

## County councillor reports to Duxford Parish Council

July 2018

### Cllr Peter Topping

#### Highways

I have chased up highways because while progress on pothole filling is being made, there are still ones reported in May not done. The County is investigating ways in which it can deal with potholes should there be another severe prolonged winter. The two new dragon patcher machines will both be in use by the end of July.

#### LHI bid deadline

It is important to put an outline bid in by the deadline of later this month – there are many traffic issues in the village. The parish council may want to consider a joint bid with Ickleton and Hinxton on how to make the back roads linking the villages safer for pedestrians and cyclists as well as generally calming traffic. Other parish councils are working up their bids!

#### Grass cutting at junctions

The grass and undergrowth at the junctions with the A505 have been cut back – the work was scheduled by highways for July but the growth earlier in the year meant the visibility for drivers was severely limited – so I told highways to bring the schedule forward.

#### 7A bus route

Although this doesn't really impact on Duxford village it does impact on Heathfield and the IWM. I'm very pleased that the county council negotiations with Stagecoach have been successful and that the new bus route that starts on 30 July run by the tiny A2B will STOP at Shelford so people can access the surgery there – Stagecoach originally said this stop would take customers away from their C7 bus route. The new route will also call at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford which is a good move and gives the IWM a public transport option.

#### Travellers

At the moment the traveller group that occupied land at Thriplow, Duxford and Hinxton at various times during the months of April and May have moved on to other sites, including the Sawston football ground and further east to the Norfolk coast. I have proposed that the district council explore preventative injunctions of green spaces, including village greens and sports grounds. However, South Cambridgeshire District Council has replied to a government consultation on this issue of illegal encampments saying that there should be a commission on how to meet the needs of Gypsies and Travellers who need to move around the country for activities such as work, or to visit relatives who may be unwell in hospital.

#### Major planning issues

The major planning issues in this part of the district continue:

- Genome Campus proposals for housing and expansion of the Wellcome Campus. Consultation with local residents ongoing but no formal planning application until autumn;
- Smithson Hill proposals for an agri-tech business park along the A1307 at Hinxton. Likely to go to appeal by the planning inspectorate having been turned down by South Cambs District Council planning committee;
- North Uttlesford Garden Community – the proposals for 5,000 houses have been adopted by Uttlesford District Council. My concern is that the infrastructure and transport proposals from the developers behind the NUGC don't address how Cambridgeshire will cope with the traffic generated by the development.

Community chest – the District Council Community Chest is now open again although the amounts have been reduced to £500 per application.

#### Rural travel hub and the future of the A505

The Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) had both included in their forward plans of infrastructure projects to fund research into how to enable the A505 to better cope with the current and future volumes of traffic.

I am writing to the chief executives of both authorities to find out where we are on these proposals, as we want the A505 work to move forward. The rural travel hub for Whittlesford had a useful workshop with interested parties last week.

Peter Topping

07825 876582

[peterwwtopping@gmail.com](mailto:peterwwtopping@gmail.com)

[www.councillortopping.com](http://www.councillortopping.com)