

District and County Council Annual Report 2021

DISTRICT COUNCIL

COVID-19

The key issue this year is, sadly, the same as we reported last year: Covid-19 and all that entails. We would have hoped to be in a changed world by now.

The District Council has been at the heart of providing support for our communities and businesses. All the funding that the government has been pumping into the local economy has been managed and distributed by the Council. To give some idea of the scope of this work since November, the latest round of grants, some £10,570,066, has been distributed to 4,447 local businesses. In addition £3,550,204 has been given out in Hardship Grants.

It is also the District Council that has been providing support and funding to our local community groups who have been doing such sterling work providing practical assistance to those who need it, and who continue to provide this invaluable service. A big thank you to them.

Let's hope that the world will be very different by next year's meeting and we can put this all behind us.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

We currently have two projects that have started at 1 Horseheath Road and the larger development at the A1307 end of Horseheath Road. A third project off Bartlow Road is waiting agreement on outstanding building conditions. There are real concerns at both these sites relating to drainage issues which are yet to be resolved.

A proposal to build 26 houses above Paynes Meadow was refused by the District Council and went to appeal, where it has been dismissed. The issue was too many houses, and too large, for the site leading to an unacceptable intrusion in the local landscape. We would hope that a more sensible proposal will come forward as we do need the social housing that this site can provide.

A word of thanks to the Parish Council who have been diligent in working for our village in protecting us from unwanted developments through their very professional and detailed responses to the District Council Planning Authority. There are more threats on the horizon as sites are promoted locally as part of the Local Plan process. We will be working with the Parish Council to protect and sustain what we have and value in Linton village.

COUNTY COUNCIL

SHIRE HALL

The County Council took a decision last year to leave their Cambridge city centre office, Shire Hall, for a new-build facility at Alconbury - the other end of the A14 from us. This caused some local consternation, not least from the staff, some of which aren't keen on the move. Whatever your views on it, the decision has been made and the move confirmed. The update this year is that Shire Hall has now been sold to another party and will be vacated by the County Council this year, in 2021.

A1307

The big news over the last few years, from the Highways department, is that the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), which is formed of the local Cambridgeshire councils plus the university and a few other bodies, has been implementing upgrades to the main road in our area, the A1307. There have been, many, local meetings over the years where people's views on various proposals have been put forward and, to the credit of the GCP, some of the views have been taken into account and implemented.

The upgrades that we have seen so far, from the GCP funding, have been:

- Upgrades to the traffic lights at LVC to make them 'smarter'.
- Installing a bus lane on the dual carriageway on the western approach to Linton
- Upgrading the foot/cycle path between Linton and Hildersham

The upgrades that we can expect to see next are:

- Average speed cameras installed between Haverhill and Linton
- A pedestrian crossing at the Hildersham junction
- A 'greenway' off-road non-motorised user path between Abington and Linton
- A new roundabout at the Bartlow Road junction at Linton
- Remodelling of the Dean Road junction, where a lot of fatalities occur

The detail of most of these changes are still to be finalised, so please do make your opinions heard. Either directly through the GCP local liaison meetings, or via your parish, district or county councillors.