

Joint District and County Councillor Report

Contents

LOCAL ISSUES	2
Buses	2
Vandalism	2
Rights of Way improvement plan	3
Quiet Lane proposal for Fowlmere Rd and Mill Rd	3
Superloop	3
HIGHWAYS	3
£5M highways investment for winter readiness	3
New 20mph zones show drivers have slowed down	4
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	4
Local Government Reorganisation	4
Updated Greater Cambridge Local Plan published ahead of final public consultation	4
Greater Cambridge Development Corporation	5
New powers for the mayor	5
ENVIRONMENT	5
Minerals and Waste local plan	5
Agricultural water resilience grant scheme opens	6
Asbestos	6
CARE	6
Helping residents stay independent for longer with Mobile Wardens	6
Unpaid carers invited to share their experience	6
Shaping the future of adult social care	7
FINALLY... ..	7
Grants	7
Ever wanted to ride an autonomous bus?	7

Where to start? A huge amount has happened in local government.

LOCAL ISSUES

Buses

The Combined Authority has published the bus proposals. For Melbourn, they are broadly positive, thanks in no small part to the lobbying of our Cam Vale Bus User Group.

Overall, the proposal is to merge the historic 17 and 26 services into a new 26 route, which will be complemented by an entirely new 27 service. The intention is to improve the overall service and its reliability by avoiding Foxton level railway crossing.

- Morning buses reaching Drummer Street at 06.45 and 08.15
- Morning buses reaching Addenbrooke's at 08.00 and 10.00
- Close to hourly service to Cambridge/Royston for much of the day
- Last bus from Cambridge at 22.15
- Bus reaching Royston by 09.08 on Saturday
- Sunday service with 3 services between Royston and Cambridge
- Pick-up from Melbourn Village College at 15.11 to Royston and Bassingbourn has been removed.

In addition to the 15.11 pick-up from MVC, school principals and parents had requested additional similar buses to MVC in the morning, as well as to Bassingbourn Village College in time for school and after school.

We will continue to lobby the Combined Authority.

The changes are due to be implemented August 2027.

A summary is available on Adam's website:

<https://adambostanci.mycouncillor.org.uk/2026/09/11/combined-authority-bus-proposals-cam-vale-bus-user-group/>

Vandalism

We are aware of the deeply frustrating continuation of vandalism in our area, in particular targeting bicycles parked at Meldreth train station on the new bike stands on the Melbourn side. Local British Transport Police officers have increased their patrols. We are liaising with the BTP and other stakeholders to get CCTV installed as a matter of urgency. Until then, cyclists may choose to use the bicycle racks on the Meldreth side, which have the benefit of CCTV coverage. We are pressing for more police resources for Melbourn.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any comments or questions.

Please report all criminal activity to the Police, including by calling 101 or using the online forms for non-emergency criminal activity, or to the British Transport Police, for example by texting 61016. Reporting is crucial so that the relevant services are aware, can act on patterns of incidents, and involve local council-run services.

Rights of Way improvement plan

The County Council is reviewing its Rights of Way Improvement Plan and is seeking comments from parish councils and other stakeholders. Please consider responding to this survey as a Parish Council. In and around Melbourn, hundreds of school children rely on public rights of way to safely travel to school and back every day. Not all villages are so lucky! Rights of way are also crucial for access to our countryside.

<https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/place-and-sustainability/95349146/>

Quiet Lane proposal for Fowlmere Rd and Mill Rd

Even after recent repairs, the road between Melbourn and Fowlmere is clearly not suitable for the level and speed of traffic trying to use it. “Quiet Lanes” are designed to enable non-motorised users to enjoy using rural roads. They do this by improving safety and encouraging motor vehicles to slow down (in line with what many residents along Fowlmere and Mill Road would like to see). Importantly, quiet lane designation and any changes are about promoting safe and more respectful road use, not banning or preventing any vehicles from using the route.

