**Report to Parish Councils for May 2024 from County Councillor Claire Daunton**

**‘Care Together’: A service for older people**

The county council is reshaping how it commissions council-funded homecare ir order to increase local supply. It is also introducing different types of providers into the home care market, to increase capacity and choice for all. The council is working with communities and partners to design and develop local services so that people who wish to can remain at home for as long as possible. The council’s teams are supporting the creation and growth of voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSEs). These will help older people to remain living independently for longer, in collaboration with the communities service, health professionals and other partners.

The aims of care together are:

* finding the right support in the local community is easy
* people remain active and age well, staying socially connected
* volunteers offer a hand eg with shopping and gardening
* small local care businesses are started and supported
* there are more and better homecare and day opportunities, offering choice and flexibility for all
* council-funded homecare is more personalised and rewarding for everyone involved
* local people benefit from ‘Care Together’ with better quality of life and a fairer, greener community

To achieve the above vision, dedicated place-based commissioners have been appointed in each locality. The commissioners are building connections with local people and partners to co-design future services. *They want to engage with local community groups and with parish councils; and are actively seeking meetings with as many of these as possible.*

**Preparing for adulthood: Children with special educational needs**

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| Young adults across Cambridgeshire with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), have helped design an event called Preparing for Adulthood, for 14 to 25-year-olds with SEND, as well as professionals, parents, and carers.  The event will be an annual one, providing information and resources to |
| empower young adults with SEND and their families and carers. Highlights include information sessions on job coaching advice**,** mental health and wellbeing, networking opportunities, and accessible information, as well as a range of fun activities. |

**Domestic abuse survivors with learning disabilities**

A campaign has been launched to find carers for people with learning disabilities who have experienced domestic abuse.

The initiative—the first of its kind in the country—is a joint scheme between Cambridgeshire Shared Lives and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership. Its aim is to recruit Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carers who will be self-employed with the scheme paying their fees. Carers can offer support just for a few hours in the daytime, for an overnight stay, or for an extended break.

**sharedlivesplus.org.uk/scheme/cambridgeshire-shared-lives-scheme/**

**Community energy ... ... greener together**

A *Greener Together* event in Burwell on Wednesday 15 May is showcasing local community-led green initiatives, with discussion groups on community energy plans, repair cafés biodiversity net gain. The council intends to develop an action plan which will cover community energy, domestic retrofits, engaging with strategic plans, and testing place-based investment models for net zero, with consultation in the summer and adoption of the plan in the autumn.

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| Vape recycling has been introduced at all of the council’s Household Recycling Centres. The new bins offer a safe, environmentally friendly way for residents to dispose of single use and reusable vapes. These are taken to a facility where materials are separated and cleaned before being sent for recycling. Anything containing batteries, including vapes, should never be placed in waste or recycling bins at home. Disposable vapes contain lithium-ion batteries which can catch fire if damaged. |
| Three million vapes are currently thrown away each week across the UK, and research shows that electrical items including vapes disposed of in the wrong bin cause more than six hundred fires every year in refuse collection vehicles and at waste sites. |

**HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT  
Additional Funding**

In February this year, the County Council’s joint administration voted to invest £43 million in repairs to Cambridgeshire’s roads in the next two years—the biggest investment in over a decade. This includes £5 million specifically to deal with the worst of our ‘soil affected roads’—peat-based roads which are deteriorating much more quickly than they used to. =In the longer term, however, the County Council will need around £300 million to fully solve these problem roads—which means national investment and support from Cambridgeshire’s MPs to get it.

The committee (of which I am a member) will soon receive details of officers’ recommendations concerning the priorities for the additional spending to repair roads across the county, in addition the funds set aside for peat-affected roads. The roads will be assessed on a number of factors and on information gathered using the GAIST surface scanning work done last year.

In addition, I have asked for more information concerning the painting of white lines on roads across my Division. Some of the additional funding for roads is being set aside for white-line painting with priority given to the busiest areas and to zones of reported accidents.

**Gulleys found!**

The joint administration of the County Council has set new goals for gulley clearing. This is an important part of flood prevention. A report to the council’s Highways & Transport Committee on 30 April said, "through regular review of the road network, there [have] been a further 1,855 gulleys added to the programme which had not been previously plotted on the system". These will now be cleaned on a two-year regular cycle with problem areas in villages tackled more regularly. I’ve asked for particular attention to be paid to Church Street in Little Wilbraham

**Local highways improvements**

‘Non-complex’ applications are being scored by council officers. The results will be received by the Local Highways Improvement working group, and successful bids recommended to the council’s Highways & Transport Committee on 2 July. Interview panels for ‘complex’ applications (including those for Fulbourn) are taking place in early May.

**Great Wilbraham Issues**

**Briefly, on the buses**, I had a very helpful and timely meeting last week with the Combined Authority’s Director of Transport, along with a fellow county councillor. I was able to raise a number of points directly relevant to buses proposed for the Wilbrahams as well as the matter of Six Mile Bottom, including quoting some results of our survey. These were mentioned along with issues concerning buses across this Division and South Cambs more widely.

Cycle paths: the small group from both parish councils has a meeting scheduled with the county’s active travel team, at their suggestion, on 24th May. We will be seeking an update on funding and on moves towards a feasibility study concerning proposed routes.

Double Yellow Lines: the decision to approve the double yellow lines on a short section of High Street/Church Street and a short section of Angle End has been published. I await an indication of when the lines will be painted.

20mph: I am waiting for further information concerning the timetable for the final decision on the 20mph zone, following approval of the LHI application.

Roadworks: over the next several weeks Great Wilbraham will be affected by roadworks, both in the village itself and in Fulbourn, involving road closures which will mean diversions. One set of works will be taking place on The Lanes/Great Wilbraham Road to repair the verge, kerb and surface water drainage. I have asked if this can be scheduled for half term and I hope to have this confirmed very soon. Letters to residents and to businesses will go out and yellow roadside notices giving warning of the dates and times of closure.

In Fulbourn Cadent are re-programming the gas-main replacement work following negotiations with Network Rail concerning permission to work within 200 yards of a level crossing.

***To be confirmed,*** but it is likely that the work in Teversham, Road will take place in late May and the work on Station Road in mid June. I have a site meeting with Cadent and the County Streetworks officer on 16th May. Both will involve major diversions and the work on Station Road Fulbourn will mean it will be closed to through-traffic for up to three weeks. This will not be welcome news in Great Wilbraham I know, but the work has to be done.

**Claire Daunton**

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