

County Councillor Report to Stow-cum-Quy Parish Council

1. Since Monday 29 June parking restrictions in Cambridge have returned to normal. At the start of the lockdown in March, Cambridgeshire County Council in partnership with Cambridge City Council, worked together to suspend parking enforcement in Cambridge. By relaxing the rules, the aim was to help critical workers – largely the only ones out and about - park where ever they needed to. Now, as lockdown is gradually eased, there are more people getting out and about, so all parking restrictions in Cambridge will go back to how they operated previously.

3. You will now need to book a slot on the County Council website to visit the Milton Household Recycling Centre. This is in addition to a booking system for all sites that was recently introduced for vans and trailers requiring e-permits. This measure has been introduced to reduce traffic congestion, speed up entry times and reduce the risk of collisions around the sites. As a result of the booking system the Park & Ride is longer needed for waiting vehicles. Residents should only make essential visits if it is not possible to store waste safely at home or dispose of it through kerbside or bulky waste collections. Further Government advice is available on GOV.UK (paragraph 1.1). Sites are provided for the use of Cambridgeshire residents only, and all users should be prepared to show proof of address on arrival.

4. Cambridgeshire County Council has outlined plans to begin re-opening Libraries and Archives from 4 July - in a safe, well managed way to ensure safety of visitors. It takes account of a massive additional take-up of digital library services since the lockdown began with issues more than tripling to 40,000 a month, with a large increase of use in social media channels. To support our shielded community, our library service has a new website, 'Open New Doors', which provides a variety of activities, experiences and learning opportunities. An expanded "Libraries at Home" service has also delivered books to the most vulnerable.

5. After years of deliberation the County Council has lodged a formal claim and are proceeding with legal action against BAM Nuttall for the cost to repair defects on the Guided Busway. This follows a thorough review and advice from external legal and technical experts, who have assessed the work and the contract. BAM Nuttall is defending the claim and if this continues the claim will have to be heard by the Courts and a potential trial is unlikely to be until the end of 2021 or possibly 2022. It would be inappropriate to comment further while legal proceedings are active.

6. You will know that once again Honey Hill is being considered for the potential relocation site of the Cambridge Water Treatment Works. I am opposed to this as I can see no change to the conditions that lead to it being rejected as a suitable site in the past.

7. The Greater Cambridge Partnership has agreed to fund all the potential South Cambridgeshire cycling schemes submitted to the County Council subject to their successful appraisal. This is in addition to the Greenway proposal that had been consulted on last year and subsequent proposal by Sustrans. I have no more information available at this time on these schemes.

John Williams
14 July 2020