

County Councillor Report to Great Wilbraham Parish Council

1. Whippet Coaches the company that runs the subsidised 18 route between Cambridge and Newmarket via Teversham, Fulbourn, the Wilbrahams and Six Mile Bottom has given notice that it will give up the County Council contract at the end of August. Its parent company Tower Transit is downsizing Whippet with the axing of 17 routes to improve profitability and to overcome an ongoing driver shortage. The County Council has retendered the route but what happens next largely depends on the response from other bus operators. Lib Dems are lobbying the Mayor to franchise bus services so that they can be planned and be more secure.
2. Consultation has started on a proposed high quality route for cyclists and walkers between Fulbourn and Cambridge city centre via Cherry Hinton and Romsey. Called Greenways it is planned that a number of these routes will connect surrounding villages to the city for commuting and leisure. The aim is to increase local cycling as a means of tackling congestion and promoting the health benefits of cycling and walking. An exhibition for the Fulbourn route was held at Fulbourn Primary School on Tuesday 18th July. I am pushing for the Greenways scheme to be extended to the Wilbrahams.
3. The Arts Council of England have awarded Cambridgeshire County Council £1million towards the CREATE (Centre for Research and Engagement in Arts, Technology and Education) project to be based at St Luke's Barn on the site of the former St Luke's Primary school, in French's Road, Cambridge. The plan includes rehearsal, recording and broadcasting spaces for local musicians.
4. Also the County Council's Community and Cultural Services will become a National Portfolio Organisation and receive a £694,980 grant from the Arts Council of England for the next four years. The Service has succeeded amid intense competition from organisations across the country in gaining this status. This support will enable a programme of performances, Book Festivals and workshops across the County's libraries. The Council will work to transform library spaces for these activities.
5. Electricity cabling work by UK Power Networks is due to start along Hills Road from Cherry Hinton Road to Brooklands Avenue on Saturday 22 July. It will last about four weeks on Hills Road and two weeks on Brooklands Avenue, Clarendon Road, Fitzwilliam Road and Shaftesbury Road. Before this work can begin two kerbed islands on Hills Road Bridge will be removed to allow two-way traffic to remain in place on Hills Road. This will happen week beginning 17 July for about three nights to minimise disruption. When the work takes place in Clarendon Road and Fitzwilliam Road parking will need to be temporarily suspended. At the start of the works temporary traffic lights will be in use at the junction of Cherry Hinton Road and Hills Road and although two-way traffic will be maintained on Hills Road Bridge the cycle lanes will be suspended. Temporary lights will be used in Brooklands Avenue.
6. Over the summer holiday Cambridgeshire County Council is asking for views on closing over half its Children's Centres to save £1 million including the one that serves the Wilbrahams. You can respond at:
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-centres/children-s-centres-consultation/

John Williams
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