

District Councillor report to Parish Council July 2020

A10 options for improvement

The Combined Authority led by Mayor James Palmer has launched a virtual road trip online so people can have their say on the shortlist of options that are being considered (for the Cambridge to Ely stretch of the A10). The formal consultation will not take place till later in the year but the Combined Authority were keen to reach out and get views as early as possible despite Covid and social distancing guidelines by having the information event online. I have below copied a quote from Mayor James Palmer regarding this consultation and I hope Parish Councils will spend a few minutes looking through the options that have been put forward on the very easy to use online event.

“I’m keen to hear from the community as soon as I can. I want people to have time to weigh up the various A10 options, to decide which they think works best, and get their comments in early. I don’t want their chance to give opinions reduced by the Covid issue. So I asked the team to come up with a way we could inform people and invite their feedback while keeping them safe. And here it is – [a virtual room](#) with maps and details of the eight options.

“Every comment counts. We’re not committed to any options yet and I’m eager for lots of insights from the community to help inform not only the public consultation due later this year, but also the ultimate decisions about the greener, better A10 we want for our future.”

Eight shortlisted options have been picked following Department for Transport criteria. Each must improve the current A10 to benefit the communities who use it. All involve transformation to dual carriageway.

The environment is a key factor in A10 development, both in terms of the natural and built environments, and broadening scope for active travel. A greener A10 could be a major contributor towards Cambridgeshire’s Net Zero carbon target.

The longlist of possibilities was narrowed to the eight top options, which will be assessed against effect on traffic flow, junctions and other roads; positive and negative social, economic and environmental impacts, and value for money.

The ideal A10 needs to tick a lot of boxes, accommodating not only active travellers who are walking, cycling, or riding horses but also wide, slow-moving agricultural vehicles. We expect an increase in bus services, linking into a greener public transport system. A better and safer A10 needs to relieve pressure on rat-runs through the villages and help clean up air quality. It has a lot to deliver – but it’s a public highway and we need the public’s input to get it right.”

<https://a10dj.exhibition.app>

North East Action Plan Delayed

The following statement was released by the Planning department at SCDC:

*“We have reviewed dates for the public consultation on the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan with Stephen Kelly and the team today. We wanted you to know that we have decided to push the start of consultation back by a week, and extend by a week at the other end, so it will run from the **27th July to the 2nd October 2020**.*

We were concerned that given the sheer quantity of information that will be published, not only the 300 page AAP itself but also the many supporting documents, we did not have enough time after the final Committee meeting in the cycle, to incorporate any amendments requested at committees, and to fully proof and check all the content in its final digital and print formatting before it goes to print, and is published online.”

Coronavirus related scams

I was sent the following information from South Cambridgeshire Police Force regarding scams within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area which I am sharing with Parish Councillors so you are aware of potential scams and criminal activity that could be taking advantage of residents within your parish. Please share and make residents aware as you see fit.

*Criminals are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to try and get their hands on your money and personal information. **To date, Action Fraud has received reports from 2,378 victims of Coronavirus-related scams, with the total losses reaching over £7 million.***

How you can protect yourself from Coronavirus-related scams:

There are some simple steps you can take that will protect you from the most common Coronavirus-related scams. Here's what need to do:

1 - Watch out for scam messages

Your bank, or other official organisations, won't ask you to share personal information over email or text. If you receive an email you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS): report@phishing.gov.uk

2 - Shopping online

If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, for example, by checking to see if others have used the site and what their experience was. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, other payment providers may not provide the same protection.

3 - Unsolicited calls and browser pop-ups offering tech support

Never install any software, or grant remote access to your computer, as a result of a cold call. Remember, legitimate organisations would never contact you out of the blue to ask for financial details such as your PIN or full banking password.

NHS Test and Trace scams:

The NHS Test and Trace service plays an important role in the fight against coronavirus and it's vital the public have confidence and trust in the service. However, we understand the concerns people have about the opportunity for criminals to commit scams.

