

County Councillor report March 2019

Clive Hall Drive pavements

After intense discussions it has now been agreed to repair the pavements in Clive Hall drive after the road has been repaired.

Cycle Path Longstanton - Bar Hill

The issue of a cycle path between Longstanton and Bar Hill has been asked and campaigned for, for well over 15 years. I took on the campaign about 6 years ago.

On the 8th October 2018, I reported to the Parish Council that after 6 long and difficult years of heated discussions and campaigning, funding was at last agreed for a new cycle path to Bar Hill. I can now further report that Highways England, as part of the A14 upgrade, is funding the new cycle bridge over the A14 and into Bar Hill, and up to the first new roundabout on the B1050 (Northstowe southern access road). Sisk will then take on funding it around the new roundabout with the County Council funding it on into Longstanton. Even more good news is that they have also agreed to look at the possibility of extending it through the village and into Northstowe town centre. It has now passed onto the design/cost stage.

Oakington Travel Hub

After the GCP Assembly meeting, the GCP Board met on the 20th March with the proposed travel hub on the agenda. Both the Oakington and Westwick Parish Chair and I gave speeches. I spoke against the proposal, pointing out several alternatives, and also other communities that may well be better served by this type of hub at this present time. The Chair and I must have made an impression, which was somewhat a surprise, as it's normally very difficult, if not impossible to change the minds of these committees, as the Board then decided to take this project away to relook at the location. Saying that, **it may still very well opt for the Oakington location....**The final decision is due to be made at the next board meeting.

Choices for Better Journeys campaign wraps up.

Thousands of people have shared their views on the future of travel in the Greater Cambridge area in a record breaking engagement. More than 5,000 people responded to the Choices for Better Journeys survey, which closed at midnight on 31st March. The campaign asked people living across the Greater Cambridge area what they want to see from better public transport – including how best to raise £20m a year to fund it - and what congestion-busting methods they would want in place to help deliver faster, more frequent buses. GCP officers spoke to hundreds of people at more than 30 events since the launch of the campaign on 26th February, including at workplaces, colleges, Park and Ride sites, train stations and Cambridge United's Abbey Stadium. Events were held all across the travel area, from King's Lynn and Peterborough to Royston, Ely, St Ives, and Cambridge city centre. The survey results will now be analysed before being presented to the GCP Board in June.

New energy scheme anything but Bore-ing

A renewable energy project to supply heat to homes in a Cambridgeshire village by using ground water instead of oil has received a major boost with a £100,300 grant. The County Council have helped to develop the Swaffham Prior Community Heat Project, which has been awarded the money to support the drilling of a borehole 150 metres deep to establish if ground water can supply renewable heat for the village. This grant will bring the village closer to moving away from oil and towards owning their own renewable low carbon heating system.

The aim of the project is to remove all oil tanks and connect homes into renewable energy that will heat the home.

At the same time, funding will also be used to work with residents in assessing heating systems in homes for suitability to connect to the heat scheme.

Celebrating our social workers



The excellent work of the County Councils social work team was in focus last week and they held a series of events to celebrate their efforts, including a special breakfast for World Social Work Day on Tuesday, 19 March.

Staff were available on an information stall talking about the work of social workers and offering a breakfast of fresh fruit, croissants and buns.

Spread the word about project funding



Many people are willing to do something for their community but need some inspiration to start a project. The County Council's Innovate & Cultivate Fund offers grants for community initiatives which help deliver the Council's priorities and have compiled some ideas to get budding projects started.

The new Cultivate 'Seed' Fund projects – Timebanks, Men's Sheds, Good Neighbour Schemes and Dementia Friendly Communities – are all successful schemes that can help people to remain independent and active within their community, encourage volunteering and complement more costly Council services.

We recently paid a visit to film [Ramshed](#), the Men's Shed in Ramsey and the [3Cs - Colne Caring Community](#) to get others inspired to do the same.

The project promotes greater social activity, improved mental health and better physical wellbeing for men who may be retired or not in work.

Voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in Cambridgeshire can find more about the funding from the [website](#)

Applications for secondary school places are up again

This year the County Council received nearly 6,700 applications for secondary school places - an increase of more than 300 compared to the last academic year. A total of 6,691 applications were received by the deadline. Of these, more than 5,990 (89.5%) resulted in children being offered a place at their first preference school compared to 5,561 last year. A further 449 (6.7%) children have received the offer of a place at their second or third preference school.

The County Council dealt with significantly more applications for secondary school places in the county this year and expect this trend to continue for the coming years. The County Council is planning for this by working with existing schools to increase their capacity, and to plan for new secondary schools in the areas where demand is greatest, with a planned investment in secondary school places of £200m between 2019-20 and 2023-24.

I always advise everyone to use all three of their preferences when applying for a secondary school place and to ensure that they include their catchment school as one of their preferences to give themselves the best chance of securing a place.

Fit for the Future: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Sustainability and Transformation Partnership

From January onwards, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) will be holding its Board meetings in public.

The STP Board meets every other month and members of the public are invited to attend. The next meetings will be held on Thursday 30 May 2019, venue to be confirmed. Details on venues and times of these meetings will be posted on their [website](#).

The STP Board is made up of the leaders from all the NHS organisations in the county, doctors in general practice, as well as elected members and executive directors from Cambridgeshire County Council. Their role is to focus on the big issues, ensuring that health and care services are sustainable in Cambridgeshire for the medium and longer-term.

Peter Hudson

County Councillor

Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick and Over