

Report for Parish Councils – October 2017

City Deal

The final official public meeting of the A1307 LLF was held at Sawston Village College on September 26th. The City Deal/Greater Cambridge Partnership team had compiled the results of the 4 previous idea workshops and came up with 3 schemes that cover the route as a whole. The solutions east of Fourwentways (our section) are the same in all 3 schemes. These aren't finalised and ideas can still be added as (with everything these days) the proposals need to go out to consultation and then come back to be discussed again etc etc so we are still some way off having decisions made.

Highways

The annual Open Days are coming up, October 16th to be precise, do book a slot at the Whittlesford depot to take a look around, and more importantly, get some free face time with Highways officers.

Children's Centres

The consultation on this is now closed; the response was good, with over 2000 responses from members of the public and local organisations. This decision now goes to the Full Council meeting of the County Council on October 17th for debate and decision. Members of the public can make representations to speak at this meeting by emailing democraticservices@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Library Services

There are, and will be further, consultation events in Cambridgeshire's libraries regarding their futures. The County Council are looking to economise their library service by looking at the staffing options, so potentially having fewer staff, a community run service or even an unmanned library service. More information on these workshops can be seen here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/future-libraries-community-groups-invited-to-help-shape-libraries-in-cambridgeshire/>

Innovate and Cultivate Fund

Another funding opportunity from the County Council. This time it's essentially a rebranding of the previously named, Cambridgeshire Communities Innovation Fund. It's a pot of £1million to help voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations realise their project ideas that help address the needs of local residents. It's aimed at making it easier to apply for small grants and focuses on council funding projects. The main thrust is to help redirect high cost front-line services towards support and services that are delivered with or by local communities, such as vulnerable adults, children and families and waste services. Info can be seen at - <http://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html>

National Schools Funding

For those of you with your ears to the ground you would have heard that the government has changed the Schools National Funding Formula and how they allocate pupil funding. Overall in Cambridgeshire it's relatively positive news but not as good as we were hoping for. The impact on schools varies according to size and location, Linton Village College will receive around £100k more per year, which is welcome but still means that local Essex and Suffolk schools get significantly more per student than we do in Cambridgeshire. We should recognise that at last government is distributing money on a more rational basis. However, the government's funding for schools, though increasing in total cash terms as more pupils enter the system, what they have not done is increase the cash amount per pupil to allow for inflation in school costs.