

County Councillor report June 2019

School Lane

All the potholes around the bus stop and opposite the old school house as discussed at the last highways meeting have been repaired.

New community hubs will provide support for expectant parents

New and expectant parents can now get easier access to support and information following the opening of a new Community Hub in Cambridge. The Child and Family Centre at The Fields Child and Family Centre in Galfrid Road is the location for one of three pilot Community Hubs across Cambridgeshire which will provide a one stop shop for parents to access a range of information and services under one roof during pregnancy and beyond, and eventually will be spread across the whole county.

The launch event on Thursday 6th June, was a showcase for the support that is available locally for pregnant women and new parents. The Hubs will also provide links to other support, such as help to give up smoking, and work closely with local maternity and neonatal hospital units. Pregnancy advice and courses for new parents will also be provided via the Community Hubs.

The new hubs will operate from Child and Family Centres where, in many cases, families are already accessing support such as baby weighing clinics and maternity appointments with their midwives. The aim of Better Births is to improve the safety, quality of care and choices available to all women and their babies.

The community hub is an extension of the Child and Family Centre and will be a real asset to the local community and benefit all those who use it. Pregnancy and parenthood can be challenging and it's great to be able to offer easier access to a range of services and information from pregnancy and beyond."

BBC Panorama asks 'Who Cares'

The BBC's [Panorama programme](#) 'Who Cares' showed the impacts caused by the national short falls in adult social care funding as it affects Somerset County Council.

Across Cambridgeshire, the County Council is working hard to help all adults stay in control of their own lives - staying safe and well for as long as possible, particularly as they grow older. This is important as the numbers of those aged 65 in our County, is expected to grow by 75,000 over the next 20 years

To meet this growing demand, the council is investing in a variety of approaches such as falls prevention campaigns like Stronger For Longer. We're installing technology in people's homes to maintain independence. We are also working hard to develop good community

support, provide good information and signposting to communities, so people can use options local to them - like in our Neighbourhood Cares pilots, in Soham and St Ives

County's parks and green spaces future secured.

The County Council's Growth & Economy teams have been celebrating this week after being chosen as one of eight organisations out of 80 nominations to receive funding to help protect the future of Cambridgeshire's parks.

We received £700,000 from the Future Parks scheme as the county's lead partner from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the National Trust. The aim is to use the money to provide a sustainable and bright future for the county's parks and green spaces

Pilot clean air scheme success at Godmanchester Community Academy

Working closely with the County Council's Road Safety and Public Health teams, and by taking simple steps, the school has seen car journeys to school reduced from 42.4% to 27% and walking to school has increased from 22.3% to 32.4%. At the Full County Council in May, a motion was agreed to work with partners to tackle air quality in Cambridgeshire, particularly around all schools. Also, to pilot no car zones around schools starting in Cambridge City.

Investing in the future



The County Council made another major investment in a commercial property this year as part of the work we are doing to protect frontline services – and also enhance employment around the Wisbech area. The Cromwell Leisure Park in Wisbech includes a cinema and three units used as restaurants – one of which is empty and we'll be actively looking for a new tenant to create more jobs in the area.

The annual rental income from all four will provide a healthy return of more than 10% a year, - **enough in fact to employ 15 social workers or pay for 24 care home placements for older people each year.**

County Council wins 'East of England Council of the Year 2019' at Energy Efficiency Awards

The title 'East of England Council of the Year 2019' was awarded after the County Council's Energy Investment Unit were shortlisted for their commitment to promoting energy efficiency in Cambridgeshire and the community benefit of the work being done.

The award application focused primarily on the work being done on the schools programme, as the Council is currently working with 55 schools across Cambridgeshire to help them save money on their energy bills and reduce CO₂ emissions. As a result these schools are saving over £800,000 in total on their energy bills and more than 3,400 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per annum.

The Energy Investment Unit at the County Council were recognised for their collaboration with the village of Swaffham Prior in East Cambridgeshire. Swaffham Prior Community Heat Scheme, a valuable pilot project is aimed at delivering annual savings on energy bills via a renewable heat network for homes currently on oil. Other small-scale investments were also highlighted such as LED lighting upgrades being made across the Council's property portfolio through the Energy Efficiency Fund.

The County Council supports the national and global calls to address environmental and climate change issues and has ambitious plans to use the council's significant influence locally and

nationally to encourage others to do the same. A strategy to reduce avoidable single-use plastics has been developed as well as a corporate Energy Strategy which aims to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency and invest in renewable energy. Along with a variety of schemes to protect the natural environment, promote walking and cycling, and reduce the impact of waste in Cambridgeshire, these initiatives will all be brought together in a combined single Climate Change and Environment strategy for Full Council to consider later this year.

Adult Learning and Skills

Adult Learning and Skills aims to support adults and communities furthest from work and learning to access the support they need to progress to gain employment, independence and build stronger families and communities. The service offers a consistent and high quality experience for people wherever they engage with the team. Much of the work is done in partnership with other organisations who enable us to reach our priority groups. We reach adults through short engagement activities, outreach work, family learning and workshops with the aim of progressing learners through a journey onto qualification programmes to equip them for the economic success in the workplace.

Qualifications can be done through classes in the community or via our Online Learning Centres. Our courses are held in schools, community centres, Child and Family Centres as well as the County Council's own [Learning and Skills Centres](#) in libraries around the county. To find out more contact Susannah Lewis on 07917 720 508 or email Susannah.Lewis@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or visit www.cambsALS.co.uk

Peter Hudson
County Councillor

Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick, and Over