

## **County Councillor Report to Gt Wilbraham Parish Council**

1. Cambridgeshire County Council met on 16 February and decided to increase council tax by 2% for adult social care only. This will offset the cost of introducing the National Living Wage. The cuts already planned for adult social care will therefore still go ahead. As it has not used the ability to raise council tax by a further 1.9% a further £5 million needs to be found on top of the £41 million already cut from next year's budget. If it is not taken from council reserves (which are lower than they should be) further cuts to front line services will have to be made.
2. The Boundary Commission has published its final proposal for new county council divisions. As expected the Fulbourn Division is being reduced in size because it is currently considerably larger than the average division and as a result Horningsea PC and Fen Ditton village are being transferred to the Waterbeach division. The southern part of Fen Ditton covering the proposed "Wing" development remains in Fulbourn. There is an overall reduction in county councillors from 69 to 61. The proposal now goes before Parliament for ratification and it is expected that next year's county council elections will use the new division boundaries.
3. The local Bus Group welcomed the news that passenger numbers on route 18 have increased since 2014 and that funding has been secured for the next 12 months.
4. You will know that your Local Highway Initiative bid was unsuccessful. In the view of the LHI panel the scheme had only limited improvement potential. The LHI budget for South Cambridgeshire for the coming financial year is £94,376. There were 47 applications for this money and there were some very high scoring and expensive ones with the result that only 20 schemes were approved for the funding available.
5. The Bottisham Village College Academy Trust in conjunction with the county council will shortly be consulting on its plan to increase the capacity of the college to a 10 Form Entry (FE) totalling some 1500 students. Technically the college is currently a 7 FE although the past two years it has been accepting students up to the equivalent of 8 FE. The county council has currently £10 million in its capital budget to expand the college to 10 FE from 2018 and the Trust will be showing plans to bring this capacity forward with the use of temporary accommodation. This will require a planning application to East Cambridgeshire District Council.

John Williams  
17 March 2016