



SAWSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2023
Held at Spicers Pavilion, Cambridge Road - Meeting commenced at 7.15 pm

PRESENT:

Assistant Parish Clerk Jo Keeler

Councillors

Kevin Cuffley

Ian Reeves

Kieran Cooper

Neil Reid

Patrick Thouroude

Deborah Alderwick

Jayne Merrick

David Bard

Paul Smith

Colin Groves

Brian Milnes

Alice Dewey and Pat McGowen – Cambridge City Football Club
+ 2 members of public

**303 REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAMBRIDGE CITY FOOTBALL CLUB TO DISCUSS
PROPOSED GIFTED LAND**

Councillor Kevin Cuffley welcomed Pat McGowen and Alice Dewey from Cambridge City Football Club who gave an update on the proposed gifted land.

Pat McGowen explained that they have now had a second report done on the state of the land with regards to the stones and drainage. The second report states that all the stones larger than 10mm have now been removed from the site and the GMA (Grounds Management Association) has no concerns regarding safety. The drainage is still a problem and the report states that the ground is virtually unplayable between November and March (which is the football season). They would like to know where the parish council is with regards to taking on this piece of gifted land as they are still to erect the floodlights and complete the car park for this area but they won't proceed if the parish council does not take on the land. They understand the parish council would have a considerable cost if they took the gifted land on with regards to drainage (approx. £300k), fencing, security and a new pavilion. Foul drainage would have to be installed by the parish council but all the other utilities are already there to tap into. They would like to know by the end of February what the parish council's decision is.

Councillor Brian Milnes said they hadn't taken into consideration what the land could be used for when they prepared the land and at its present state it is unusable.

Councillor Kieran Cooper asked what the implications are for the club if the parish council does not take on the land. Pat McGowen explained the land is owned by Waterbeach Instruments and leased to CCFC. He went on to explain the land is not worth a great deal and cannot presently be built on so the club would have to continue to maintain the land which would be a cost to them.

Councillor Deborah Alderwick asked if we could use this piece of land for anything other than football/cricket. Councillor Brian Milnes explained we have spoken about a skate park which we could maybe put there but the planning application does state it should be used for recreational facilities.

It was agreed that this will be an agenda item in camera on 24th January for the council to discuss and make a decision.

Councillor Kevin Cuffley thanked them for coming and they left the meeting.

304 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Michael Mallows – Personal
Anand Pillai – Work commitments

305 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR THIS MEETING

Kevin Cuffley/Ian Reeves/Jayne Merrick/Paul Smith – item 313 as on the Kings Coronation Committee

306 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident was in attendance to discuss item 316. Councillor Kevin Cuffley asked if we wanted to bring this item forward as the resident was here.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **seconded** by Councillor David Bard to bring forward item 316.

VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

316 TO DISCUSS SCATTERING OF ASHES PLAQUE IN MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Clerk explained that a resident has requested a plaque to be placed near the memorial garden where ashes have been scattered. There is a board which doesn't have room for any more plaques and the resident was offered a leaf on the new memorial tree but they declined. They have asked if a plaque can be installed on the fence by the memorial garden. This was discussed and agreed that we will allow plaques to be put onto the fence in the area where ashes are scattered but we need to create a policy/form which states how many we allow in total, the size of the plaque and wording which will need to be agreed before installation. This will be deferred to the meeting on 24th January for agreement.

307 CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FULL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2022

The minutes of the Full Parish meeting held on 13 December 2022 were read confirmed and signed.

Councillor Kieran Cooper asked for it to be recorded that we changed two of the street names requested at the previous meetings. Ivy Mallows was refused by SCDC as we couldn't use a full name and Jones as there is already a Jones place so we changed to Pease and Skylark which were the next most voted names.

There is a typing error on item 287.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kieran Cooper and **seconded** by Councillor David Bard to **accept** the minutes.

VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

308 MATTERS ARISING – NEW INFORMATION ONLY

None

309 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

<p>22/05260/FUL</p>	<p>Demolition of existing buildings and the construction of new warehouses at 8 Common Lane.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor David Bard and Seconded by Councillor Kevin Cuffley to object to this application.</p>	<p>Object/Do not support</p> <p>Vote: 11 For Unanimous</p> <p>Comment: Highways are recommending refusal so we should too. Common Lane is very busy and is a tight junction. There are 12 spaces allocated but if this is a warehouse it would create more traffic. Object on lack of analysis of traffic movements and the turning of HGV's.</p>
<p>22/05329/S73</p>	<p>S73 application to vary conditions 1 (Approved plans) and 2 (Materials) of reserved matters application 22/00277/REM (Reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of buildings A1, A2 and B and surrounding land pursuant to outline application ref: S/2284/17/OL) to change the materials of the cladding to Buildings A1 and A2, change the cladding of the plant screens on the roof of Buildings A1, A2 and B, removal of gable end facade fins on Buildings A1 and A2, and additional detail regarding the external finish of the window framing, the colour of the steelwork support framing to the brise soleil and brickwork mortar colours at Unity Campus 10 West Street Pampisford.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor David Bard and Seconded by Councillor Kevin Cuffley to support to this application.</p>	<p>Support/No Objection</p> <p>Vote: 11 For Unanimous</p>
<p>22/05454/HFUL</p>	<p>Erection of a New Garage, Replacement Boundary Wall, New Vehicular Access and Removal of Two Trees at The Grove 112 High Street.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Kieran Cooper and Seconded by Councillor David Bard to object to this application.</p>	<p>Object/Do not support</p> <p>Vote: 11 For Unanimous</p>
<p>22/03363/FUL</p>	<p>Erection of Research and Development buildings (use class E) and associated decked car park, landscaping and associated infrastructure at Dales Manor Business Park Grove Road.</p>	<p>Support/No Objection</p> <p>Vote: 11 For Unanimous</p>

	Proposed by Councillor David Bard and Seconded by Councillor Brian Milnes to support to this application.	
21/03955/CONDA	<p>Submission of details required by conditions 3 (CEMP), 4 (CEcMP), 5 (lighting design for biodiversity), 6 (Farmland Bird Mitigation Strategy), 7 (Arboricultural Method Statement), 8 (Surface Water Drainage), 9 (Surface Water Drainage (Construction)), 10 (TMP), 11(Highway Condition Survey), 13 (Garages), 14 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)), 15 (Foul Water Drainage), 16 (Materials), 17(Landscape Details), 18 (Sustainable Show Homes), 19 (Future Street Management), and 20 (Fire Hydrants) of planning permission 21/03955/FUL at Land South Of Babraham Road.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor David Bard and Seconded by Councillor Brian Milnes to support to this application.</p>	<p>Support/No Objection</p> <p>Vote: 10 For 1 No vote</p>
<u>Tree</u>		
22/1417/TTPO	<p>T1 Lime - reduce to height of 12 - 15 metres (currently 30 metres in height) T2 Lime reduce to height of 12 - 15 metres (currently 30 metres in height) T3 London Plain Remove overhanging branches - approx 4 metres in length T4 Horse Chestnut Remove overhanging branches - approx 4 metres in length T5 London Plain - Remove overhanging branches -approx 4 metres in length T6 London Plan Remove overhanging branches - approx 4 metres in length T7 Sycamore Remove overhanging branches - approx 4 metres in length T8 Horse Chestnut - Crown reduce by 4 meters as over hanging church yard and in very close proximity to the church. to leave the tree approx 20 metres in height and a spread of around 12 metres. T 9 Sycamore - nearest High Street - dead - Fell T10 Sycamore over hanging a listed building – Fell at Sawston Hall Church Lane.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and Seconded by Councillor Jayne Merrick to support to this application.</p>	<p>Support/No Objection</p> <p>Vote: 9 For 2 No vote</p>

Information only plans noted

310 ACCOUNTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2022

The accounts for the month of December 2022 were presented.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kieran Cooper and **seconded** by Councillor David Bard to **accept** the accounts for December 2022.

VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

311 TO AGREE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023/2024

The calendar of meetings for 2023/2024 were presented to the council.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kieran Cooper and **seconded** by Councillor Deborah Alderwick to **accept** the calendar of meetings for 2023/2024 and these can be found on our website.

VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

312 TO DISCUSS FORM FOR MEMORIAL TREE LEAVES AND COST TO RENEW

The Clerk explained that we are now able to offer the memorial leaves for the new tree at the cemetery. The council were presented with a form for relatives to order the leaves with the cost etc. This was discussed. The Clerk also asked if the council wanted to have a renewal policy where relatives are charged £10 every ten years.

