

District and County Councillor's Report – October 2023

Greater Cambridge Partnership STZ update

The proposal by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) that we had put to us last year, which offered vast improvements to our public transport network being implemented now, with the caveat that it would eventually need to be self-funded. This was proposed to come in the form of road-charging in Cambridge City, coming into force in 2-3 years' time after the bus improvements. There was a, very lengthy, public consultation undertaken at the back end of last year and the results of which have formed an updated proposal, which was published at the end of August.

The Executive Board, who ultimately make the decision on whether to take the scheme forward or not, met in the last week of September. As there wasn't unanimity amongst the voting members of the Board, the proposals were rejected, and the revised scheme won't be taken forward at this time.

We're uncertain what the next steps are now – the GCP will either have to come up with another revised version of the scheme, start the whole process again, or simply scrap the entire project.

On a related note, the scheme for a new travel hub (park & ride) near Babraham, along with the off-road bus route joining this to the new train station at Addenbrookes, has also been paused whilst the GCP try to find more money to fund this, as the project costs have increased exponentially.

A1307 Works

The A1307 was closed for two weekends to facilitate the completion of the new roundabout at the end of Bartlow Road, Linton. The contractors undertaking the work did listen to feedback from the previous closure of the road in July and put up a lot more signs directing larger vehicles away from villages. The Police also had a presence for a short-period of time.

After this work is complete, the final elements of the upgrades to the road will be the remodelling of the Dean Road junction and then the completion of the 'Greenway' around Abington and joining up with the crossing over the A11. The work for this will start in November time on Newmarket Road, Abington.

For more up to date information go to the Greater Cambridge Partnership website - <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/public-transport-schemes/cambridge-south-east-transport/cambridge-south-east-transport-phase-1-background/cambridge-south-east-transport-phase-1-current-schemes>

Mobile food hub

There is a mobile food hub that visits Linton Village Hall on Coles Lane every Tuesday between 1pm and 2pm. There is no registration required just turn up on the day. If any more information on the scheme, this can be found on the Hope CIC (the charity running the scheme) website - <https://hopeagainst.org/hope-cic-mobile-food-hub> or on 07474725477.

Statement of Community Engagement

Councillors Henry and John Batchelor

The District Council will be consulting on its 'Statement of Community Involvement' between October 18th and November 29th. This is a document that details how the planning service engages with various elements of the community during the planning process. This is quite important and planning is one of the authorities most public-facing services that affects everyone. More information on the current statement can be found here -

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/about-us/statement-of-community-involvement/>

Free Electric Blankets

South Cambs District Council are offering a free electric blanket to those most in need, in the run up to the winter months. Those that qualify for these will need to be claiming Council Tax Support and also one of the following criteria:

- Attendance allowance
- Personal independence Payment
- Disability Living Allowance

Full detail of the scheme can be found here - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/free-electric-blankets-will-help-residents-most-in-need-this-winter/>

Carbon Literacy Certificate

The District Council has been awarded a Bronze award and is recognised as a Carbon Literate Organisation by the national body The Carbon Literacy Trust.

This follows on from the work done to tackle the climate issues our area faces and for the undertaking that the Council took to reduce its carbon emissions by 45% by 2025 and 75% by 2023.

For full detail on what the Council has done to achieve this award, please follow this link - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/carbon-literate-certification-for-council/>

RAACs

These have been in the news in recent months as some schools in the UK have been found to have Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) material used in them, which has been found to be dangerous.

The good news locally is that no schools in Cambridgeshire have this materials used in their construction, so no need for any major works being undertaken.

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