

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Report to Haslingfield Parish Council February 2020

East West Rail route announcement

The Transport Secretary Grant made the announcement at the end of January that route E had been selected for the railway line linking Cambridge and Oxford. This route includes new stations at Cambourne and at Cambridge South, near Addenbrooke's. The broad corridor for this route comes close to the village of Haslingfield, although just how close has yet to be decided and will be subject to further consultation.

On this point, it is important to note that the public statement given in reaction to the route announcement by Cllr Bridget Smith, Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, stated: 'I have asked East-West Railway Company to work very closely with local councillors and officers, and to fully engage with all of our affected villages from the outset. This is vital so they know exactly what is going on and have every opportunity to input their views into the whole process.'

As your local district councillors, we would like to hear your views so we can ensure they are heard during the process. We would also encourage you at the same time to be involved in all consultation stages and ensure you submit your views directly to any consultation, as well as to us.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

It is a very exciting time jointly for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, with work underway on a new joint Local Plan that will affect the future of Greater Cambridge over the next 20 years. The Councils are preparing to carry out a public consultation called: Greater Cambridge Local Plan – The First Conversation. The consultation will start the conversation about the kind of place we want Greater Cambridge to be in the future. It will explore the 'big themes' – climate change, biodiversity, social inclusion and great places – that will influence how homes, jobs and infrastructure are planned, and where growth might go.

The consultation will run until 5pm on Monday 24th February. Lots of information and the opportunity to provide views at www.greatercambridgeplanning.org

People can also post online using #GCLocalPlan. During the consultation there will be pop-up 'roadshows' to places around the area including shopping centres, schools, community centres and other places, to reach out to as many people as possible.

There will also be a 'Big Debate' on the evening of 18th February, where we are inviting local groups to share their ideas about what should be in the Local Plan, in a fun, provocative and lively public event. If you are interested in being one of the groups to present, please contact Hana Loftus at localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org. Also look out for details about how to book your seat in the audience on the night.

Cambridge Police station move consultation

In February, Cambridgeshire Constabulary will be consulting the public on a proposal to 'replace our outdated facilities at Parkside with both a new city centre police station and a police hub on the outskirts of Cambridge'. The consultation site claims that 'together these [changes] will meet the county's growth and respond to the challenges of modern-day policing'.

The consultation is underway and will run until Saturday 29th February. Posters and information leaflets will be distributed to libraries and police stations across the county. The proposals include keeping a police station (though not custody cells) in the city.

The consultation website can be found at www.cambspoliceconsultation.co.uk and includes a video, FAQs and more information about why they are making this proposal.

Zero Carbon Community Grants

Over £120,000 was handed out by South Cambs District Council in the end. The grant pot was increased because the council wanted to support all the brilliant ideas that met their criteria. Waterbeach Cycling Campaign, for example, received a grant of £1,200 for cycle stands. Other villages went for electric bikes, tree planting, Eco-Eats festival, repair cafe and other ideas – the full list is available on <https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=11231>, including those that did not receive funding this time.

South Cambs District Council budget setting

As in recent years, the Council Tax will go up in April by £5 for each Band D property (the amount that the Government has set as a cap for authorities with a low current council tax). There are expected to be difficult decisions to be made next year, when SCDC will get less from the increase in Business Rates, due to the expected ‘Fair Funding Review’ which has been delayed by a few years.

New complaints process and Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service Inbox

All complaints regarding the District Council now need to be made through the Open Process portal. To access the portal follow this link and select the option ‘Online Complaints Form’:
<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/feedback/compliments-complaints-and-suggestions>

Individuals who have problems using or signing up to the service for any reason can call our Customer Feedback Team on 03450 450 500 who will assist them. All complaint responses to users who have difficulties accessing online services will continue to be sent via post or phone.

In addition to the online portal, GCSPS have set up a Shared Complaints Mailbox (Complaints&Compliments@greatercambridgeplanning.org). Any complaint queries or updates should be placed through the portal as this will be the quickest way to establish contact with their investigator. There may be instances where you want an update on a specific case and you can request this via email to the shared mailbox.

Currently, emails are being sent directly to individuals across planning which has delayed our awareness of some complaints. This change addresses this issue and will allow queries to be answered much quicker. The planning team will be closely monitoring the complaints process over the coming months to ensure that new system is running smoothly. If you experience any problems or delays in the complaint process, please email the shared mailbox above.

Consultation on plans for Cambridge South station

A reminder that plans for a new railway station at Cambridge South were set out by Network Rail at public consultation launched last month. Have your say during the six-week consultation at www.networkrail.co.uk/cambridge-south-station

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