

County Council Report for Parish Councils

October 2017

Cllr Roger Hickford & Cllr Kevin Cuffley

Representing the villages:

*Babraham, Great Shelford, Harston, Haslingfield, Hauxton, Little Shelford,
Newton, Sawston, Stapleford*

Budget

Following on from the financial report in August, we are now entering the budget setting process at the County Council, which will continue until the Council Budget meeting in February. As some of you may have already heard from Cllr Hickford's interview on Radio Cambridge, there is a budget deficit for the coming financial year for a total of £37.5m. The good news is that £31.5m of savings has already been identified. Other proposals are in the pipeline and the Conservative administration is confident securing the extra savings required to balance the budget. Much has been talked about cuts to front line services, but it has been made clear, just as in previous years, that other things are looked at before even considering looking to cut services. These other things include making our residents more independent and reducing the need for our services, making the most of our assets and ensuring we work effectively and efficiently with our partners wherever possible, and also renegotiating contracts to ensure best value and future proofing as much as possible. A good example of using our assets better is in the Childrens Centres proposal (please see below) and an example of negotiating a better contract is our new contract with our Highways maintenance provider where we will be saving £500k whilst delivering at least the same service. The Conservatives also put another £2.5m into road maintenance last year, and this will continue.

A1307 LLF

The long awaited A1307 LLF took place at Sawston VC on 26th September. West of Fourwentways three options are going out to consultation. I am pleased to say Option 1 which Cllrs Hickford and Cuffley fought hard for is included. Option 1 is a route for a transport corridor from Fourwentways to Addenbrookes which is off the existing A1307 route and takes in Sawston and Shelford. Once the route is decided, then the mode of transport system can be discussed, which may include a guided busway or a light railway, or

anything else can be considered. The minor highways improvements to the east of Fourwentways are the same on all three options and are therefore likely to go ahead asap.

Children's Centres

The New Sawston Community Hub (which is on the site of the Sawston Community College) will be the location for the new Child and Family Zone – this will be a really good space and much larger than the present centre based in Bellbird School . The space in the Bellbird school will be used to provide more early years places so in effect Sawston will have more provision not less.

The proposed 1 million efficiency savings are to be made through limiting buildings overheads and management costs – this is a good example where children centres services can use a shared building to share overheads and have a better space from which to deliver services.

Residents from the surrounding villages can and do come into Sawston for their services and we would expect the same to happen in the future, although they will also be able to access outreach in their homes where there is an identified need.

Innovation Fund

There was a meeting for PC's and organisations to learn more about the £1m Innovation Fund set up by the County Council to encourage partnership working at a local level to improve services and potentially save money. It was well received with over 60 organisations registering their interest to apply for funding.

Local Highways Improvement Scheme (LHIS)

Five of our nine villages asked us to obtain officer support to look at potential ideas for bids to the LHIS. I am pleased to say that all five schemes we looked at are being considered further by the respective PC's , and hopefully will progress into full applications.
