

# **South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward**

## **Report to Haslingfield Parish Council September 2019**

### **Consultation on proposed Foxton Travel Hub**

Today the Greater Cambridge Partnership is launching a consultation on a newly proposed Foxton Travel Hub. An online consultation platform containing scheme details and questionnaire will be available through the following link: <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/foxton>

Events to find out more information from officers on the proposed sites will be held at Foxton Railway Station on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September (7am – 8.30am), Addenbrooke’s Concourse on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October (11am – 1pm), Foxton Village Hall on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October (6pm – 8pm) and Melbourn Community Hub on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October (6pm – 8pm).

For further information on the Foxton Travel Hub project please visit <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/foxton/>

### **Council to make multi-million-pound investment in 81 new Council homes in Northstowe**

South Cambridgeshire residents are set to benefit from a development of new Council homes at Northstowe. All 81 apartments will be either 1- or 2-bed and available at affordable rent, including 60 that will be age-exclusive apartments for the over 55s.

The successful bid for the 81 homes enables South Cambridgeshire District Council to deliver its objectives to double the number of energy-efficient Council homes it builds annually and to provide homes that are affordable to live in.

It also supports the Council’s pledge to become zero carbon by 2050. The new construction methods will drive decarbonisation, ensuring more homes in the district have higher levels of thermal and energy efficiency and cost less to run.

### **Council staff with premature or unwell babies entitled to more paid leave**

All of a Council’s employees – men and women – will now be entitled to additional paid leave after the birth of a child who requires an extended stay in hospital.

A new maternity, premature birth and neo-natal leave policy was agreed by South Cambridgeshire District Council’s Cabinet last week, meaning that mothers with premature or unwell babies will not have to cut short the time they had planned to spend at home with their babies, before deciding whether to return to work.

The policy will grant mothers employed by the Council, whose babies are born unwell or before 37 weeks, 100% of their salary either until the baby is released from hospital or until 28 days after their expected due date, without affecting their normal maternity leave or pay entitlement.

Partners employed by the Council will also be entitled to take the same amount of time off at full pay, meaning difficult decisions can be avoided about whether to take paternity leave while their child is in hospital or when the child is able to go home for the first time.

Premature babies tend to develop in line with their original due date (their ‘corrected age’) rather than their arrival date. Parents beginning maternity leave early, on the date their baby is born prematurely, traditionally return to work before their child has reached the ‘corrected age’ of one and achieved the developmental milestones associated with one year olds. This can make the decision to return to work at the end of maternity leave more difficult for mothers of premature babies, who may feel their child is not yet ready for childcare.

The Smallest Things charity, which campaigns to extend maternity leave and pay for parents of premature babies, launched its Employer with Heart campaign in February 2018. With the introduction of this new policy, South Cambridgeshire District Council will achieve the Employer of Heart status.

### **Cambourne to Cambridge busway decision delayed to December**

The GCP has postponed the decision to be taken on the proposed Cambourne to Cambridge busway, which was due to be taken next month, until the following executive board meeting in December. The decision will now be taken alongside the decision on demand access in Cambridge city.

### **Outsourcing of processing of smaller-scale household planning applications**

The Shared Planning Service of South Cambs District Council and Cambridge City Council is outsourcing the initial processing of smaller-scale household planning applications to a private company in order to reduce the response time that had grown due to staff shortages, with 30% of posts in the planning team vacant.

These vacancies have occurred due to a national shortage of qualified planners and the high cost of living and housing in the Greater Cambridge area.

The company will process the early assessment of smaller-scale, straightforward household applications but will not affect the decision-making process. That will remain unchanged, with all decisions taken by officers of the Shared Planning Service or by the planning committee.

### **Cambridge Festival of Cycling**

The 2019 Cambridge Festival of Cycling is taking place this month, with more than 20 events including cycle rides, exhibitions, movies, workshops and guest speakers. Camcycle’s Cargo Carnival will take place on Lammas Land in Cambridge on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September (11am – 4pm). For further details of all festival events, visit [www.cambridgefestivalofcycling.org/](http://www.cambridgefestivalofcycling.org/)

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