

County Council and local updates from County Councillor Linda Oliver

Tel: 01767 650430

email: Linda.oliver@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Local services and events – just put in your postcode.

The 'My Cambridgeshire' mapping facility has been launched on the County Council's website to make it easier for residents to find a range of local information and services, near their homes. Residents can click on www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk and put in their address or postcode to find out where their local County Council run services are and how to contact them but also information on local services provided by partner agencies, such as the NHS and District and City Councils. Many local events are also listed.

Broadband – update on discussions with BT

In spite of all the meetings held and representations made BT are not showing any signs of providing funding for improvements to our local Broadband infrastructure. In the meantime, our MP Andrew Lansley is constructing a bid for funding via another route to provide this service. At present I do not know the timescales but will provide update as soon as possible.

Major planning application from Cemex

A major planning application has been received from Cemex for the importation by rail of nearly two million tonnes of construction and demolition material for use as infill in part of the Barrington cement works quarry. The project would involve the upgrading of the existing Barrington light railway from Foxton sidings to the cement works and construction of a new railway line into the quarry where trains would be unloaded. The unloaded material would be taken to prepared landfill cells within the worked out part of the quarry. The project is likely to last five years and, upon completion of filling, about half the quarry will be restored to a agricultural and amenity use. It is anticipated that the project will generate 15 to 20 jobs.

This major application will be subject to the process of Environmental Impact Assessment and is a departure from the Development Plan. There will be a manned exhibition of the applicant's proposals.

Cambridgeshire Guided Busway

In essence, the County Council will not accept a liability from the contractors and weekly meetings continue between the County Council and the contractor Bam Nuttall. There are six defects which either result in a reduced quality of experience for the users such as the ponding on the cycleway and at St Ives Park and Ride, or have the potential to be longer term maintenance liabilities such as the foundations or the River Great Ouse Bridge joints. The Council made it clear to BAM Nuttall last summer that these issues needed to be addressed satisfactorily before handover would be accepted. An opening date cannot be announced until there is absolute certainty that the necessary work will be completed.

National awards for recycling

Cambridgeshire County Council has been highly commended at a National Public Private Finance Awards ceremony for its innovative approach to managing the County's waste. The County Council was up against a range of much bigger authorities from across the country, and came second only to the multi billion pound Manchester PFI project.

The commendation was given for the County Council's £730 million Waste PFI Project working with local waste management company Donarbon which was designed to help meet challenging recycling targets and avoid costly fines. It includes the building of major waste management facilities such as the state of the art Mechanical Biological Treatment Plant at Waterbeach, and the running of the County Council's nine recycling centres.

NATS, Stansted and Luton airports and the perceived increases in overflying: I have asked for a meeting with Andrew Lansley MP and the Environment Minister to discuss aviation policies which affect this area of South Cambridgeshire.

Reporting potholes:

Please do use the following contact details to report pothole locations to the County Council.

on-line via: http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/forms/highway_defect.htm

email: street.scene@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

phone: 0345 045 5212

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