced into service from Sunday 14 May at the Madingley, Trumpington and Newmarket Road park and ride sites, from Sunday 4 June at the Milton and Babraham park and ride sites and from mid-June on the Citi 2 service. At this point the five Cambridge park and ride and Citi 2 services will be fully electrified and carbon-free\*, and Stagecoach's Cambridge bus fleet will be 31% electric.



The launch of the vehicles took place in Duxford on Friday 12 May, signifying a major milestone in the commitment to a rolling bus replacement programme to replace 30 vehicles a year across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with an ambition to convert the area's entire bus fleet to zero emission vehicles by 2030.

Each vehicle costs close to £500,000 and has been funded by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), Stagecoach East and the Department for Transport following a successful bid to the Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme.

### Road repairs

We are very aware that the state of the road across our Division is terrible. We hope it is helpful to provide some wider context to the reasons we find ourselves in this difficult situation and reassurance about actions being taken by the Council's highways team.

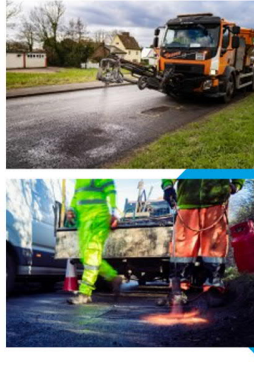
The number of potholes recorded this year is DOUBLE compared to this time last year:

	<i>Outstanding recorded</i>	<i>Repaired</i>
First week of May 2023	10,000	2,700
First week of May 2022	5,000	1,200

## Actions to date

### Doubled the level of resources to respond to increased demand

- 2x Number of Manual Teams
- 2.5x Dragon Patchers
  
- Anticipated additional DfT funding
- Secure resources ahead of other LAs



The key factor in the rapid decline of our road infrastructure is the legacy of underinvestment. This year this is exacerbated by the unusually long spell of freezing weather and significant cost increases (20 to 25% inflation) across the highways maintenance industry.

CCC Officers and our Delivery Partners–Milestone have worked together to secure much needed additional resources ahead of other authorities so we can manage and improve things quickly.

## No mow May

Cambridgeshire County Council will again be supporting bees, butterflies and biodiversity by taking part in 'No Mow May' this month (May).

The council's Highways Maintenance team will pause mowing road verges during May to allow plants like daisies, dandelions, selfheal and clover a chance to thrive.

Letting wildflowers and plants grow freely will provide much needed nectar for pollinators and allow other plants and wildlife to grow and flourish.

'No Mow May' is run by Plantlife, whose mission is to secure a world rich in wild plants and fungi. The organisation encourages garden owners and green space managers to lock up their lawnmower and liberate their lawn for the entire month.

More than 700 species of wildflowers grow on road verges in the UK according to Plantlife – this is almost 45% of the total wildflower species found across the country.

Road safety is a priority for Cambridgeshire County Council, grass cutting will continue in areas where necessary such as junctions or bends. Road signage will also remain clearly visible.

## Covid-19 Spring boosters

People at high risk from becoming severely ill from COVID-19 can soon receive a spring booster. The categories for receiving the booster are:

- People aged 75 or over
- People living in an adult care home
- People aged 5 or above with a weakened immune system

Please wait for the NHS to contact you before trying to book.

Cambridgeshire County Council is looking for new foster carers

Cambridgeshire County Council supports the Fostering Network's Foster Care Fortnight campaign this year to help find more people who can offer loving, stable homes for local young people in care.

Each year, the council's Fostering Service participates in Foster Care Fortnight, the UK's biggest foster care awareness raising campaign, which takes place this year from 15-28 May. Over those two weeks, the Fostering Service will be celebrating its 'fostering communities' - which include carers, children and young people, social workers, and staff - across the city by championing its local carers and care leavers, organising foster walks to raise awareness, and hosting an event to welcome new carers.

To promote the campaign, members of Cambridgeshire's fostering communities will be participating in the Fostering Network's annual 'Foster Walk', which will see staff and carers out and about in towns and cities across the UK to raise awareness.

The Cambridgeshire Foster Walks will take place at the following times and locations:

- 15 May, 12:30pm-1:30pm: Cambridge, Parkside Swimming Pool, Gonville Place, CB1 1LY
- 16 May, 2pm-3pm: St Neots, Riverside Car Park, PE19 7SD
- 19 May, 12pm-1pm: Wisbech, Queen Mary Centre, PE13 2PE

- 23 May, 12:30pm-1:30pm: Huntingdon, Scott House, PE29 3AD

The Fostering Service is also excited to welcome several new carers on 19 May at a celebration event.

As well as finding more homes for teenagers, we are looking for people to foster brothers and sisters, and children with disabilities.

To find out more about fostering for your local council, visit: [Cambridgeshire County Council | Why foster with your local authority](#)

The council also holds regular sessions, both virtually and face-to-face, where a Fostering Recruitment Officer, a Social Worker and an experienced Foster Carers will give an informal presentation to explain everything you need to know about fostering.

For upcoming session dates and to book yourself a free place, visit: [Cambridgeshire County Council | Fostering | Sessions and events](#)