

County Councillor Report to Great Wilbraham PC

1. The winter road gritting programme has had to be cut from 44% of roads to 30% due to the county council not taking the extra 2% council tax for this year. The number of gritting lorries has been reduced from 36 to 26. We can no longer cover all school routes and accident black spots. Footpaths are left to parish councils.
2. My group and Labour stopped the county council agreeing to give the Government £7 million from our council tax payers in 2019. Money we need to keep essential local services running. By then the county council will be receiving a zero grant from the Government.
3. The Government has dropped its plan to force all grant-maintained primary schools to become academies by 2021 and has informed the county council that its fair funding for schools has been put back a year to 2018.
4. The City Deal Board commissioned a review of 12 existing "Greenway" radial cycle routes from outlying villages to identify improvements. This review has now been published and it proposes a new route from the Wilbrahams to Bottisham via Wilbraham Road to join the National Cycle Route there to Cambridge and provide a safe route to BVC and the health centre. There is currently no funding but it is expected that the review will be used to obtain S106 contributions. The next stage is to consult stakeholders including parish councils.
5. Next year's Local Highway Initiative Scheme will cost more – requiring a bigger contribution from parish councils – due to less money being available for staff coats as a result of the council not increasing council tax by 2%.

John Williams
16 November 2016