

# **South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward**

## **Report to Barton Parish Council November 2018**

### **Cambourne to Cambridge**

The Combined Authority met last week and included in the discussion was lifting the pause on Cambourne to Cambridge work that the Mayor had placed on the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) earlier in the year. As previously reported, the Mayor, James Palmer, now believes that the off-road route through Coton is the right approach for his CAM metro proposal, ultimately heading into tunnels under Cambridge.

The Mayor has apparently reached this conclusion after seeing work by his consultants Arup on alternative routes. Sadly, the 4-page report Arup provided in the papers for the Combined Authority meeting gives no detail on how they reached their conclusions – certainly nothing that would allow the work and the conclusions to be properly scrutinised. We continue to call for a full report to be released.

In the meantime, the GCP are restarting the process of developing proposals further. This includes engagement with the Local Liaison Forum (LLF) at Comberton Village College on 14<sup>th</sup> November (from 6:30pm). The proposals will also be brought before the GCP Joint Assembly (on 15<sup>th</sup> November) and the Executive Board (on 6<sup>th</sup> December).

One condition the Mayor has placed on the GCP proposals is obviously that any new infrastructure must be compatible with his CAM proposals. This being the case, we are pushing that any decisions taken by the GCP must be conditional on the CAM network proposals being optimised and the funding secured (especially given the huge cost of underground tunnelling).

It's also worth noting that the GCP board is not making a final decision in December. The intention is that the whole route (including the thus far neglected Cambourne to Madingley Mulch piece) be worked up and consulted on before going before the board (likely in the second half of next year).

### **Payoff at the Combined Authority questioned**

Lots of confusion about why the former Chief Executive of the Combined Authority was given a £94,000 payoff when he apparently resigned, with further concerns raised that the payment was authorised only by the Mayor and did not follow formal procedure. The Mayor has stated publicly that no-one cares about this amount, but we certainly do and suspect residents do too. Costs seem to be ballooning at the Combined Authority and, so far, there seems to be little to show for it.

### **M11 Junction 11 Park and Ride Consultation**

The consultation on Park and Ride capacity at Junction 11 has gone live and can be accessed here: <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/m11junction11>

There are two options in the consultation: 1.) Increase the number of spaces at the existing Trumpington Park & Ride site from 1,614 to 2,560 (creating an additional 946 spaces) by creating a multi-storey car park; 2.) Maintain the Park & Ride site at Trumpington and provide a new Park & Ride site with 2,260 spaces to the west of Junction 11 of the M11, with dedicated access from the M11. There are multiple consultation events being held, including Hauxton Primary School (21<sup>st</sup>

November 6-8pm) and Harston Village Hall (6<sup>th</sup> December 6-8pm) – see the website for details of others. The consultation close on 21<sup>st</sup> December.

### **Comberton Greenways**

The Comberton Greenways consultation has also gone live. Access it here:

<https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/greenways>

There are consultation events at Comberton Village Hall (14<sup>th</sup> November 6-8pm), Coton Village Hall (21<sup>st</sup> November 6:30-8:30pm) and The Grand Arcade in Cambridge (12<sup>th</sup> November 11:30am-1:30pm). Though the consultation routes focus on a link via Coton, there is a ‘spur’ to Hardwick which would also provide a cycle route between Barton and Hardwick. The consultation closes on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### **£400,000 grant pot launched to help communities**

Voluntary and community groups are being asked to step forward and bid for a share of over £400,000 of grant funding to make sure vital services are delivered in South Cambridgeshire villages. The three-year funding deal by South Cambridgeshire District Council will see money available for groups supporting communities on issues ranging from community transport and homelessness to living independently and support for people for upcoming national changes to benefits. The areas of work service support grant funding is available include housing options advice and services preventing and relieving homelessness, community transport, specialist and general welfare advice, Independent living and fit to learn as well as support for parishes and communities. Full details of the service support grants available along with application forms can be found by visiting

<http://www.scambs.gov.uk/community/grants/service-support-grants/>

### **Proposed changes to some bin collection arrangements**

Changes to some aspects of bin collections in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire are being proposed to streamline the service. Now that we have a shared service they need to be streamlined. Most of the changes affect Cambridge City only but the one proposed change for South Cambs residents is the introduction of a charge for those who want more than one green bin, which Cambridge City residents already pay. The first green bin will remain free. 95% of Councils that offer a garden waste service already charge for additional green bins, including Cambridge City Council. It will be £35 pa but reduced to £20 for the first year. The scheme would officially begin in April 2019 with residents able to sign-up from early next year.

### **Council Door-knocking**

Just to note that the council will have staff out door-knocking in the few weeks to try and get the responses required to keep the electoral register up to date.

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