

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

### **Report to Hauxton Parish Council February 2020**

#### **Harston Air Quality Monitors**

The council is piloting the use of a new monitor for air quality (particulates and nitrogen dioxide) in Harston and hope to deploy it for 6-12 months to get a good baseline of data while undertaking a broader review of permanent monitoring locations across the District. The instruments are known informally as 'pods' and have no power supply or housing, as they are solar powered and attach to a lamppost or signs usually. Officers are investigating suitable locations with Tony, and we know somewhere near the school is desirable - it needs to be representative of where people (particularly children from our point of view) breathe. Procurement should be within the next few weeks and deployment will depend on any calibration required. Once installed real time data should be available, and we hope this will be linked to via the website.

#### **East West Rail (EWR) Route Decision**

Route Option E was announced as the preferred option at the end of January – the route via St Neots and Cambourne and coming down, through a significant portion of the Harston & Comberton ward, to enter Cambridge from the South. The next step is to develop a specific route alignment and we should see more consultation on that in the coming months. While we've always been supportive of a route via Cambourne, there are many challenges for this route. Those challenges are best overcome by engaging properly with the communities along the way and we'll be encouraging EWR to do so. More information can be found here: <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/the-project/central-section>

#### **Parking Enforcement**

Illegal parking is becoming a significant problem in many of the villages in the ward, but understandably, it is rarely prioritised by the police. Civil enforcement, as in Cambridge City, is possible by effectively decriminalising illegal parking, but the enforcement has to be funded from the related revenue stream (parking charges and fines). South Cambs District doesn't have any car parks though, and funding enforcement through fines is not viable. However, the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is now working on a proposal to help support South Cambs on a civil enforcement scheme. There is a long way to go but we are encouraged that the GCP are looking seriously at it.

#### **Cambourne to Cambridge**

The Cambourne to Cambridge proposal recommending an off-road bus way route will go before the executive board of the GCP on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Ian took the opportunity to criticise the proposal at the GCP Joint Assembly, which we continue to believe is a poor solution to delivering the high quality public transport link that Cambourne needs. Particularly in light of the EWR announcement of a route via Cambourne, now is clearly time for a rethink.

#### **Community Volunteers Celebration**

Later this year (in June) the council will be running a celebration event for community volunteers. There are no awards, but it will be an evening to celebrate the people who make our villages better places to live for our communities, treat them and show our appreciation. District Councillors have been asked to nominate one volunteer each in their community who has made an outstanding contribution to their residents. If there's anyone you think we should know about for this, please do!

## **Business Support**

The council has committed to establish a Business Support team to fill the gap left by the loss of agencies such as Business Link in supporting grass roots business. It will consist of 4 people at a cost will focus on getting our Enterprise Zones fully populated and ensuring that village based businesses continue to thrive. We will also be establishing a 'single point of contact' for businesses at the council in response to feedback about difficulty in accessing services and responsiveness.

## **Greater Cambridge Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation**

As mentioned last month, the consultation has started and is running to 24<sup>th</sup> February. This is still an early stage in what will be a 4-year process and we're keen that residents engage and tell us their views and ideas. More information can be found on the website:

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/>. There are also a number of events, details of which can be found through the link.

## **Cambridge South Station**

Another mentioned last month, the consultation on the proposed Cambridge South Station serving Addenbrookes, Royal Papworth and the Biomedical campus is running until 2<sup>nd</sup> March and you can find it at <https://consultations.networkrail.co.uk/communications/cambridge-south/>

## **Fire Authority**

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority is proposing a two per cent increase to the fire service's proportion of council tax for 2020/21. This equates to an extra £1.41 a year for a Band D property, totalling £72.15 a year or £1.38 a week. This is the most the Fire Authority is allowed to ask for due to capping restrictions. The Fire Authority's government grant for 2020/21 is remaining the same as this year so the small council tax increase will only cover inflation costs. This will enable the Fire Authority to maintain the current service but will not allow for any growth or additional investment. The Fire Authority would like to know if residents support the proposal. You can feedback here <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/H5BWSBV> or alternatively email [enquiries@cambsfire.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@cambsfire.gov.uk).

## **Marshalls Relocation**

The parish council may have seen that Marshalls have decided to drop Duxford as a potential relocation site for Marshall Aerospace and Defence. The most significant issue was that the airspace above any new buildings would, for safety reasons, have to become a no-fly zone. This, along with the existing restrictions over Duxford village, would dictate flight patterns that would put undue stress on historic aircraft airframes making any sort of aerobatics from the airfield virtually impossible. Marshalls are still confident they will be in a position to confirm a preferred relocation option during 2020.

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