It was **proposed** by Councillor David Bard and **seconded** by Councillor Jayne Merrick to use the form presented and charge £55 per leaf (engraved one side) and £65 per leaf (engraved both sides) and to charge £10 each ten years to keep the leaf on the tree.

VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

313 TO DISCUSS KINGS CORONATION/UPDATE

No update, the next meeting is Monday 16th January.

314 TO DISCUSS LEASE FOR LAND LYNTON WAY RECREATION GROUND

The Clerk received the draft lease from the solicitors and all councillors received a copy to read before the meeting.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Kieran Cooper and **seconded** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley to instruct our solicitors to proceed with the proposed lease and ensure there is acknowledgement of the voltage cable that runs underneath the MUGA.

VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

315 TO DISCUSS DAMP ISSUE AT MILL LANE PAVILION AND ROLLER SHUTTER IN KITCHEN

There has been a problem with damp in a couple of rooms at Mill Lane pavilion. The project manager has been out with the builder to look at and monitor and has said that he checked the damp areas in the changing room and toilet again and they continue to dry out with no sign of it spreading or any significant flaking of the paintwork. He thinks if it is left until after the Christmas break then, assuming the building heating is left operating as normal, the walls can be redecorated as suggested before. The builder is very much of the opinion that the damp was caused by excess water laying on top of the flooring, either coming from showers or excessive washing down of the floors or possibly from the pipe leak that was mentioned before.

Councillor Brian Milnes said if it was from the showers then they are not fit for purpose.

Whilst there, they looked at the roller shutter which again was out of its guide channel so inoperative. This was adjusted again so that the shutter hangs slightly lower in the opening (approx 150mm down from the head) which will firmly keep the shutter within the guide rails and should prevent it from jumping out again. These issues were discussed.

The roller shutter will be monitored.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Kieran Cooper and **SECONDED** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley to ask another builder to take a look and recommend what works need doing to rectify the problem.

VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

317 TO AGREE JOINT PLANNING COMPLIANCE POLICY

Planning plays a vital role in managing development, but it can only achieve these objectives if it operates an effective planning compliance service. As part of Greater Cambridge shared planning commitment to delivering an efficient and effective planning compliance regime, GSCP has drafted the Joint Planning Compliance Policy. This policy can be found on the link below.

<https://oc2.greatercambridgeplanning.org/document/1292>

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Kieran Cooper and **SECONDED** by Councillor Jayne Merrick to accept the draft proposal.

VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

318 TO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR CHURCH ARCHITECT FOR ST MARYS WALL

The parish council agreed to go ahead and get the repairs done on the flint wall at St Mary's Church but there are some additional costs for the architect which were not taken into consideration.

Councillor Kieran Cooper explained the contract price for the works is £66k and we have already paid part of the architect's fee. Based on the current contract sum the maximum fee will be £3,582.00 but won't know exact amount until the work has been complete so we should look at an additional fee of £3582.00.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Kieran Cooper and **SECONDED** by Councillor Paul Smith to pay up to £3582.00.

VOTE: 10 FOR : 0 AGAINST 1: ABS

319 TO DISCUSS PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTANT FOR NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

Councillor Kieran Cooper had put together an amended brief separating the book keeping and payroll. This was discussed and agreed to be sent out for quotes and take to the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting in February.

320 TO DISCUSS COUNTY COUNCIL WINTER GRITTING SCHEME

The Clerk asked if the parish council could put an article in the Sawston Scene to explain how the winter gritting scheme from the County Council works and to explain that it can only go ahead if there are volunteers who are willing to complete the training and do the gritting. The parish council do not have the staff to do this. Councillor Brian Milnes also recommended we do this as it needs to be made clear that the responsibility for winter gritting is the County Council and not the Parish Council.

The scheme only applies to footways and footpaths and each parish council decides which footways and paths should be gritted by volunteers. These areas will be covered only for the agreed routes. The County council will not be advised when to grit, they rely on the volunteers as and when required. All volunteers will need to attend training. When gritting has taken

place, a volunteer must record where and when areas have been gritted. Once volunteers have completed the training and returned the registration form, they will be covered by the County Council insurance.