In Cambridgeshire, the first step towards developing proposals for a Quiet Lane is a residents’ survey to see whether there is appetite for active travel along the route. The survey undertaken and discussed at the last meeting of Melbourn Parish Council has confirmed that there is some appetite for this, so the design work will now begin. The design will be guided by input from local councillors (not survey results), and residents will be formally consulted on the design by means of a public meeting and 21-day period to register any objections. For further details, see:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/active-travel-in-cambridgeshire/projects-and-plans/quiet-lanes>

Superloop

The planning application for the “Melbourn Energy Superloop” is currently being validated, comprising a planning application for the data centre and a Local Development Order for the heat network. The Proposed Melbourn Local Development Order will be considered by Cabinet at South Cambridgeshire District Council on 29 September.

HIGHWAYS

£5M highways investment for winter readiness

Last winter, the rapid and early onset of wet and cold conditions triggered an eruption of potholes, a direct consequence of insufficient national spending on road maintenance over many years. In response to public feedback, Cambridgeshire County Council has

now allocated an additional £5 million to help prepare the county's roads for the coming winter. The investment will fund additional preventative mastic repairs, crack sealing, and patching. As reported previously, the renegotiated highways maintenance contract also includes financial penalties for poor repairs. In addition, the council will run a pothole innovation trial in October to test new equipment and materials to identify the most effective approaches for future highway maintenance. We hope that these measures extend the life of our roads and reduce the likelihood of potholes next winter.

Please continue to use the highway faults portal to report any issues.

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/en-gb>

New 20mph zones show drivers have slowed down

This BBC News item may be of interest to councillors.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9dw15d8xj3o>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Reorganisation

After a delay announced before Parliament's summer recess, on 7 September, the newly appointed Secretary of State, Angela Raynor, paused plans for Local Government reorganisation 'in light of new legal advice'. As you can imagine, this has led to even more uncertainty for our area and councils. **We now know that local elections will no longer take place in May 2027** but we still don't know: what the timetable is for the review; the scope or details of the review; when, if ever LGR will resume; if government will give us money to cover the cost of the pause: what the cost of the delay will be to each council and if councils can submit new revised proposals during the pause. We will do all we can to keep our parish councils updated

Updated Greater Cambridge Local Plan published ahead of final public consultation

An updated version of the Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan has been published, marking a major milestone in preparing the first joint Local Plan for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire.

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan has been developed to shape how Greater Cambridge grows over the next 20 years, identifying where new homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure should be located. It also sets planning policies on themes including climate change, biodiversity, wellbeing, sustainable transport and creating great places to live and work.

The latest version of the Plan reflects continued work on infrastructure constraints such as water supply, forecasts on job creation and housing need, confirming a requirement for over 50,000 new homes between 2024 and 2045. Around 37,000 of these are already planned through existing permissions and the current, adopted Local Plan allocations.

You can have your say from Monday 3 August until 5pm on Friday 25 September 2026. You can access, view and comment on the Proposed Submission Local Plan through our consultation platform.

<https://consultations.greatercambridgeplanning.org/proposed-submission-greater-cambridge-local-plan>

Greater Cambridge Development Corporation

At the end of July, the Government established the Greater Cambridge Development Corporation to deliver long-term sustainable growth in the area covering Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. The Corporation will be in existence for 25 years. A first meeting of its Board has been held, and negotiations are underway to establish ways of working together with the elected local councils.

Peter Freeman along with senior representatives of the Greater Cambridge Development Corporation attended a session of Overview and Scrutiny Committee at South Cambridge District Council on 17 September. Members of the South Cambs Climate and Environment Advisory Committee were present as well.

We asked the representatives about their plans, and how future development and growth would respect the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan and protect nature in South Cambridgeshire.

As the plans of the Development Corporation are evidently still taking shape and newly hired staff are doing their best to get up to speed, South Cambridgeshire councillors felt that it is regrettable that the granting of powers from Government will come before the plans for future development in our area have matured. Government interest in our area and the promise to address our major transport infrastructure and water challenges are welcome, but the lack of a plan is concerning.

