

## **District and County Councillor's Report – October 2022**

### **Cost of Living**

Many people are now feeling the pinch of the cost of living crisis. The South Cambs magazine this month there is a 2 page spread of information that may be of use, as well as content on the website that points people towards support available – including with energy bills or ensuring that people know what they are entitled to (Universal Credit, childcare costs, Disability and Carers benefit etc) and then encourages them to claim these entitlements – specifically aimed at Local Council Tax support and Discretionary Householding payment. <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/>

### **Stagecoach Service Withdrawal**

Last month Stagecoach announced several cuts and scaling back of bus services in Cambridgeshire. We were hoping not to be affected in our area, as the number 13 bus service is one of the most profitable for Stagecoach in the county. However, some changes have been announced to this service. There will be a new service introduced called the 131, which will solely serve Haverhill and remove the need for the 13 to do multiple laps of the town. In doing this the idea is that it will speed up the journey times between Haverhill and Cambridge. The routing of the 13 has slightly changed too, so please do familiarise yourselves with this, if it does affect you or anyone you know.

One large negative is that the 13B service, which starts in Haverhill and serves The Camps and Bartlow, has been announced to be removed, essentially leaving people that rely on that service, particularly those needing to attend sixth form college in Cambridge, stranded without any public transport service. The number 19 bus service, which is run by Star Travel, is unaffected. Full detail of the service changes can be seen here - <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/east/east-bus-network>

The issue here is that ever since buses were de-franchised several decades ago, the bus companies operate on a commercial basis so can remove/alter services as they wish. Saying that, the local authority that has responsibility for public transport is the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority. So, our suggestion, is that everyone affected by the changes need to write to the Mayor, Nik Johnson, of the Combined Authority as he has the ultimate remit for providing public transport in the county - <https://transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/contact-us/>

### **City Access Consultation**

A 'Sustainable Travel Zone' road user charge has been put forward by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (the body currently implementing the upgrades to the A1307) for private vehicles between 7am and 7pm on weekdays. The plans are part of a package to improve public transport, reduce congestion in the city and help the environment through lower emissions.

A £5 congestion charge to drive into and around Cambridge is being considered as part of a 'once in a generation' plan to shake up how people travel during the working week.

Councillors Henry and John Batchelor

Whilst driving in the city could be more expensive, the GCP has revealed plans to make buses cheaper. Flat fares have been proposed to be introduced. In Cambridge a bus ticket could cost £1 to travel in the city with a ticket in the wider 'travel to work' area (where we are) to cost £2.

The Executive Board of the Greater Cambridge Partnership has recently made the decision to take these proposals to public consultation and our recommendation on this is to encourage as much public engagement as possible.

What this could mean for us, is cheaper, more frequent bus travel. We would like to hear your thoughts on this, as we represent the views of the electorate here, so please do let us know.

### **A1307 Update**

You may have seen that the, long-awaited, safer crossing point at the Hildersham junction is now complete. The next steps to be implemented will be the finishing of the improved foot/cycle path between Abington and Linton. The majority is already done but the link between Hildersham and Linton needs to be joined up, as well as the stretch between Hildersham and Linton Road, Abington.

The other schemes that are confirmed to be completed in the spring of 2023 are the new roundabout on the A1307 at the end of Bartlow Road, Linton and the remodelling of the highly dangerous Dean Road junction, again, on the A1307.

### **Local Highways Improvement Scheme**

The Local Highways Improvement scheme (LHI) is due to open for bids around the end of October. The scheme allows parish councils to bid for small scale schemes that will improve the local highway network, such as reduced speed limits, doubly yellow lines, re-modelled junctions etc.

It's worth noting that this year the criteria scoring the schemes has slightly changed. The simpler, more straight forward, schemes, such as reduced speed limits, mobile speed cameras etc, will be looked at separately to the more complex, expensive schemes so that they aren't in direct competition – in theory increasing their chances of success. Full detail of this is yet to be released but we will circulate once it has been.

### **Appeal for Foster Carers**

The County Council are putting an appeal out for more foster carers to add to their network. If you know anyone that might be interested, the full information can be viewed here -

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/urgent-appeal-for-foster-carers-across-cambridgeshire>

### **Contact Information**

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