This was discussed and Councillor Kieran Cooper and Councillor Deborah Alderwick offered to write an article for the next edition of the Sawston Scene magazine to explain how it works and asking for volunteers and explain that this is a self-contained group and not through the Parish Council. It was also agreed to write a section for the Chair report.

321 TO DISCUSS THE HIRING OF PAVILIONS

The Clerk explained that we are getting more enquiries for hiring the pavilions for parties which we currently do not allow. As we now have the premises licence at Mill Lane and Spicers pavilion the Clerk asked if we should reconsider especially as we now have our Facilities Administrator who is able to spend time on the bookings. The Clerk also produced updated booking forms for both pavilions which the council received in advance. The only concern from the Clerk was the £250 cleaning/damage deposit with regards to how people can make the payment as not everyone may be able to pay this upfront and many people do online banking now and don't have cheque books.

It was **PROPOSED** by Councillor Kevin Cuffley and **SECONDED** by Councillor Jayne Merrick to allow party bookings at the discretion of the Clerks and look at purchasing a Sumup machine so we would be able to take pre authorised payments for the deposit.

VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

322 UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The update is attached to these minutes and on the parish council website.

323 UPDATE FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The update is attached to these minutes and on the parish council website.

324 CORRESPONDENCE

None

325 COUNCILLORS ISSUES AND AGENDA IREMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960 – it is resolved that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press are asked to leave the meeting during consideration of the sensitive items in reserved matters.

It was **proposed** by Councillor Brian Milnes and **seconded** by Councillor Kieran Cooper to go into camera.

VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

326 CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FULL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2022 (NON-PUBLIC)

The minutes of the Full Parish (non-public) meeting held on 13 December 2022 were read confirmed and signed.

It was **proposed** by Councillor David Bard and **seconded** by Councillor Jayne Merrick to **accept** the minutes.

VOTE: 11 FOR : 0 AGAINST UNANIMOUS

Meeting closed 9.45pm

Sawston Parish Council
Dec-22

	Description	TO PAY	S137
Additional			
SSE	Rec - Spicers electricity 2 Nov - 1 Dec	£103.05	
J Keeler	F&GP - Hotel Chocolat Order for staff	£109.05	
SSE	Rec - Spicers electric 2 Oct - 1 Nov	£109.99	
Honest Employment Law	Staff - Compliance Advice	£114.00	
SCDC	Cemetery - rates	£132.00	
Chubb Fire & Security	F&GP - Contract - test fire alarm/ check extinguishers etc	£190.32	
Shelford Heating	Rec - to investigate heating/boiler problem at Lynton Way pavilion (agreed at FP)	£212.40	
Trinity Publishing	F&GP - Advertising for the Licence at Spicers pavilion (O/N 96)	£288.86	
Adams Harrison Solicitors	F&GP - Legal fees re RTC	£294.00	
SLCC	F&GP - SLCC membership subscription 2023	£296.00	
Grace Solutions	F&GP - Anti Virus/Email spam filtering/Microsoft etc	£337.55	
SCDC	Rec - Spicers rates	£399.00	
Royston & District Community Transport	F&GP - Donation agreed at full parish December	£400.00	
SCDC	Rec - Mill Lane rates	£424.00	
Grace Solutions	F&GP - VOIP phone system for office agreed at FP	£638.28	
Lanham & Co	F&GP - Monthly book keeping	£726.00	
SCDC	F&GP - Office rates	£736.00	
Reach Publishing	F&GP - Village Caretaker advert (Agreed FP Dec 2022) O/N 99	£1,020.00	
Avocet	F&GP - Cleaning contract for month	£1,348.20	
Public Works Loans	F&GP/Recreation - Loan repayments	£11,394.10	
RTC Safety Surfaces Ltd	Rec - Final payment for wetpour repairs on play areas (Agreed FP Dec)	£27,640.00	

If you require larger print for the accounts please contact the Parish Clerk –
parishclerk@sawstonparishcouncil.gov.uk

County Councillor report - Sawston & Shelford Division

(includes Sawston, Little and Great Shelfords, Stapleford, Babraham, South Trumington, 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#))

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](#)

District Councillors' Report – January 2023

Cambridge connections - towards a better bus service

Proposals for a sustainable travel zone in Cambridge are intended to improve local bus services in, and around, the city. The 'Making Connections' consultation on the proposals, which include a congestion charging zone in Cambridge, closed on 23 December 2023 and the responses are now under consideration.