New powers for the mayor

While local government is losing some of its control over development through the imposition of the Development Corporation, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority has been granted 'Enhanced' status as part of Andy Burnham's recent 'Rewiring the State'. This means new powers for the Mayor. From 2028, Mayors will also receive a share of local income tax, and councils will retain more business rates. In London, the Mayor is held to account by a full, elected London Assembly. Outside London, it is less clear from the proposals that any attention is being given to an increase in the effectiveness of scrutiny to match this accumulation of power. Going forward, we will therefore be looking for opportunities to engage the Mayor to bring local improvements and hold the Combined Authority to account.

ENVIRONMENT

Minerals and Waste local plan

Consultation on this stage of the plan is still open and closes on 10 October.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mwlp-review

Agricultural water resilience grant scheme opens

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched a new water resilience grant scheme for farmers and growers. They can apply for grants of between £2,000 and £50,000 to improve water efficiency, strengthen resilience to drought, and support sustainable food production. Further information, including on application windows and deadlines, is available from Water Resources East's website.

<https://wre.org.uk/agricultural-water-resilience-grant/>

Asbestos

We understand some residents have concerns about asbestos that can be found along certain tracks and public rights of way near Whaddon.

This material is linked to the former Atlas Stone site, where waste products from asbestos cement sheet manufacturing were historically given away for use as hardcore on farm tracks and other surfaces in the local area.

South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council have previously carried out a number of investigations to assess any potential risk to people using these routes and to nearby properties. Where necessary, improvement works have been undertaken by landowners or through development projects.

Based on the assessments that have been carried out, none of the locations currently identified are considered to pose a high risk to public health and no further action is required at this time. The Council continues to keep records of these locations so that they can be considered if any future changes to land use are proposed.

If you have any concerns or would like to report a specific issue, please contact the Environmental Health team at env.health@scambs.gov.uk or visit www.scambs.gov.uk/environmental-health for further information.

CARE

Helping residents stay independent for longer with Mobile Wardens

Hundreds of South Cambridgeshire residents are already benefiting from a simple service that reduces loneliness, boosts confidence and helps people stay independent at home for longer – and the District Council is urging more people to take advantage.

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/helping-residents-stay-independent-for-longer-with-mobile-wardens>

Unpaid carers invited to share their experience

Unpaid carers across Cambridgeshire are being invited to share their experiences to help shape the future of support services in the county.

Cambridgeshire County Council is bringing together unpaid carers, people with lived experience, local organisations and others with an interest in supporting carers to design future Adult Carers Support Services.

The council is keen to hear from people who provide care for family members, friends or neighbours, as well as young adult carers and others with experience of caring. Their insights will help ensure future services reflect the needs of carers and the people they support.

A series of workshops will take place between September 2026 and March 2027, giving participants the opportunity to help develop future service priorities, shape how services are delivered and contribute to wider commissioning plans. There is no expectation that people attend every session, with all involvement welcomed based on individual availability and interests.

The workshops will build on feedback already shared by carers and provide another opportunity for people to influence how support is delivered in future.

Anyone interested in taking part, or who would like more information, can contact Commissioning.FPTeam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Shaping the future of adult social care

Have your say on the future of adult social care as part of a national public engagement launched by Baroness Louise Casey. The Big Conversation on Care aims to give people across England a direct opportunity to influence the future development of a National Care Service and help shape how care and support will be provided for years to come. The County Council is the statutory adult social care authority for Cambridgeshire.

<http://www.caseycommission.co.uk/bigconversation>

FINALLY...

Grants

South Cambridgeshire District Council has a number of grants for community groups and individuals.

Currently open for applications are the Community Chest, Community Pantry, Tenant Community Grants, Mobile Warden Development Fund, Disabled Adaptations and Home Improvement Grants, Long Term Health Condition Physical Activity Grants.

Ever wanted to ride an autonomous bus?

Government-funded research to the tune of £3.8 million will consider how self-driving buses could be used on guided busways in Cambridgeshire in the future. If you want to ride an autonomous bus now, e.g. from Trumpington Park & Ride to the Biomedical Campus, as part of the current Connector trial, timetables and other details can be found at:

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/smart-technology-innovation/connector>

Adam Bostanci, Cambridgeshire County Councillor

Sally-Ann Hart, South Cambs District Councillor

Jose Hales, South Cambs District Councillor

