

County Councillor's Report for Parishes, January 2020 – Anna Bradnam

County Council 19 Dec 2019 – the County Council has delegated to Suffolk County Council an application from the Ramblers - to retain the Public Right of Way over the Shire Hall site as well as (previously) the application for a Town Green. This avoids any conflict of interest which might be perceived if Cambridgeshire had handled the application itself.

The County Council has adopted Carbon Footprint Annual Report 2018/19 and a Climate Change and Environment Statement for 2020-2025.

The County refused a Labour motion, supported by the Lib Dems to write to the PM seeking support for **Maintained Nursery Schools in Cambridgeshire**. Our budget tells us that early investment in children's services saves money in the long-run, so opposition members were disappointed that this was voted down, on the grounds that a letter had been written to the Secretary of State.

The County passed a motion intended to improve **air quality**. In theory, this should be a good thing but in practice it included plans to prevent generation of revenue from congestion charging (*much needed to enable investment in improved infrastructure*), to consider allowing electric vehicles to travel in dedicated bus lanes (*which would jeopardise the bus prioritisation about to be delivered through the Greater Cambridge Partnership improvements in Histon Road and Milton Road*) and to propose free parking for electric vehicles in Cambridge (*which would perpetuate congestion in the City centre*). A cross-party Lib Dem/Lab amendment was voted down by the Conservatives.

The Public Works Loan Board rate of interest has been raised from 1% to 2%. This will not affect existing loans but means these loans will be less useful to District and County Councils .

Disability Cambridgeshire AGM 16 December 2019

This organisation aims to improve the lives of disabled people, their families and their carers, through a) a telephone information service, b) giving disabled volunteers opportunities to increase their skills and c) by making sure people get the welfare benefits they need. 95% of this work is carried out by volunteers and they only have two p/t paid staff. The Casework Manager and his team have overturned some of the most awful decisions (the team have seen) since Personal Independence Payments were introduced. They have represented severe and chronically disabled clients who have been subjected to inconsistent and whimsical decisions arising from repeated re-assessments by Capita and IAS health professionals who recommended awards (normally fixed for 3 years) but which subsequent assessors have taken away at short notice. It can take over a year to get these cases before a tribunal in Cambridge, with no compensation offered in the meantime, for the misery caused by a long wait for justice. They have secured annualised benefit awards of over £300,000 at 49 successful tribunals.

I am disappointed that funding originally provided by the County Council to Disability Cambridgeshire via the charity Red2Green was withdrawn, but am relieved that the County is now contributing to a Caseworker to support cases involving Mental Health issues and South Cambs District Council also support the charity.

Transport

Buses – The Mayoral Bus Reform Task Force – expert group had its first meeting 3 December, to approve the Terms of Reference and schedule for consultation. I represent SCDC on this Group and am pushing for inter-connectivity between all modes of transport, with prioritisation of buses.

I have regular meetings with **Stagecoach** who will be announcing new timetables starting in January 2020. I have contributed to their audit of bus stops and suggested improvements to timetable layouts. The results of their **Guided Busway** consultation have been presented. The main requests were for more frequent services, double decker buses at peak times (so passengers don't have to stand) and services later in the evening. IN response, Stagecoach aim to provide 18 more buses on the busway (1464 more seats) giving 5 minute frequency and a new app to track buses and to buy tickets.

The **Joint Development Control Committee** was shown early plans for a **'Travel Hub'** just west of Junction 11 on the M11, with improvements to the farm bridge over the M11 for cyclists. It is proposed to have 12 coach parking spaces, 2,150 car parking spaces of which 5% (100) would have EV charging and parking for 270 bikes. Members observed it was a P&R, since it did not connect to any other forms of public transport. Members suggested more attention needed to be given to the need for lay-over bays for bus and coach drivers (to alleviate the pressure of coaches on the City centre), more electric vehicle charging spaces for private cars and taxis and adequate toilet and refreshment facilities for those charging their vehicles.

Trains – the lift at Cambridge North Station has finally been mended. Greater Anglia continue to work with Cambridge Science Park to provide the 'last mile' connection. E-bikes have been discontinued as they were not being used.

The platform extension at Waterbeach Station is progressing. Waterbeach is making a bid to Great Northern's Passenger Benefit Fund (set up as compensation for the chaos caused when the new timetable was introduced during 2018). John Grant has the details.

New bi-mode trains will be delivered soon for testing on the region's network. These have both a pantograph to pick up electrical power from overhead cables and a diesel engine.

I will be meeting Matt Brennan at Cambridge North in the New Year to seek improvements to navigation, ticket purchase and car park payment and to follow up a request for relocation of a No Entry sign in the cycle track beside the Guided Busway which is a hazard for cyclists.

Highways – I have noted on 'Report a Highways Fault' all the issues residents have raised with me as well as raising them directly with the Local Highways Officer. I am disappointed that so many highways jobs I have requested remain 'to be done' nearly two years on, through lack of funding.