What you need to know:

*Contact tracers will **only call you from the number 0300 013 5000**. Anyone who does not wish to talk over the phone can request the NHS Test and Trace service to send an email or text instead, inviting them to log into the web-based service.*

*All text or emails sent by NHS Test and Trace will ask people to sign into the contact tracing website and will provide you with a unique reference number. We would advise people to **type the web address** <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk> **directly into their browser**, followed by the unique reference number given to you, rather than clicking on any link provided in the message.*

The NHS Test and Trace service will never:

- ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product or any kind
- ask for any details about your bank account
- ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else
- ask you to access any website that does not belong to the government or NHS

Cambridgeshire Charity awarded additional funding to support domestic abuse victims

The Police and Crime Commissioner (Ray Bisby) has given £279,108 on the 24th June to support charities tackling domestic and sexual violence. The money is aimed at victims of domestic and sexual violence during lockdown. This money will hopefully help improve access to services and provide some additional capacity.

The Government also announced a wider package of funding and support mechanisms back in May to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, vulnerable children and families throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cambridge South station preferred location announced

Network Rail has come forward with their preferred location for a new railway station (Cambridge South) at the Biomedical Campus. The chosen location corresponds with option 1 that was presented earlier through the public consultation. Network Rail have come forward with the proposed site following evidence from engineering and design information submitted and the public consultation that took place.

I have always supported a new station at Cambridge South on the Biomedical Campus, given the expansion of this site for the new Royal Papworth Hospital and the growing biomedical industries on site. Clearly I am biased as I work at Addenbrookes Hospital but I believe this station will hugely benefit patients and staff and help us work towards our Zero-Carbon targets locally and nationally. This area has also seen a large amount of residential expansion and I am sure this station would encourage modal shift from cars to public transport from villages in the surrounding area. I will continue to lobby for and work with MPs, the Combined Authority and Local Councils to make this project a reality. As far as I am concerned, as soon as this project comes forward the better.

Huawei R&D centre given approval

The District Council's Planning Committee has given approval to a 50,000 sq m research and development space owned by Huawei to be developed in Sawston. The site will also include 9,500 sq m of office space. The site sits between Whittlesford Road and the Cambridge to Liverpool Street railway line. It is hoped that around 400 jobs will be created as a result of this development.

Cambridge Northern Fringe East

In my previous report I commented on the wide-ranging benefits of the new development on the site of the current Water Treatment Plant. I explained the key to unlocking this development would be relocating the current Water Treatment Plant and that I was keen to see the consultation for this moved forward. I have continued to be in contact with Anglian Water and I know Anglian Water will be approaching Parish Councils with three viable locations that the Water Treatment Plant could be relocated to. There will then be a consultation later in July as to which one of these three sites is preferable for the water treatment plant to be relocated to. I would urge Parish Councillors across the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn ward to take part in this consultation when it comes forward looking at all the evidence that will be laid out so the best site to serve our residents for future generations is picked. Anglian Water will be providing lots more information as part of their consultation going forward. As District Councillor I will be keeping an open mind on all of the three sites and will be basing my response on the evidence that is put forward, the views of residents within my ward and what is best for the district as a whole.

Opening of outdoor playgrounds and outdoor gyms

I have copied a statement from the CEO of SCDC regarding the opening of play equipment.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement, outdoor gyms and outdoor playgrounds will be allowed to open from the 4 of July if they can do so safely. As part of this, we have published guidance on managing playgrounds and outdoor gyms. This guidance provides the owners and operators responsible for outdoor playgrounds and outdoor gyms with practical advice on how these can be reopened and managed effectively to enable their use while minimising the transmission risk of COVID-19.

The guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-playgrounds-and-outdoor-gyms>

Thank you for taking the time to read my report; if you have any questions or want to discuss any of the issues raised email me on graham.cone@councillor.online or ring 07595 361 285 (please leave a voicemail if I am unavailable)

Councillor Graham Cone