

Report from County Councillor Claire Daunton to Great Wilbraham Parish Council for July 2021

Since the last meeting of the parish council I have attended a number of County Council meetings including those related to adult health and well being, education and young people. In addition there are sub committees and liaison groups to which I am committed and have yet to meet. For me these latter include groups relating to mental health, schools liaison and archives and local studies.

In the area of adult health and well-being the committee considered a number of significant local and national issues. Two strategic matters were dealt with: the impact of Covid 19 on residents and communities; realising the potential of the integration of health and social care (IHSC). The proposed IHSC involves a major overhaul of the workings between the many different agencies involved in health and social care. It advocates a neighbourhood integrated approach involving health, social care, education and other agencies. It would, for example, involve a completely different approach to the ways in which GP practices work and are funded. This new approach is in the early stages of development nationally and the committee were concerned to know more about how it would work in practice locally and what 'neighbourhoods' would mean in our District setting.

A good introduction, by the highly-respected King's Fund, to the reforms as a whole can be found by following this link

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/health-social-care-white-paper-explained>.

In the area of children and young people the committee also considered a number of issues, including: supporting vulnerable families; funding of children in care; funding for special educational needs. (SEND)

The main 'takeaways' from this meeting were: the significant effect of Covid on families; the significant under-funding by central government of SEND; there is currently a deficit of £27M); a new approach to children in care.

The committee agreed to recommend to the County's Strategy and Resources Committee that an additional sum of £536K be made available to extend the free school meals voucher system and related support for the school summer holidays. The committee also agreed to work with all relevant agencies and MPs to indicate to central government that being 5th from the bottom in the league table of education funding is not sustainable for Cambridgeshire in relation to its projected growth. The underfunding of SEND is particularly urgent.

Communities and Social Inclusion

The Committee on Communities and Social Inclusion on which I will also serve as alternate held its first meeting on 8th July. It deals with a very wide range of issues from Registration Services to the Coroners' Service to Library and Archives Service, to leisure and cultural services and community work more generally.

We confirmed the need for taking services and advice down to a much more local level and to increased working across county and districts both to enhance provision but also to prevent overlap. It is proposed to establish community hubs for a range of services.

Highways and Transport

The Highways and Transport committee has a huge agenda, not least the development of a more agile, more responsive service on the repairs to roads and footpaths; clearing of gulleys; the issue of HGV access through villages; the filling of a number of vacancies.

The establishment of a Highways Improvement Board is under discussion. This would offer greater dialogue between officers, councillors, contractors and residents. In addition a new round of training for those putting in LHI bids is being planned once the service has recruited to the vacant posts.

Environment and Green Investment

On Thursday 1 July the Committee considered the adoption of the new Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan as well as investments into a Smart Energy Grid at St Ives P&R, low carbon heating alternatives for maintained schools where their boilers are due for replacement and a review of the Climate Change and Environment Strategy and the Environment Fund to ensure it meets our resourcing strategy.

Alconbury Civic Hub

The County Council has been having its in-person Committee meetings at a number of venues across the County, including the Corn Exchange, a hangar at Duxford Air Museum, the University Sports Centre and spacious village halls across the county. Meantime the new Civic Hub is progressing. It will be handed over to the County Council on final commissioning of IT, furniture and Audio-Visual equipment during July and August. The aim is for the building to be fully operational in September. A shuttle bus will operate from Cambridge North Station to Alconbury Weald,

Cycling and Walking

I put this information into the June report. I am including it again since it is very relevant to Great Wilbraham

Cambridgeshire County Council began [a consultation](#) on the creation of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Cambridgeshire. This Plan is an early-stage policy document which seeks to outline new and existing walking and cycling routes and consider which routes should be created or improved, as and when funding becomes available. In many cases, it may be several years before monies come forward for these projects and works can take place. However, identifying the best routes and putting a Plan in place means that the County will be in the best position to bid for future Government funding and progress new cycling and walking routes. **The closing date is 13th July.**

I asked all parish councils in my County Division to respond to the consultation. Since this is of particular relevance to the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom, I'm very grateful for the support of the WEG, parish councillors and other groups for 'getting the word out' amongst residents and encouraging as many as possible to respond. I will follow up the response with County officers once they have had time to examine the data. I hope to be in a position to provide feedback to the September meeting of the Parish Council

It is not yet certain, but possible, that there will be further funds for promoting walking and cycling in the County. It is important, in order to be able to have any chance of success with bids, to have thought through in advance what might be feasible in terms of cycle routes from our villages. We need to know where people want to go and why; an idea of numbers of users; a clear assessment of what is feasible; and, where possible, some early work on likely costs as well as likely opposition or obstacles. This is all work which I know is either being planned or already underway. If we want to be in a strong position to make a bid when funds become available it is important to progress this work.

Milton Household Recycling Centre

The District Council is responsible for collection of waste and the County Council is responsible for disposal of waste. The County Council is planning to redevelop Milton Household Recycling Centre (HRC), to replace the current facility which must close by 2026 under its existing planning consent. The upgraded HRC, which would be located at the same place, will provide increased capacity to match the increased development in the area, while also being operationally safer. You can see the documents here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/Site-location-plan.pdf> and <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/milton-household-recycling-centre-consultation-document.pdf> There is a virtual exhibition at www.miltonhrc.info

You can [comment on the proposals for Milton HRC on the Survey Monkey website](#)

The consultation closes at 11.55pm on Tuesday 27 July 2021.

County Council Cultivate and Innovate Fund

This fund is to help voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations realise their projects and ideas that help address the needs of local residents. Cultivate – offers grants of £2,000 - £15,000 – to help local networks where local people help themselves. You can apply up until 1 August 2021. (Innovate used to offer grants of up to £50,000 for innovative projects but is being reviewed.)

[Innovate and Cultivate Fund - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Local County Issues

1. Repairs

Our Local Highways Officer, Maciej Adamczyk, has visited the Wilbrahams to follow up the reports concerning verges, potholes and footpaths needing repairs, along with requests concerning improvements to road signage. The Local Highways manager has also visited. Since being elected I have been in regular contact with both in relation to Wilbrahams' issues. I have also kept in contact with the parish council and the transport working group when following up these visits.

Footpaths on Angle End and Church Street are high on the list for repair; potholes along the Wilbraham road to Fulbourn have already been marked up ready for work to begin; gulleys have been jetted. Signage, particularly on Mill Road, and line painting has been ordered, but will take a little longer on account of a backlog of work for contractors.

2. Collaboration with Transport Working Group (TWG)

I will not repeat here points in a report from the Transport Working Group, but simply highlight one or two points. I have been very pleased to work alongside the TWG throughout the period since the last parish council meeting.

There are several areas at the moment where potential changes to County Council policies might assist the aims of the TWG: one of these is possible changes to regulations concerning 20mph speed limits; another is the general approach to HGV traffic through villages; another is general maintenance of the highways and footpaths.

I act as a conduit for views and information and as an advocate for change in the current regulations. It is early days in the new County administration, and there is a huge workload, but the issue of HGV traffic and the 20mph speed limits are already high on the list of work for the Highways and Transport Committee. These issues are of concern right across the County in many village communities. It is important, however, that any new policies are capable of implementation and of enforcement; and that there is clear evidence they will make the kind of difference which residents are hoping for.