'Making Connections' proposes a low bus fare (£2) and doubling the current timetable. A Cambridge congestion charge (implemented after an improved bus network and new active travel links are established) would fund the bus network into the future. Initial set-up investment in a bus network would come from the Greater Cambridge Partnership, a

temporary body set up to disburse government funding for this growth area. The government funding concerned is contingent on a commitment to road charging, hence the plans for some form of congestion charging in the city.

Responses to the consultation submitted by the Cam Vale Bus User Group made the following points, which seem likely to have been echoed in other responses:

- Bus services should be redesigned, rather than long-standing routes and services being simply increased and replicated as is proposed, in order to attract new users.
- New multiple daily links to all local rail stations should be introduced, properly synchronized with train services
- Direct links should be provided to Cambridge from all villages for morning and evening commutes. Nb. At present getting to Cambridge from Sawston involves up to 29 stops
- There should be integrated single ticketing to protect low overall journey costs
- Traveller confidence must be gained through reliability, good availability of timetables in a variety of formats, with real time information and contact number for emergencies
- Passengers should be served by shelters and seats at bus stops, & toilets at transport interchanges

£2 bus fares this winter

Sawston residents can get a flavour of cheaper bus journeys over the next few weeks through the Government's Bus Fare Cap scheme. This has been introduced on most single fares (including Child and Student fares) on bus journeys across England, including local Stagecoach routes and the Cambridge Park & Ride services. The scheme runs until 31 March 2023 to help people with the cost of travelling to work, education, medical treatment and shopping over the winter months. It will also encourage more people to make local journeys by bus, helping to reduce carbon emissions. It will be interesting to see whether the lower fare attracts new bus users in practice.

Cost of living support

As inflation and the cost-of-living tick upwards, South Cambs District Council has collated information on available financial and social support from a variety of organisations. There is

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a huge amount of helpful advice for everyone, from young families to pensioners, to be found at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/>

Cooking and staying warm

In late November the Council launched a new emergency Go Fund Me campaign which will help finance the response to the cost of living crisis in South Cambridgeshire.

South Cambridgeshire District Council has kick-started the initiative to help provide more vulnerable residents, hit hardest by the cost of living crisis, with lower cost options such as electric blankets and slow cookers, to keep warm and cook.

In the first stage of the scheme, the Council has written to people who receive a 75-85% Council Tax discount as they have been identified as potentially in greatest need of support. This group may be expanded depending on the number of donations received. People eligible will have three weeks to claim the support offered by completing an online form. A phone number is provided for those without internet access to call and go through the form with a member of Council staff.

If more budget becomes available from donations, the scheme will be expanded to more people on lower brackets of council tax discounts. The funding the Council has pledged could see around 400 people supported with free electric blankets and slow cookers but even more can be done if donations are received. At the time of writing, public donations had reached £1,273. If you could help out too, it's easy to donate at

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/scdccostofliving>

Bulky waste collection change - sofas and chairs!

A recent directive from the Environment Agency has meant that, as from 1 January 2023, upholstered items likely to contain persistent organic pollutants (POPs) can no longer be disposed of in landfill. This means that the Council has had to make changes to the way in which it deals with such items. At the time of writing:

- Padded seating (any furniture item with cushioning or padding such as sofas,

settees, sofa beds, dining / office style chairs, futons, pouffes, floor and seating cushions, beanbags etc) can still be accepted at household recycling centres.

- The Council is working on solutions to the collection of such items as bulky waste.
- Other aspects of bulky waste collection remain unchanged

If you have a sofa or other padded seating that you want collected as bulky waste, please check the County Council website for the latest information. In the meantime, residents are being encouraged to consider reuse options such as Gumtree. This situation also affects commercial waste collectors, who are similarly bound by the new restriction. If using such a service, residents should ensure the operator has an appropriate waste disposal licence and that they have retained reliable contact details, so that they do not inadvertently contribute to fly-tipping.

Wishing all residents a happy and successful New Year

Cllrs Libby Earle and Brian Milnes

6 January 2023