

County Councillor report - Sawston & Shelford Division

(includes Sawston, Little and Great Shelfords, Stapleford, Babraham, South Trunpington, Hauxton, Harston, Newton and Haslingfield)

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October 2022 update

Update on Stagecoach bus route closures

Thanks to those residents who have been in touch about the proposed bus cuts, for signing petitions and letting us know how they would affect your and your children's lives. The procurement process to replace affected routes by the end of October is now underway.

Public transport is the responsibility of the Combined Authority where the head of transport has responded: 'Thank you for writing and expressing the undoubted concerns of residents about the proposed withdrawal of bus services... I share their concerns and the mayor has expressed his anger at the way Stagecoach has behaved. The transport team are now seeking to recover the situation. New tenders for every withdrawn service have been published and circulated and in around three weeks' time we should be able to work through the tenders and put together a revised network and timetables, which we intend to commence on Sunday 30 October, the day after Stagecoach's last day of operation on the withdrawn routes. Of course, we cannot guarantee to restore every link – it depends on what tenders we receive, and we are bound by the 1985 Transport Act.'

Greater Cambridge 'Public Transport & City Access' consultation

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Board has agreed to go to public consultation on its proposals for significant bus expansion over the next four years, paid for by a charge on driving in Cambridge from 2027. A set of exemptions, discounts, and refunds is also proposed in a number of circumstances. We strongly encourage South Cambridgeshire residents to read the proposals and respond to the consultation when it opens ([Consultations \(greatercambridge.org.uk\)](https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk))

East West Rail Drop-in session and local representatives groups (LRGs)

EWR drop-in session is due to take place in Haslingfield on 12 October.

Cambridge and surrounding areas LRG (includes all our villages except for Haslingfield) is due to meet virtually on 11th October. Timeline for publication of the EWR business case will be discussed amongst other more procedural items.

Support for residents in coping with the cost of living

The Council is continuing to collate information about the various sources of help for individuals and households struggling with the cost of living crisis. <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living>

Local Highways Improvements

For the coming year, the proposal is for the application window to open on Monday 31 October and close on Friday 6 January, with panel meetings in May.

Applications will be divided into non-complex and complex schemes. Noncomplex applications will attract a maximum of £10,000 in council contribution, with complex proposals will be able to seek up to £25,000. The overall council budget for Local Highways Improvement bids will remain the same.

Non-complex projects will be scored by council officers using an agreed matrix, and a councillor working group will review the scores before they are submitted to Highways & Transport Committee for approval. This should speed up the process for all applicants, and mean fewer applications for the councillor panel to interview in depth.

HGV policy

The policy seeks to address how the Council will fulfil its responsibilities for HGV movements throughout Cambridgeshire, and how it will work with partners to reconcile several key aspects of this issue, in particular the contribution of freight to the local economy, the effects of HGV traffic on the environment, and local concerns about residential amenity.

The policy also sets out how communities can take action to address the issue of HGV movements and how they can seek advice, support, and action from the Council if locally brokered solutions are unsuccessful.

The Council's Advisory Freight Route Map, which is currently on the Council's website, will go live on the one.network website, hopefully towards the end of this calendar year.

Highways Asset Management System

The Council is going out to tender for a new Highways Asset Management System. This will enable different parts of the highways service to work together properly, enable mobile working, directly share information with other council systems, and be hosted in the cloud. It will replace the current outdated Insight system, including the limited public facing Report It tool, and provide a much more satisfactory and coordinated way of working.

Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

The Highways & Transport Committee is being asked to approve a new Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan, which highlights key corridors where it is possible to increase walking and cycling and reduce short car trips. The LCWIP will sit under the Active Travel Strategy for Cambridgeshire which is currently under consultation, and this in turn sits under the Combined Authority's Local Transport & Connectivity Plan, currently being refreshed.