

District Councillor report to parish councils – March 2023

Waterbeach Station planning application

Three years ago the planning application was approved for the new railway station in the new town at Waterbeach. The planning permission recently expired and planning officers are currently examining whether the minor works that have been carried out constitute the start of development. If not, a new planning application will need to be submitted.

The new station is essential to adequately serve both the village and the New Town. Network Rail won't allow both stations to remain open. Since it's important to have sustainable transport infrastructure in place early in a new community, the station was approved at planning committee back in 2018 to give the developers (RLW) time to get going on this project.

Progress has been very slow and now the Greater Cambridge Partnership has taken on the responsibility of delivering the station. When the planning committee approved the outline planning for Waterbeach New Town East a condition was applied that it should be completed before more than fifty houses could be occupied.

It is important that the station is built because the development at Waterbeach New Town is a key part of the Local Plan for our area. Without it our district may suffer the type of uncontrolled speculative development that we have seen over the years in Waterbeach.

We are taking the lack of progress on this very seriously and will endeavour to ensure that the developer is held to account for the commitments they have made.

Council Budget

At the recent full council meeting the following budget items were approved:

Updated Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2028

Updated New Build Council Housing Strategy 2020-25 including setting the target annual completions for 2023-24 and 2024-25 at 75 homes per year

Business Plan Action Plan - 2023-24.

Capital Strategy which sets the policy framework for the development, management and monitoring of capital investment.

Treasury Management Strategy which sets the policy framework for the Council's treasury management activity

Capital Programme 2023/24 - 2027/28

Localised Council Tax Support 2023/24 which approves the scheme currently in operation and increased working age scheme to a maximum 100% reduction for all working age claimants

General Fund Budget 2023/24. This included approval to an increase in the District element of the Council Tax of £5 per annum, giving an average Band D Council Tax of £165.31 (3.2% increase).

Support for Debate not Hate campaign motion at full council

At the recent council meeting, 21 Feb, a motion was proposed by the leader of the council (Cllr Smith) and seconded by the leader of the opposition (Heather Williams) was unanimously approved:

“The intimidation and abuse of councillors, in person or otherwise, undermines democracy; preventing elected members from representing the communities they serve, deterring individuals from standing for election, and undermining public life in democratic processes. This council notes that increasing levels of toxicity in public and political discourse is having a detrimental impact on local democracy and that prevention, support and responses to abuse and intimidation of local politicians must improve to ensure councillors feel safe and able to continue representing their residents. This council therefore commits to challenge the normalisation of abuse against councillors and uphold exemplary standards of public and political debate in all it does. The council further agrees to sign up to the LGA’s Debate Not Hate campaign. The campaign aims to raise public awareness of the role of councillors in local communities, encourage healthy debate and improve the response to and support for local politicians facing abuse and intimidation. In addition, the council resolves to:

- Use the LGA template letter to write to the local Members of Parliament to ask them to support the campaign.
- Use the LGA template letter to write to the Government to ask them to work with the LGA to develop and implement a plan to address abuse and intimidation of politicians.
- Regularly review the support available to councillors in relation to abuse and intimidation and councillor safety.
- Work with the local police to ensure there is a clear and joined-up mechanism for reporting threats and other concerns about the safety of councillors and their families.
- Take a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of councillors and officers.”

Waterbeach Community Forum

The Waterbeach Community Forum will be held at the Baptist Chapel on 15 March.

Waterbeach to Cambridge busway consultation:

The GCP’s consultation on the Waterbeach Cambridge transport scheme and the location of a new Park & Ride is open until midday on Friday 24th March 2023.

The last remaining in person event will at Milton Community Centre 17:30-20:30 on 7 March.

Cllrs Judith Rippeth, Paul Bearpark and Anna Bradnam

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
Waterbeach to Cambridge	Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO)	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Consultation from 30 Jan until 24 Mar 2023	https://consultcambs.uk/engagementhq.com/gcp-waterbeach-to-cambridge-2023?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
Cambridge Eastern Access	Newmarket Road improvements. Park & Ride preferred site.	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Consultation open until 20 Mar 2023	https://consultcambs.uk/engagementhq.com/gcp-newmarket-road-23
Greenways	12 x local greenways feeding into Cambridge	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Consultations on Haslingfield, Comberton, Melbourn, Sawston and Horningsea Greenways have taken place. Waterbeach Greenway consultation is expected Q2 2023.	https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/active-travel-projects/greater-cambridge-greenways
Sustainable Travel Zone	City Access	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Closed midday 23 Dec. Results of consultation expected to be published in June 23	https://consultcambs.uk/engagementhq.com/making-connections-2022
Greater Cambridge Local Plan	Local Plan	South Cambs District Council	Greater Cambridge Local Plan Development Strategy Update published in Jan 23 Full public consultation in Autumn 23.	https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/merging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/
North East Cambridge Area Action Plan	Area Action Plan	South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridge City Council	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
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
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

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 2023	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website
LTCP (Local Transport & Connectivity Plan)	Transport Plan	CPCA	Due to be consulted on between May 12 and Aug 4 2023	http://www.yourltcp.co.uk