

## County Councillor Monthly Report - Sawston & Shelford Division

(includes Sawston, Little and Great Shelfords, Stapleford, Babraham, South Trimpington, Hauxton, Harston, Newton and Haslingfield)

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### Covid Vaccine Programme

The government has accepted advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation for an autumn COVID-19 vaccination programme this year. All those aged 65 or over, all those in care homes for older people, and those aged six months or over who are in a clinical risk group, will be eligible for vaccination this autumn.

### Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

The Government has extended the funding through this programme into the next financial year. Further details for Cambridgeshire will follow.

### 'My Smile' accreditation for Children & Family Centres

All of the County Council's Child & Family Centres and Family Hubs are now 'My Smile' accredited. The 'My Smile' programme is aimed at reducing oral health inequalities for the most deprived and disadvantaged children in early years. The programme offers training to Child & Family Centre and Family Hub staff by the Oral Health team from Dental Health Care, part of Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust.

There are four steps to the programme, consisting of

- Training in good oral health
- How to share information to families around toothbrushing
- Tooth friendly diets
- Dental visits

Acquiring a 'My Smile' accreditation shows that the staff at these centres have received the most the up-to-date, evidence-based oral health training.

### Old Shire Hall

The County Council's Assets & Procurement Committee has agreed to enter into an exclusivity arrangement with a preferred bidder for a freehold sale of the old Shire Hall building in Cambridge. The move comes after the previous preferred bidder pulled out of a proposal for a leasehold arrangement, and a new marketing exercise was undertaken. The Committee also agreed to make arrangements in the event that contracts are not exchanged by 9 October.

### Council owned companies

The Committee has also agreed to establish arrangements for strengthened oversight of companies in which the council has an interest as owner, and to recommend the council's Constitution & Ethics Committee to establish a shareholder sub-committee to consider how this should be done.

### Active travel hierarchy consultation – open until 30 September

A consultation on the development of an 'Active Travel Hierarchy' was launched on 22 July. This seeks feedback on which routes and public rights of way are considered most important to users, as well as asking residents about their preferences for prioritised maintenance activities. We have given feedback, that the consultation was difficult to use and understand. In response, the council has revised the online material to make it easier and extended the consultation to 30 September. [Active Travel Hierarchy | Consult Cambridgeshire \(engagementhq.com\)](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/active-travel-hierarchy)

### Household Support Fund

The new Government announced that the Household Support Fund will be continuing, this will be its fifth extension.

In April 2024, Cambridgeshire County Council was awarded over £3,580,000 to support households in need and help with the rising cost of living. The scheme has experienced significant demand, with large numbers of applications being submitted every day both directly and through partners. The council's Household Advice and Support Team continue to process applications, with the current processing time being approximately three weeks.

Advice is available to those struggling with the cost of living. Help with utility bills, housing support, emergencies and benefits:

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living)

The Government offers help and advice with living costs, childcare and maternity costs, managing money and debt and guidance for those over 60 or those who have a disability or health condition. [www.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

### **Community energy consultation**

The County Council is currently consulting on its proposed Action Plan to support community energy. The draft Action Plan and survey seeking your views on the proposals will remain open until Monday 16 September. <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/community-energy-project>

### **Waste partnership awards new recycling contract**

Local council waste partnership RECAP has awarded its contract for mixed dry recyclables (blue bin waste) to Biffa and Re-Gen after a procurement exercise. The contract was previously held by Thalia who run the waste facility at Waterbeach. The handover took place on 1 September.

### **Mill Road (Cambridge) bus gate new consultation**

Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed with the claimant to end legal proceedings in relation to the Mill Road Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) challenge. The Council will no longer be defending the case through the courts, and the judge has agreed to quash the decision that was made to approve the traffic regulation order for the scheme. A new statutory consultation on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order started on Friday 9 August. The Order would close Mill Road bridge to all vehicles, with some exemptions. The consultation runs until midnight on Friday 13 September. <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/transportprojects/cycling-pedestrian-improvements/mill-road-bridge-tro>

### **Vision Zero and iRAP (International Road Assessment Programme)**

An update on the Vision Zero Partnership will be presented to the County Council's Highways & Transport Committee in December. At the same meeting, a report setting out the analysis of the Council's A roads using the iRAP methodology will be considered. Vision Zero is a road safety partnership including local councils, police, fire, NHS and other relevant organisations. It is committed to preventing all road deaths across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and to significantly reducing the severity of injuries, costs and social impacts resulting from road traffic collisions. iRAP is a registered charity working with governments, highways authorities, and others to provide the tools and training to make roads safer.

### **Government review of transport priorities**

The new government is undertaking an internal review of the Department for Transport's capital spend portfolio and will be making recommendations about current and future schemes. This could have implications for schemes in or around Cambridgeshire, including the A10 from Ely to Cambridge, East West Rail, and the Ely Area Capacity Enhancements around Ely railway junction.

### **Highways projects overview**

The council wants to use its website more to enable residents to see more up to date information on highways projects. This is very much a work in progress, but some of the larger projects can be seen at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/highway-projects/our-projects-andprogrammes>

### **Local Highways Improvement schemes**

Local Highways Improvement applications are being scored and will be presented to the Highways & Transport Committee in October for approval. 36 of the 77 schemes added to the programme last year have been delivered, with a further ten ordered. Of the remainder, fourteen are with the contractor for pricing, fifteen are in design and consultation stage. Five schemes prior to 2023/24 have not yet been completed.

### **20MPH schemes**

Scoring of the new and updated applications took place in May and June in preparation for presentation to the Highways & Transport Committee in October. These remain popular, with 65 applications received this year, many of which were re-submissions from the previous year. Some of the 2023/2024 have been delayed as applicants undertake further informal consultation following feedback from residents, or due to changes to guidance from the Department for Transport, and the amount of time the formal consultation phase is taking to conclude.

### **Weeds**

The first round of weed treatment, for those communities wishing to have this, is now coming to an end, and the second round will begin in October.

### **Winter gritting**

Preparations are under way for the 2024 winter, which starts on Friday 1 November, with salt barns being replenished and servicing of gritting vehicles