

Report for Parish Councils – January 2018

PINPOINT Conference

PINPOINT is the charity that helps parents with children with additional and special needs. They are planning a conference on February 1st with workshops, speakers and the chance to have one-on-one sessions. This is also free for Cambridgeshire parent carers. More info at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pinpoint-conference-2018-a-force-for-families-parentpower18-tickets-38491345651?aff=es2>

County Council Funding

The County Council will soon be deciding its budget for 2017-2018. It's quite boring but does have an impact on things we use every day, such as roads. The government announced some changes before Christmas, mainly allowing local authorities to raise council tax by 3% instead of the current 1.99% without a referendum. The current administration has chosen not to increase this in recent years. The recent announcement means that Cambridgeshire remains the 3rd worst funded county council in the UK. More to follow.

Street Lighting

Due to deductions for unsatisfactory performance by Balfour Beatty in their delivery of street lighting in the county, there was a £384,000 underspend in the budget. We argued that this should be paid back to the Parishes that suffered the worst during this transition, but this was unfortunately dismissed.

Park and Ride Parking Charge

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has agreed to subsidise the removal of the charge to park at the Cambridge P&R sites in April this year. Since the charge was introduced, usage of the service has dropped significantly.

Supported Lodgings

The County Council relaunched the Supported Lodgings scheme and is looking for people with a spare room or annex who can support a young person leaving care aged 16-21. An allowance of £250 per week is granted to anyone offering this support. More information available on the Supported Lodgings section of the County's website or speak with the fostering service on 0800 052 0078.

A1307 Improvements

The final option for the A1307 will be consulted on from 9 Feb. There are three options but the proposals for the Haverhill to A11 are the same for them all. As this first phase of road safety and bus priority measures is, hopefully, non-contentious work could start possibly as early as this summer. Detailed proposals can be seen on the website: www.greatercambridge.org.uk look for 'Cambridge South East Transport Study'