

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

### **Report to Haslingfield Parish Council March 2020**

#### **New Electric Buses**

Stagecoach have purchased 2 electric buses to run in Cambridge using £400,000 of funding from the Greater Cambridge Partnership, which South Cambs District Council are partners in. They can travel 160 miles on one charge and will be running the Citi 6 route. We are anticipating that this will be the beginning of a much larger electric fleet serving South Cambridgeshire in the near future.

#### **Annual Survey of Councils**

Interesting to see some of the key findings from all UK Councils. Nearly all councils (97%) plan to increase council tax in 2020/21, with most (93%) planning to raise it by more than 1.5% and nearly all councils (97%) plan to increase fees and charges. 12% say they are in danger of being unable to fulfil statutory duties this year with Children's Services & Education the top immediate pressure, while Adult Social Care remains the top long-term pressure.

There was near universal disappointment in the Government's progress delivering a sustainable funding system for local government (97%) and a long term social care strategy (98%).

#### **Council's environmental measures**

Proposals have been put forward to make the Council offices less dependent on fossil fuels, including installing a solar car port which will generate more than 20% of the electricity for the entire building and installing a ground source heat pump to reduce the amount of gas used on site by at least 80%.

#### **South Cambridgeshire District Council Budget**

£5 million has been pledged in South Cambridgeshire to tackle the global climate emergency. The money will go towards improvements linked to the District Council's 'green to the core' priorities. This includes improving the Council's offices to cut carbon emissions and energy bills, providing communities with grants for projects that cut carbon emissions in their areas, making Council houses more energy efficient and helping people cut the amount of food they waste.

In 2018 the Council declared a climate emergency and pledged to reach net zero carbon by 2050. To help move toward that goal, the Council plans to invest in 2020/21 a further £100,000 on Zero Carbon Community grants for community initiatives to cut carbon emissions and tackle climate change, £1.9 million 'greening' of its offices to cut energy bills and show others how they could go green and a further £1.3 million on improving energy efficiency of Council homes. In addition £1.3m will replace 1,800 District Council owned streetlights with LEDs to reduce energy consumption by 60% and £400,000 on an electric bin lorry to see whether it is viable to shift from a diesel to an all-electric fleet.

In 2020/21 the Council expects to generate over £3.5 million from investments which will be spent on local services and help offset cuts to their funding by central Government. The Council's budget also proposes investing an extra £200,000 in expanding the mobile warden scheme in the district. Local Mobile Warden groups support older people to live independently by carrying out practical tasks such as making light meals, shopping, making appointments, filling in forms and collecting prescriptions.

A further £200,000 is also planned to be invested in increasing support for local businesses so that villages remain vibrant and new jobs are created close to where people live.

### **Wings for Life World Run**

This charity road running race will be held on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May in part on roads through Harston and Comberton ward, including through Haslingfield and later along the A603 near Harlton, then through Comberton and Barton before returning to Haslingfield. More information, including a map of the course, is on the race website: <https://www.wingsforlifeworldrun.com/en/locations/cambridge>

It is a global event with races happening simultaneously around the world, in which the finish line catches up with the runners until all are caught. The event raises money for research into spinal cord injuries. Residents wishing to get in touch with race organisers about road closures on the day of the race are encouraged to do so via their email: [wingsforlifeworldrun.uk@redbull.com](mailto:wingsforlifeworldrun.uk@redbull.com)

Cllr Philip Allen            Cllr.Allen@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Ian Sollom            Cllr.Sollom@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Tony Mason            Cllr.Mason@scambs.gov.uk