**District Councillors’ Report to Parish Councils – Oct 2022**

## C3R – Cambridge Re-signalling, Re-lock and Re-control project

The stated aim the Cambridge Re-signalling Relock & Recontrol Project is to upgrade the re-signalling system to a 35-year life and improve the reliability and performance of the signalling system in the Cambridge interlocking area, and thereby improve the performance and reliability of the network. The project includes the re-signalling of the Cambridge station interlocking area and the upgrade of the relevant level crossings, and any other works and operations incidental or ancillary to such works. In our ward it impacts the crossings on Station Rd, Waterbeach and Fen Rd, Milton.

The Transport and Works Act Order application has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Transport to determine. South Cambridgeshire District Council is a statutory consultee and was invited to submit representations to the Secretary of State by 23 September 2022.

Cllr Bearpark reviewed the traffic modelling that had been done and responded to the request by officers for councillor input into the SCDC response. He expressed concern about the extended periods for which the upgraded barriers would be down and the impact this would have on traffic queuing through the village and the impact on station users and pedestrians and cyclists using the crossing. His comments were included in the response to the Secretary of State.

**Waterbeach Greenway**

The GCP has stated that the work on the Waterbeach Greenway will be paused briefly for a review. The recent GCP Joint Assembly report stated “The Waterbeach Greenway alignment was originally agreed by the Executive Board in February 2020. Since that time, a number of changes in the area including the development of the Urban & Civic Mere Way proposals, A10 footpath widening, the decision to relocate the Waterbeach Rail Station and the emerging Waterbeach Busway proposals. These interventions require a review of the Waterbeach Greenway proposals to ensure that a comprehensive network is delivered.”  
  
The delivery of the Waterbeach Greenway is now stated as 2025 rather than 2024.

During the GCP Joint Assembly Cllr Bearpark expressed his disappointment at the delay and requested that the GCP examine how the Greenway timeframe can be returned to its original schedule given that first occupation of Waterbeach New Town will be early 2023.

Cllrs Bradnam, Bearpark and Rippeth will be meeting with GCP officers in October to discuss the situation.

**Council Declares Cost of Living Emergency**

At the Council Meeting on 22 September the Council declared a cost of living emergency. It called on the government to:

i Reduce the standard rate of VAT from 20 per cent to 17.5 per cent for one year, saving the average household in South Cambridgeshire a further £600 this year;

ii. Re-introduce the pensions triple lock to support South Cambridgeshire

pensioners;

iii. Restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20, which was cancelled by the Government in September 2021;

iv. Reverse cuts to Working Tax Credit;

v. Supplement the October energy price freeze with i) increase in the financial support to households that rely on oil for heating and help families spread the cost over the year: ii) increase targeted support for vulnerable and low income households by doubling the Warm Homes Discount to £300 and extending it to all those on Universal Credit and Pensioner Credit, whilst iii) investing in insulating leaky homes to bring down costs in the long term.

For its part the Council has been:

i. Given advice in its quarterly publication, South Cambs Magazine, with particular regard to support provided by Cambridgeshire County Council and the Cambridgeshire Home improvement Agency;

ii. Provided a Cost of Living Support page on its website to help local people find immediate support with food poverty, housing, debt, energy bills, transport, unemployment and health and wellbeing, whilst also signposting to grants and loans to help improve the energy efficiency of their homes;

iii. Partnered Cambridgeshire ACRE in the provision of warm hubs in the District.

And the Council will:

i. Confirm its commitment to continue funding Citizen’s Advice for this financial year (£85,000) to provide advice services to South Cambridgeshire residents;

ii. Be mindful of the Cost of Living Crisis in the setting of next year’s Council Tax;

iii. Promote its Welfare and Money Maximisation Officer and Housing Tenant Advice Officers;

iv. Ask the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources to consider bringing forward a proposal to amend the Local Council Tax Support Scheme in the district to 100% for working people, thereby reducing the council tax burden for working low income households;

v. Ask the Grants Advisory Committee to review the Community Chest grant scheme to consider having applications that demonstrate not only wellbeing benefits to their community but also support for those on low incomes and make recommendations to the Lead Cabinet Member for Resources or Cabinet as appropriate;

vi. Confirm its commitment to improve the energy efficiency of council homes as outlined in the HRA Asset Management Strategy;

vii. Request that the Cabinet set up an advisory group reporting to it to monitor and propose support for those in the District struggling with the cost of living crisis including local businesses;

viii. And work with partners to give access to affordable food across the District.

**Making historic homes more energy efficient**

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) team has produced guidance on making historic homes more energy efficient which draws on best practice and can help homeowners make the right decisions before applying for planning or listed building consent, if required. Important carbon savings can be made by making historic buildings more energy efficient, and this can be done without damaging their historic significance. There is a big carbon cost to demolishing existing buildings. The retention and re-use of buildings will help tackle climate change. Further information about this programme of work is available from the GCSP Historic Environment Team Leader.

**Waterbeach Community Forum**

The next Waterbeach Forum will be on **Wednesday 16 November**. There will be drop-in from 6-7 where you can visit information stalls, followed by presentations from the main stakeholders, with an opportunity to ask question from 7pm. Details will be available here when the agenda is confirmed [Waterbeach Community Forum - South Cambs District Council (scambs.gov.uk)](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-forums/waterbeach-community-forum/)

**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** |
| Active Travel for Cambridgeshire | Strategy | Cambs County Council | Live. Closes 7 Nov 22 | <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/active-travel-strategy-for-cambridgeshire-public-consultation> |
| Sustainable Travel Zone | City Access | Greater Cambridge Partnership | Expected to be launched in October 22 |  |
| 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 above) | [Link to Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website](https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/north-east-cambridge-area-action-plan/) |
| East West Rail | Nationally significant infrastructure project | East West Railway Company (Created by Department for Transport in 2018) | Latest consultation closed in June 2021. Next steps are uncertain. | [Link – East West Rail company](https://eastwestrail.co.uk/) |
| Cambourne to Cambridge | Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) | Greater Cambridge Partnership | EIA consultation closed on 11 July 22 | [Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website](https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/public-transport-schemes/waterbeach-to-cambridge) |
| Waterbeach to Cambridge | Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) | Greater Cambridge Partnership | Aim is to undertake a public consultation on the preferred route for the Waterbeach to Cambridge project later in 2022 | [Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website](https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/public-transport-schemes/waterbeach-to-cambridge) |
| Cambridge South East Transport | Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) | Greater Cambridge Partnership | Application to Government for TWAO to build busway and active travel route in 2022 | [Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website](https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/public-transport-schemes/cambridge-south-east-transport) |
| Cambridge Eastern Access | Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) | Greater Cambridge Partnership | Consultation was held in late 2021. The results of this consultation will be taken back to the GCP Executive Board - alongside further technical work – in 2022 to decide on next steps on the preferred options. | [Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website](https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/public-transport-schemes/cambridge-eastern-access) |
| Greenways | 12 x local greenways feeding into Cambridge | Greater Cambridge Partnership | Outline business case being prepared. Consultations on Haslingfield and Comberton Greenways have taken place. Waterbeach Greenway consultation is expected Jan 23. | [Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website](https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/greenways) |
| Cambridge South West Travel Hub | Local - A new Travel Hub site at Junction 11 of the M11 | Greater Cambridge Partnership | County Council planning application has been approved. | [Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website](https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/cambridgesouthwesttravelhub) |