

County Councillor Report for Parish Council meetings in June 2021 - Cllr Anna Bradnam

County Council Election 6 May 2021

Sixty one councillors were either re-elected or newly elected to 59 electoral divisions. Councillors are elected for a four year term. The Council is now composed as follows:

28 Conservatives, 20 Liberal Democrats, 9 Labour, 2 Independent, 2 St Neots Independent.

The Liberal Democrats, Labour and Independents signed a formal Agreement to form a Joint Administration and now form the majority administration of the County Council. The Joint Administration Agreement is here: [County agreement 2021 FINAL.pdf \(d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net\)](#).

At the first County Council meeting on 18 May at the Imperial War Museum Duxford (to allow for social distancing) the Joint Administration appointed Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees and agreed to reduce the number of Committees and Special Allowances. Meetings have been suspended until after 21 June, when it is hoped that Covid restrictions will be released and make it easier to deliver indoor meetings safely. The County no longer has use of Shire Hall and the new Council Hub at Alconbury is not yet complete, so venues, dates and frequency of meetings are currently being arranged.

The new Service and Policy Committees will be:

Adults and Health / Children and Young People / Environment and Green Investment / Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion / Highways and Transport.

There are Regulatory and other committees to manage Planning, Finance, Growth and Commercial Investment and Governance and Pensions as well as those working with the Combined Authority and Greater Cambridge Partnership, the Schools Forum and Health and Wellbeing Board. The County Council has representation on the Police and Crime Panel as well as the Cambs. and Peterborough Fire Authority.

Adults and Health - early discussions stated very clearly that regardless of the release in restrictions, we are still operating in a state of Covid Emergency. Bedford is one of the areas with a high incidence of B.1.617.2, so called Indian variant, so it is wise to remain cautious about interactions.

Around the Parishes:

Horningsea and Fen Ditton

CWWTPRP – I have attended briefings by Anglian Water for the Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation Project and have supported residents by seeking the least possible harm, retention of screening trees from the outset and the request for a road to be constructed giving direct access from the A14, to avoid the impact of construction traffic and tankers during operation of the site on the B 1047 or High Ditch Road. District Council colleagues and I were interviewed alongside other candidates by the Save Honey Hill Campaign, to give out views on the project for the website.

Chisholm Trail – the jetty path under the railway and pedestrian bridge and over the river has opened. Following my request with your photos, I am advised the dangerous bollard has now been removed.

Flood Action Plan – In January the County Council, the Lead Local Flood Authority, announced a workshop on flooding hotspots, to inform a review in February. I will be asking for the report from those workshops. You can report a flood here [Report a flood - Cambridgeshire County Council](#). Many of the reports made in Dec '20 and Jan '21, on 'Report a Highway Fault', were removed when the flooding subsided. I am pointing this out. The County Council is hosting an Introductory Session for Communities in South Cambridgeshire on Flood Planning and Flood Groups on 2 June. Unfortunately it clashes with the SCDC Cabinet/Parishes Meeting and a CWWTPR update meeting but I will try to attend.

Waterbeach and Milton

GCP Waterbeach to Cambridge - Following protests from Waterbeach residents, the GCP is no longer considering the 'East Area' of interest route. This effectively also rules out the A10 and Central Options, leaving only the western option which runs north and west of Landbeach along the Mere Way.

Glasshouses and gas main - The application for glasshouses and CHP gas engines north of Chittering in East Cambs has caused consternation; although the application has approval and the utility company has a statutory obligation to connect, the route of the gas main runs through the centre of Milton and Waterbeach. I've attended a number of meetings with the applicants, parish councils and County Street Works to consider the least harmful routes. Following representation from District Councillors, SCDC has requested an extension of time to consider the sustainability of the application in a climate emergency.

A10 safety - I happened upon the immediate aftermath of a nose to tail collision on the A10 on 24 May. I assisted those involved, ensuring a mother and baby had a safe place to wait until Police arrived to manage traffic on site and until the cars were recovered.

Histon Road and Milton Road – The GCP-led Histon Road Bus Prioritisation Scheme is nearing completion, although the GCP website is not reflecting that. It won't be long before Histon Road is opened in both directions and Milton Road is shut to reconstruct the road to give priority to buses, cycles and pedestrians. The next GCP Joint Assembly is due to take place on 10 June, although a venue has yet to be agreed. Anyone can 'attend' the meeting. Public questions must be submitted by 10 am on 7 June for the meeting on 10th June. The details are here: [Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly - 10 June 2021 - Greater Cambridge Partnership](#) The Executive Board Meeting will be on 1 July.

A14/A10 junction roadworks, cones and north bound lane merge.

I continue to be advised that Highways await new signage before they can open the merge lane to traffic and remove the cone maze. Meanwhile the signage on carriageway of the A14 off-slip is misleading, and potentially dangerous.

East West Rail – the non-statutory consultation on two southern route options is open at the time of writing [Share Your Views - East West Rail Consultation](#) and responses must be submitted by **Wednesday 9 June**. At present only the southern approaches to Cambridge are being considered as EWR's preferred options. The northern route has been discounted by EWR at this stage. The following document explains why. From the Document Library, the Consultation Technical Report, Appendices here [EAS060_TechDoc_Appendix_Master_DIG-1.pdf \(eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](#) Page 50 onwards assesses the northern route, p 59 gives an illustrative map of the area between Landbeach and Milton and subsequent pages describe the difficulty of 4-tracking the line, over the River Cam and under Newmarket Road, with associated domestic and commercial demolitions required. Comparison is on p99. Nevertheless – **may I strongly advise you to make your views known** on the consultation website before 9 June because for the next 12 months, EWR will consider the submissions made and select their preferred route. Then, around Spring 2022 they will have a full consultation on that route. EWR have been advised very clearly that residents in the north would be extremely angry, if having not been asked to consult on the northern route, some evidence submitted during this pre-consultation made them change their preference to the northern route - about which residents have not been formally consulted. SCDC Cabinet approved a response to the consultation on 24 May. You can see the officer report and response here: [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 24/05/2021 10:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Autonomous Shuttles - were tested on roads in Cambridge on 27 May 2021. The trial led by the GCP, Smart Cambridge and the engineering company Aurigo is looking at the practicality of autonomous technology. The shuttle itself is not a thing of beauty, or to my eye, a very safe design, as it appears to have none of the rounded bumpers which minimise harm if there is a collision.

AB 31-05-2021