Gritting Cyclepaths

Fen Ditton PC asked me if the Wadloes cycle paths will be gritted. I suspected not, as it is across a meadow and this has been confirmed by Les Middleton, Network Management Officer, who said, "Thank you for your enquiry below regarding the gritting of Cycle Paths as part of our Winter Maintenance Operations. While we are unable to grit all the Cycle Paths we do have a number that are gritted by two Quad Bikes. A detailed map of these paths is available at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/gritting-roads-cycleways-and-paths/

These are gritted when the main gritting routes are treated within Cambridge. *(NB - I note very few cycle paths appear to be gritted on this map. AB)*

The Guided Busway does indeed have a specialist Gritter Lorry and a Quad Bike to treat the route."

Schools The Joint Development Control Committee has seen revised pre-app. designs for the Primary School at Marleigh (Wing). A crossing over Morley Street has been offered and segregated access for cycles and scooters on the west side of the school, which is an improvement. There appeared insufficient space for delivery lorries to turn in the car park and members requested clarification of pick-up and set-down arrangements for pupils at the P&R site.

Around the parishes:

Horningsea

As requested, I asked the Conservators of the Cam for advice about alarms and security measures for houseboats and moorings, following the incidents in Horningsea. They were unable to offer any advice. I imagine many of the items recommended by PCSO Julie Hajredini (in November) could also be used on boats, but chandleries may also be able to recommend devices relevant to boats.

Fen Ditton - Wadloes Footpath – is not gritted. See the section above containing the link to the cyclepath gritting map.

Zero carbon housing (Q from CJ) Recent government guidance says that from 2025 no new builds should have fossil fuel based central heating. The question was, would the ban be from 2025 for planning approval or for the build itself? The clarification is that although the government has issued this guidance, the developers are likely to resist it. There is no requirement to have non-fossil fuel based central heating in new-build dwellings in the current Local Plan (2018-2031), so we cannot enforce the guidance. SCDC is currently undertaking consultation towards a new Local Plan to cover 2019-2040 and this guidance will be taken into account when drawing up that new Plan.

Milton

I have been advised that the shared cycle/footpath between Milton Road and Cambridge North Station, alongside the Cambridge Business Park will reopen in December 2019. On 9 December I could see the trench had now been filled for most of the length but it needed resurfacing. This path is normally by the County quad bike. *(I note this route is not shown on the County gritting map. AB)* The Jane Coston Bridge is effectively gritted by volunteers, with grit bins at each end and people undertaking to take a scoop each and sprinkle it on the bridge as they cross.

Cycle chicane beside the Bowls Pavilion – a site meeting has been arranged for 11 December with County Cycling Officer Jason Tyrrell to consider options.

CCTV on the Jane Coston Bridge This is now being handled by Richard Burnett, Integrated Highways Management Centre & Events Manager, as Chris Stopford has moved to a different role.

Richard advised (02/12/2019) he is waiting for BT to install the communications links, after which the cameras will be installed.

Trees on the A10 – 9/12/2019 I have asked for an update. I believe Ryan Baker (County Asset Map) asked MPC solicitor for copy of the contract of sale between CCC and MPC, to which I think we have already responded saying we do not have a sale contract. I am trying to ensure our solicitor gets written confirmation from the County Council that the trees are on County Highways, not MPC land.

Waterbeach

Waterbeach New Town Community Forum – save the date 26 February 2020, 6-9pm

Bannold Road

I have been asking our Local Highway Officer, Nicola Burdon, when we might see major re-surfacing of Bannold Road. Nicola said (15/10/2019) that she was

“liaising with the Development Management Team and also the Developers who have caused the damages along this section of carriageway. Currently we have asked for one of our contractors to provide us with costings of the works that we would require be carried out, once we have received these costings we will then need to liaise with the relevant developers to discuss the overall cost. Unfortunately looking at some of the required works that will need to be carried out, this will need to be done under a road closure, and unfortunately between Cody Road – Bannold Drove, there is no alternative diversion, therefore I am currently in liaison with our Street Works inspector to find a solution for these works to be carried out.

With regards to your comments in regards to a full carriageway resurface throughout Bannold Road I have put this forward for a further surface treatment, however as this is a unclassified road, it will be assessed within the guidance of CCC’s Policy, therefore currently they will look at the ‘A’ Class, ‘B’ Class and then ‘C’ Class roads prior to the unclassified roads as these will be the least trafficked areas.

In regards to your comments about late funding becoming available, I have not been made aware of this at all for this financial year, however if this does become available I have to look at all my parishes and decide where the most priority locations are for works to be carried out.”

Station Road – you asked me if there is room to provide a footpath from the level crossing to Whitmore Way. Currently bollards block access. I asked Daniel Ashman (County Asset Definitive Map) who stitched together a map of the area around the level crossing which seemed to indicate

there is not enough room to provide a path. PC members had asked if a path could 'bridge' the land to the south (owned I believe by Network Rail) but it seems this would be costly and unlikely to be agreed by NR.

Landbeach - accident at the crossroads – at the time 7 Oct 2019), I requested the white lines to be re-painted urgently. *The Local Highway Officer responded: "I'm sorry to hear of the incident that occurred at this location, I have now requested a quote from our contractors to have the lines refreshed at this location. As soon as I have received this back I will then be able to arrange for a works order for these works to be carried out.*

I note that the lines have not yet been repainted (09/12/2019)

AB 28/12/2019