

## Report of County Councillor Claire Daunton to Parish Councils for July 2024

*With the General Election some county council business was affected, hence this is a shorter report than usual. The GCP Assembly meeting, at which the move of the Newmarket Road park and ride was to be discussed, was cancelled and will now be rescheduled for mid September.*

Highways: there is some outstanding work, including: repairs to the small area of damaged ground on the triangle; several potholes reported and not yet filled. I am following these up. I am also following up requests I made at the start of the year for the remainder of the Angle End footpath and surfaces in Benstead's End to be added to the list for repairs/resurfacing.

Clarity of responsibilities: there appears to be still some confusion over which body of local government is responsible for highways-related matters. Except in exceptional circumstances, it is the county, not south cambs district council, that has responsibility for anything to do with roads, bridges, footpaths, verges, drainage. Exceptions usually relate to areas of district-council owned land (Church Close for example) and maintenance in these areas.

Cyclepaths: A formal feasibility study is now being undertaken by the county's active travel team of the three proposed cycle paths: to Fulbourn, to Bottisham, to Newmarket Road via the drove. This follows the cycle group of our three villages working alongside the active-travel team of officers, with the enthusiasm of all involved.

20mph zone: I am awaiting a date for finalising the detailed decision process, the final step, relating to the 20 mph zone. I expect this to happen soon.

### **Adults and Health Committee**

The committee met on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Amongst the points for discussion which parish councillors might find of interest were:

- (i) An update on the debt position in relation to Adult Social Care services as the end of March 2024 and the actions being taken to improve this position. There was an overview of the financial assessment process, that establishes the means tested charge for care and support; along with information on how adult social care charging links to debt and support offered where individuals face difficulty in paying these charges. A number of points were made including the difficulties being experienced both by the council and by relatives over the long delays in the probate service and other national bodies. It was also agreed that the county council should look again at how it deals with families suffering bereavement and having to deal with social care debt.
- (ii) The tendering for new contracts for county-council independent living housing schemes (termed 'extra care schemes'), how these are run, future contractual arrangements, what payments residents make, how much choice residents have in seeking to provide their own care within these schemes. There will be a paper in future concerning housing for older people.

- (iii) A discussion of the desirability of increasing direct payments for social care. Direct payments allow individuals to choose their own care, tailored to their own needs and offer an alternative to the county council providing the care from the contracted services it uses. The Cambridgeshire Direct Payment Support Service (DPSS) is an all-age service which supports people who receive direct payments to purchase their own care and support. Its aim is to help improve the independence, health, and wellbeing of people with eligible care needs. It also makes having a direct payment easier and a more attractive option to service users.

### **Children and Young People's Committee**

The committee met on 25<sup>th</sup> June. Business discussed and agreed included;

- (i) The county council has agreed to set up two new homes for children in care using its own properties. These are now being made ready. The committee agreed to go out to tender for providers to run these homes in conjunction with the county. This arrangement would enable more children to be cared for within Cambridgeshire, closer to friends and to family support, as appropriate.
- (ii) Commissioning of a new school-aged health improvement and prevention service which includes emphasis on healthy eating, oral health, information on vaping and a range of other concerns. The new arrangement aims to integrate more fully and effectively current health-improvement services.