

City Deal update - Greenways

The County Council has recently published a report on Greenways - an investigation of potential cycle routes between Cambridge and surrounding villages / towns. The routes considered include Cambridge – Sawston and Cambridge – Linton, and there is a separate appendix for each route.

The City Deal Board made up of representatives of the County Council, City Council and District Council, together with representatives of Cambridge University and the Local Enterprise Partnership, are expected to consider a report about proposals for the A1307 Three Campuses corridor in March 2017, and the Sawston Greenway and Linton Greenway reports may influence what is put forward. I have attached the Greenways Report and the appendices for the Sawston and Linton routes to this report.

City Deal update - Cambridge Access Study and Tackling peak-time congestion in Cambridge

This consultation ended on 10 October, and proved to be very controversial. Officers are now working on all the consultation responses and a further report will be presented to the City Deal Executive Board sometime early in 2017.

Devolution update

The seven councils involved in the discussions about a devolution agreement for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough each arranged a special council meeting in late October to decide whether to agree to the Devolution Agreement as proposed. The government then informed councils that the necessary orders would not be laid before Parliament until early November, and when they were put forward there were some detailed differences from what had been discussed. As a consequence the councils involved have all arranged special meetings this week, and the South Cambridgeshire District Council meeting is tonight at 7.30 pm.

By the end of this week we will know whether devolution for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is going ahead from April 2017.

Parish Planning Training

The District Council has arranged a programme of Planning Training for parish councillors.

23 November 2016, 1.30 – 4.30 pm National Planning, which will cover National Planning Policy and Guidance venue SCDC , Cambourne

30 November 2016, 6.00 – 8.30 pm Nuts and Bolts of Planning, which covers an introduction to planning for new parish councillors and is suitable as a refresher for existing members venue Sawston Village College

Three meetings have been arranged for early 2017, all to be held at SCDC, Cambourne, and all timed for 6.00 to 8.30 pm

23 January Section 106 agreements, what they are, when they can and cannot be used and examples from round the district

February (at a date to be decided) Policy writing for Neighbourhood Plans

13 March Affordable Housing

SCDC Scrutiny Committee

I am the Chair of SCDC's Scrutiny Committee. In recent meetings we have scrutinised the performance of the Planning Department and continue to receive updates on performance.

At our most recent meeting, held earlier this month, we focussed on the Contact Centre, which receives between 12,000 and 16,000 calls a month. . Call Centre staff are trained to be able to answer queries on a range of council services and procedures, and the vast majority of calls are handled without having to pass the caller on to other staff in the council.

We were pleased that the vast majority of calls are handled without having to pass the caller on to other staff in the council. However, we were concerned about the number of calls where the caller rang off before being put through to a call handler, but noted that in the last two months performance had improved. The Committee will continue to monitor the Call Centre's performance.

Tony Orgee
District Councillor for Great Abington