

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Report to Haslingfield Parish Council July 2019

Community Chest applications

The Grants Advisory Committee met at the end of June and recommended to the District Council's Finance Portfolio Holder approval of grants for various community projects across South Cambs, including the grant of £581.90 to Haslingfield Little Owls Preschool for the replacement of tables. The Lead Cabinet Member for Finance approved this recommendation the following week.

Street sweeping

A revised plan for targeted street sweeping across the district is coming into operation this month. After submissions both from Haslingfield Parish Council and from ourselves as your district councillors, Haslingfield will be among the first villages prioritised this month for sweeping in the new rolling programme.

M11 Junction 11 Park & Ride

The Executive Board of the Greater Cambridge Partnership met on 27th June and, as expected, approved that the plans for a Park & Ride on Hauxton parish land at J11 of the M11 should be progressed to a full planning application. We will be looking to scrutinise the detailed design proposals very closely as we still have very serious concerns about how the flow of traffic along the A10 is optimised. We reiterate that it is hugely frustrating that poor planning has resulted in the need for the Park & Ride in this location, but we are also extremely concerned that other options will make Harston's traffic problems even worse. We hope to see faster progress now on other GCP interventions that could help, such as the Foxton travel hub.

Local Transport Plan

The consultation on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Local Transport Plan is now live. You can find about the plan and how to contribute to the consultation here:

<https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/aboutus/programmes/transport/ltpl/>

There are many consultation events scheduled throughout July and a few in September – see the link for details. The consultation closes on 27th September.

Combined Authority News

In other transport news from the Combined Authority, the Mayor has put forward the A10 (north of Cambridge) for government funding and refused South Cambs Leader Bridget Smith's plea to also put forward the A505, which already exceeds its limited capacity. Bridget had previously successfully persuaded the CA and the Mayor to develop a project just to upgrade the junctions on the A10 at a cost of about £40m rather than the extraordinarily expensive (£1/2 billion) dualling which the Mayor favours. Both these projects have been submitted.

Part of the devolution deal for the Combined Authority was £100m for affordable housing to be targeted at areas where housing was least affordable. On this basis, South Cambs should have had a fairly large chunk of the money in the form of grants. However, the Mayor has ring fenced £40m for a

rolling fund of loans, about 90% of which has so far gone to East Cambs – where the Mayor lives! Bridget voted against a loan of over £4m going to a developer to turn an office building in the centre of Ely into 25 flats, only four of which will be ‘affordable’.

Parking Enforcement and Pavement Parking

At the Parish Liaison meeting last month, many parish councillors and clerks expressed frustration about the lamentable figure presented of 22 parking enforcement notices issued in the whole of South Cambs this year. Obviously, that fails completely to address the problem that many of our villages are facing. The council has been under pressure from the Police and Crime Commissioner to agree a civil enforcement scheme for the district and it is surprising that he has failed to accept that the legislation prevents us from doing this and that responsibility for parking enforcement will have to remain his.

The problem is that legally we cannot use council tax to fund such a scheme. It can only be funded from money earned from parking, i.e. car parks, fines and residents’ parking schemes. We have no car parks and no residents’ parking schemes in the district and we know that income from fines would fall far short of the significant amount that would be needed to fund a district wide scheme. The Police have reiterated that if regular offenders are reported to them three times they will take action. We suggest we put this to the test and if it fails that you let us know.

On the subject of pavement parking there has been some discussion at government level about legislating but as things stand it is at the discretion of the police whether they issue a penalty notice or not. The advice we have had is that they will do so if the gap is not large enough for a wheelchair to pass through.

Waste Services Campaigns

The shared waste service is launching campaigns to increase public awareness on fly tipping and recycling contamination. The fly tipping campaign aims to educate residents about the problem and how it can be prevented, highlighting legal ways of disposing of waste and how to report fly tipping. The SCRAP action check list (Suspect, Check, Refuse, Ask, Paperwork) will be a key message. The recycling campaign’s aim is to reduce the amount of non-recyclable material put into blue bins. The contract for recycling has a threshold of 7% contamination so it is important that the council maintains levels below this. Textiles, sanitary products, black bags and food/liquids are the main items that are being found to be contaminating blue recycling bins, and the campaign will lead on these.

Blue Plaque Scheme

South Cambs has just launched this scheme which has been running in Cambridge since 2001. The first plaque was unveiled on Sunday 30th June at Girton College to honour its two principal founders, Barbara Bodichon and Emily Davies, who were pioneers in providing education at degree level for women in this country. South Cambridgeshire residents are now being encouraged to nominate a person or event for commemoration. Visit the webpage at www.scambs.gov.uk/blueplaques for further details and the nomination criteria.

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