

ANNUAL DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT - MAY 2018

ALL CHANGE AT SOUTH CAMBS

The big story is undoubtedly the District Council election this month. There has been a completed change of party leadership with the Liberal Democrats taking over all control for the first time in the history of South Cambs.

The new council will be:

Liberal Democrats: 30

Conservatives; 11

Labour: 2

Independents: 2

The new council takes control at the AGM to be held on 23 May.

Our local result was:

Henry Batchelor: 1150

John Batchelor: 1096

Enid Bald: 981

Chris Negus: 804

Mike Murry: 293

Ernie Turkington: 219

Paul Richardson: 207

REST OF THE YEAR

The big ongoing issue has been the Local Plan that has been under review by a government inspector for well over four years. Without the plan in place this has opened the door to developers to build housing in areas around our villages which would not normally be allowed. Over the whole district this has amounted to nearly 6,000 unplanned houses. Linton has seen around 100 houses approved at appeal whilst The Abington's and Castle Camps have seen significant approvals.

We understand that the Inspector will finish her work on the Local Plan around June or July. Once it is back in place the villages will be protected again.

We have better news on the A1307 where the Greater Cambridge Partnership is proposing to invest at least £39 Million in safety and public transport improvements to the road. This will include a roundabout at the Bartlow Crossroads at Linton as well as speed reductions, improved traffic lights systems, and bus priority measures. We are expecting to hear the results of the recent consultation process in the next few weeks, see a revised plan and hope to hear that work will start on the Haverhill to A11 section this summer.

Children's Centres

The County took the decision last year to 're-designate' some of Cambridgeshire's Children's centres, which means that the County Council owned buildings that have Children's Centres in them will no longer be classed as such. We have one in Linton and this was one of the centres that was earmarked for re-designation. They are having some issues with the Trust that run the building however, as the County Council have the Children's Centre on a long-term lease, which they are struggling to get out of. They are still working through this however, so will eventually not be there.

The plan from the County Council is to offer the same services remotely via outreach programmes. Our concerns are that the transition won't be as smooth as planned and some people will be left in limbo without any support that they are entitled to.

Park & Ride Charges

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (City Deal) has agreed to take on the charge for parking at Cambridge's Park & Ride sites. This includes the annoying electronic system for actually parking the car as well as the charge. The charge for the actual bus remains however, but the charge and the system for the car park have been removed.