

Report July 2017



Lina Joseph
Cambridgeshire County Councillor

So far it has been an incredible few weeks, extremely busy with inductions, committee sessions, speaking with residents and parishes. There are so many things happening across the County. Very exciting and at the same time challenging.

The first week of being elected I started to engage with all my schools. I have been organising meetings with the Headmasters/mistresses in order to understand better where they are and where they are going and how I can support them. Education is essential if we want our society to thrive and it is one of my top priorities.

Road maintenance has been another learning curve and soon I will be going to the depot to visit the contractors and learn how we fill potholes, what materials use, machinery, etc.

I have included below information regarding services, I hope you find it interesting and useful.

Highways & road maintenance

I receive reports from officers regarding road closures and maintenance and I share them on my Facebook page. If you and residents would like instant information please do follow me.

Could I please ask parish councils to make all your highways concerns known to me, so I can include them in my spreadsheet to ensure all issues are being looked at and dealt with.

Residents can also report directly any issues in their community, it's very easy and quick. The team is very efficient.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/>

Fostering

We are corporate parents for 680 children in the county. We are looking for foster parents. Do you have a spare room? Do you want to change the life of a child? Can you look after a child over the weekend? We provide you with training and everything you need.



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Unfortunately, if we don't find foster carers in our county we have to send our children across the border.

If you are interested or know someone who might please get in touch.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption/fostering-in-cambridgeshire/>

Feeling Happy & your mental health

Did you know 1 in 6 of us in the UK struggle with mental health issues at any one time. Take a look at this link and find more about mental health and well being.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/be-well/health-improvement/feeling-happy-and-your-mental-health/>

You can also have a free NHS health check

Not only do NHS Health Checks tell you whether you're at higher risk of getting type 2 diabetes or if you already have the condition, it can also spot early signs of heart disease and stroke.

If you're aged between 40-74 and do not currently have a long-term health condition you should have an NHS Health Check every five years. It's a short 20-30 minute check on blood pressure, weight, cholesterol and the lifestyle factors that influence your health. Those over 65 will also be told the signs and symptoms of dementia to look out for.

Recruitment innovations recognised for value for money

An innovative campaign to recruit social care professionals has seen Cambridgehire County Council and LGSS scoop an award for best value for money at the 2017 Public Service People Managers' Association (PPMA) awards.

Faced with a rising number of vacancies across social care services and a significant cost of employing agency staff to meet demand, Cambridgehire County Council sought a different approach.

LGSS's human resources teams worked with public sector jobs website Jobsgopublic to design and create a dedicated campaign website to attract social care professionals to Cambridgehire. Caroline Adu-Bonsra, LGSS HR Business Partner for Cambridgehire County Council said: "LGSS are committed to finding the right solution to meet our customer's needs, and this award reflects the new and innovative approach we have taken in recruiting social care professionals for the county council."

By completely rewriting job descriptions and using social media and online advertising to target social care professionals, the campaign website was viewed over 10,000 times in six



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months, resulting in 46 new starters to date with many more currently proceeding through interviews.

Greater Cambridge City Deal

Earlier this week, the Google Transit travel-planner started using live location information fed directly from Cambridgeshire Connect's information centre, funded by the City Deal.

Almost all buses in Cambridge now have GPS sensors installed on them. The sensors beam each bus's location back to a central computer hub, where the location data is processed.

Noelle Godfrey told the Smart Task & Finish Sub-Group at its meeting last night that that's where the clever bit takes place! She and her team have created computer programmes and algorithms that analyse the location data, look at where each bus is, how fast it's moving, compares that to known trends, and then calculates the predicted time when it will arrive at each stop along the way.

That's going to be incredibly useful to bus-users in the City and County. Until now, systems like Google Transit just used the published Cambridgeshire bus timetables, so if a bus was late or held up in traffic, it's predicted time of arrival was wrong. Now, the computer programmes can take account of live changes, and make vastly more accurate, live predictions. Noelle and Dan Clarke have been on the street, testing the results over the last few months, and we were told that they've been really good.

Google Transit doesn't create the information itself, it has to get it from somewhere else. And from now on, we'll be feeding it with much more accurate information than it had before.

This information will cover Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire and in fact the whole of the County.

Dates:

19th July Joint Assembly City Deal Cambourne District Council

26th July Executive Board meeting Guildhall



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Just to remind you that the public is welcome to attend County Councils meetings. You can find all the details in the website, along with the agenda and supporting documents.

As always I welcome your questions and comments on the foregoing and any other local or strategic matter in which you are interested.

Lina Joseph