

District Councillor Report to Parish Councils – February 2022

Omicron Hospitality and Leisure grants:

The latest grant scheme to support businesses impacted by the Omicron variant launched in South Cambs on Monday 17th January. The initial fund allocation (90% of the full allocation) totals £1.428m and to date 103 applications have been received. Ten applications were picked up as being fraudulent at the application form stage. Fifty-nine applications have so far been processed and are awaiting returns on fraud checks. South Cambs has also been granted a discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant fund of £354,000 on the basis of deploying other funds in 2021. This enables the Council to support businesses in a variety of sectors. Thirty seven applications have been received thus far from businesses covering events wholesale, caterers/supplies, personal care, and travel/tourism in the main. Applications should be made by **18th February 2022** and final payments will be made by **31st March 2022**.

The business team not only continues to work hard and efficiently to support local businesses but also assists Small & Medium sized Enterprises in building young/new businesses and those with green credentials as part of a wider Green recovery. Additionally, the visitsouthcambs.co.uk website has now been up and running for six months and the team are growing the site with more businesses now advertised. The website promotes tourism in the area and is aimed at those living within the district and in neighbouring areas interested in a day trip or a weekend break. Do take a look.

Emmaus – Landbeach:

The community currently has an occupancy rate of over 90% with 41 of the 45 rooms filled, with one of those rooms being decorated so there is a gradual but ongoing refurbishment programme. The staff continue to support companions with regaining their independence and with both their physical and mental health needs. A planning application (Ref #: 21/04957/FUL) from the developer Hill Residential to install six modular homes (pods) for more independent living on site is currently live on the South Cambs website. Emmaus is advertising for an additional support worker as the number of the companions will obviously increase should the application gain approval. South Cambs have committed to fund the first year of that post which would then be funded by Emmaus in subsequent years from the additional revenue in housing benefit from the pods. The core business of the shop and café have weathered the storm of the latest Covid variant although takings were lower in December than in November which reflects the situation in retail across the country with early Christmas shopping followed by a hesitancy and thus a drop in sales and footfall with the onset of Omicron.

Water Resources East Consultation:

Water Resources East has [recently launched a consultation](#) on its emerging water resources plan for the East of England. You can [read a copy of the emerging plan](#). As a council, drawing up our next Local Plan with Cambridge City Council, we have said that our emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan strategy [is dependent on improvements](#) to the water supply. The consultation explores measures to address water demand as well as protect the environment. The deadline to respond to the Water Resources East consultation is **Monday 28th February 2022**.

A10 shared use path:

The upgrade to the A10 path has been approved and the work to improve Car Dyke Rd junction and widen the path will be taking place over the coming months.

After Paul's objection to the original plans and objections from others, including WPC, improvements have been made to the design north of Car Dyke junction. These objections also resulted in a detailed review by the applicant's consultants and Cambridgeshire County Council highways officers. This was a detailed review of each section of the path explaining the physical constraints preventing the path from being widened further. The details of this review are in the [cover letter](#) which describes in detail the physical constraints that exist.

For example, for section 1 which is the section just south of Denny End Rd it states "The footway / cycle path will be widened through this section where possible through the use of the existing verge to the east of the existing path. The opportunity to gain width in this section from the existing verge is limited due to the location of the existing drainage ditch which would be directly to the east of the widened footway / cycle way. There is no opportunity to gain further width from the existing southbound running lane of the A10 in this location. This has been explored with CCC officers. The amended proposals represent the maximum width which can reasonably be achieved in this section." The ditch at this point is wide and very deep. Major civil engineering work would be required to re-align the ditch and/or the carriageway and Denny End Rd junction at this point.

Although there were several suggestions made for alternative approaches such as an alternative route for the path, carriageway re-alignment and covering the ditch none of these was within the scope of the condition agreed between CCC, SCDC and U&C which was to "improve and widen the existing path between Denny End Rd and Ely Rd Milton".

We do understand the frustration that the entire length of the path cannot be built to the LTN1/20 guidance introduced in July 2020. However, more than one year after the tragic accident it is important that there is no further delay to making improvements at Car Dyke Rd junction. Trying to re-negotiate the condition with the applicant is highly unlikely to be successful and would result in further delay to the much needed improvements for existing users of the path which is now in a very poor state and deteriorating.

There will be further opportunities to improve this path and the junction such as the sec 106 agreement with RLW and the future changes to the A10 currently being considered by the CPCA.

The Mere Way link over the bridge to the busway will be coming forwards soon and we will be campaigning to have the Greenway built as soon as possible.

Cllrs Paul Bearpark, Anna Bradnam and Judith Rippeth

Noteworthy schemes/strategies and projects to be consulted on in future / consultations recently closed

Scheme name	Type of scheme	Main consultation contact	Status of consultation	Website link
Emerging Water Resources Plan for Eastern England	Draft Regional Plan	Water Resources East	Consultation open until 28 Feb 2022	https://wre.org.uk/projects/the-regional-plan/
North East Cambridge Area Action Plan	Area Action Plan	South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridge City Council	Approval to progress to consultation Spring 22. Formal engagement phase (Reg 19) to follow conclusion of Development Consent Order process for Cambridge Wastewater Treatment plant relocation (see below)	Link to Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website
Cambridge Wastewater Treatment Plant relocation	Nationally significant infrastructure project	Anglian Water	Second phase of consultation closed in August. Development Consent Order to be submitted by Anglian Water	Link – Anglian Water project page
Water Resources East Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP)	Water Resources Management Plan updated every five years	Water Resources East Ltd	Consultation expected in spring 2022	Link to Water Resources East website
East West Rail	Nationally significant infrastructure project	East West Railway Company (Created by Department for Transport in 2018)	Latest consultation closed in June. A statutory consultation is expected next year when communities will be asked to give their comments on detailed proposals.	Link – East West Rail company
Cambourne to Cambridge	Transport and Works Act	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Environmental Impact Assessment consultation due to take place during 2022	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website

	Order (TWA0)			
Waterbeach to Cambridge	Transport and Works Act Order (TWA0)	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Aim is to undertake a public consultation on the preferred route for the Waterbeach to Cambridge project later next year	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website
Cambridge South East Transport	Transport and Works Act Order (TWA0)	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Application to Government for TWA0 to build busway and active travel route in 2022	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website
Cambridge Eastern Access	Transport and Works Act Order (TWA0)	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Consultation to take place in late 2021	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website
Greenways	12 x local greenways feeding into Cambridge	Greater Cambridge Partnership	GCP holding further workshops with local residents and other interested parties to explain the designs and listen to feedback	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website
Cambridge South West Travel Hub	Local - A new Travel Hub site at Junction 11 of the M11	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Application currently with Cambridgeshire County Council – determination expected Spring 2022	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website