

County Councillor's Report February 2019

County Council Budget

The Full County Council met on the 5th of February to approve the administration's budget and set council tax for 2019/20 in the context of its 5 year business plan. The overall objective is to continue to protect and invest in vital services whilst using service transformation, efficiency, investment and commercialisation to offset cuts in government funding. **We are on our own, as The County Council now receives no general funding from the Government.** The transformation of the way the County Council works is a key factor in delivering best value for money and to support this the budget includes an increase of £4.764m into the transformation fund; we used a £1.436m surplus built up in this fund to balance the 2019/20 budget without the need to make unpalatable cuts to services that local residents need and value. The County Council has so far invested £8m from this fund into initiatives to transform services or manage demand, which has returned a £40m in reduction to costs. The Council will also carry forward the £9.1m remaining balance of the smoothing fund that was created last year which will continue to act as a contingency, as it did recently when £3.4m was used to safeguard valued children's services in the face of rising demand.

The Council's commercial projects to date are due to return a profit of £11.2m in 2019/20 including £1m from the Soham solar farm which this month met its annual £1m income target 2 months ahead of schedule. The money derived from commercial activities is a key element of the funding required to support delivery of front line services and this month saw a proposal to generate solar power at Babraham Park & Ride. The project would involve putting carports over parking spaces to support solar panels. The Council has completed a high level business case to support a planning application in 2019 with construction starting in 2020. Cambridgeshire County Councils' plans for commercialisation and investment are set to return more than £58m to support frontline services over the next five years. The County Council will **continue to invest in vital services aimed at vulnerable adults & children and increasing funding on highways repairs, which means:**

- £45 million additional spending planned for adult and children's services over the next five years.
- £18 million additional spending planned for highways improvements in the next five years.

Highways meeting

The quarterly meeting with highways along with the Clerks/Chairs of Longstanton, Over and Oakington and Westwick was held on the 15th. Each parish discussed ongoing and new highway issues.

Developers parking in Woodside

Further to the concerns of the Parish Council Chair concerning contractor parking at Woodside, which he asked me to investigate. An enforcement officer has visited the site. At the time of the visit there were several cars, vans and Lorries parked offsite, some partially on the foot path.

The enforcement officer spoke with the developer, reminded him of his responsibilities in regards to the agreed traffic management plan and required the removal of the vehicles from the roadway. He was made aware that any future breaches would be likely to attract enforcement action. The vehicles were removed prior to him leaving the site. The enforcement officer will continue to monitor the site.

HGV movement through the village

A meeting was held on the 21st February in Swavesey re the issue of HGV vehicles using local villages during A14 closures. As well as local councillors, Sonia Hanson from County Highways and Pam Hobson from the A14 team attended. The police were due to attend, but failed to turn up because they were stuck in traffic!

Discussion was to try and set up a weight limit restriction to prevent HGV movement through Swavesey, Over and Longstanton caused by the closure of the A14. However the outcome was:

1. The police will not support any weight restriction.
2. Extra signage was agreed for "Not suitable for HGVs" to be placed at the A14 Swavesey junction. Also, extra signage at the roundabout at the end of Ramper Road to direct any HGV movement along the bypass to Bar Hill and not through the village.
3. It was suggested that maybe a future joint LHI bid between some parishes for a complete lorry ban (Over, Swavesey and Fen Drayton). This, I believe, will be equally as difficult due to the probability of the police not supporting it. Also, some deliveries are required for local businesses.

Full closures

Monday 11 (one night)

- Dry Drayton Road, Oakington

Monday 11 to Thursday 14 (four nights)

- A14 westbound Bar Hill junction 29 exit slip
Drivers wishing to exit the A14 at junction 29 will be diverted to exit at junction 28 and return on the eastbound carriageway
- A428 eastbound Madingley to A14 eastbound Stow cum Quy junction 35
Motorway traffic will travel south on the M11, east on A505 and north on A11 to re-join the A14. Non motorway traffic will be diverted on local roads through Cambridge.
- M11 junction 14 exit slip
- A14 westbound between Six Mile Bottom junction 36 and Girton junction 31
Motorway traffic will travel south on the A11, west on the A505 and then north on the M11. Non motorway traffic will be diverted on local roads through Cambridge.

Monday 11 to Friday 15 (five nights)

- A1 northbound between Buckden and Alconbury
Vehicles will travel east on the A428, north on the A1198, west on the A14 and then north on the A14 link road to re-join the A1
- A1 southbound between Alconbury and Buckden
Vehicles will be diverted south on the A14 link road, then east on the A14, south on the A1198 and west on the A428 to re-join the A1

Friday 15 (one night)

- M11 junction 14 to A14 westbound Fenstanton junction 27
Vehicles will be diverted west on the A428 then north on the A1198 to re-join the A14 at Godmanchester A1307 outbound

Saturday 16 6am to Monday 18 5am

- A1 southbound between Brampton Hut and Buckden
Vehicles will be diverted east on the A14, south on the A1198 then west on the A428 to re-join the A1

Proposed Rural Travel Hub in Oakington

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly received the statements from Oakington and Westwick Parish Council and myself at their meeting last week. In addition, the Chairman, Councillor Tim Wotherspoon, referred to the statements as part of his introduction.

There were a range of views expressed about this item; with little support expressed for the development of the Oakington and Sawston Rural Travel Hubs. Concern was expressed that the outcome of the Rural Travel Hubs consultation had been to set village against village. Some members felt it was unfortunate that this had happened as it was never the intention. Some members questioned how Rural Travel Hubs could be a priority suggesting that GCP should be focussing on projects where it could make a step change. It was pointed out that places that were crying out for travel hubs, like Cambourne, should be seen as a much higher priority. It was suggested that the GCP should focus on things which were going to make a step change in meeting its ambition. The time to look at Rural Travel Hubs was once an extended network was in place and settled. To do this earlier risked ending up with hubs being in the wrong place. These comments will be passed to the Executive Board, with the Papers for this meeting being published on Friday 8th March.

This is not any form of decision. The assembly discusses items and then it is passed to the GCP Board who make the final decision. I believe that the board may well go against the feelings of the assembly and support the Travel Hub with the car park option as it's all about keeping cars out of Cambridge. The Board has three members, Leader of Cambridge City Council, the Deputy Leader of South Cambridge District Council and a County Councillor from the Huntingdon District area. They all have to agree for the project to go ahead. The Board will meet on Wednesday 20th March.

**Peter Hudson
County Councillor**

Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick and Over