



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY,
16TH JANUARY 2023 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY**

PRESENT: Mrs T Coulson – Clerk to the Council

Cllr R Morgan, Mayor

Cllr E Every

Cllr D Warman

Cllr P Harris

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr V Ganivet

Cllr M Wade

Cllr A Whelan

Cllr R Pitt

*Joanne Andow and Emma Graves, East Cambs Community Safety Partnership
County Cllr P Coutts*

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Edge, Lindsay, Austen and Denness and their reasons were accepted.

2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensations.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 29TH NOVEMBER 2022 AND
MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 29th November 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 refer. There were no matters arising.

**5. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM JOANNE ANDOW, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND
PROJECTS SUPPORT OFFICER, FROM EAST CAMBS COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP ON THE SERVICES THE PARTNERSHIP PROVIDES AND HOW THEY CAN
WORK WITH THE COUNCIL**

A presentation was given by Joanne Andow and Emma Graves from the East Cambs Community Safety Partnership. They explained how the Partnership was made up, working with different organisations, the work they undertake, their priorities and funding they can offer. They also informed the Council that if requested by parish councils they could arrange a Community Forum for the parish. Councillors agreed it would be beneficial to have a Community Forum and this will be discussed further with them. The Chairman thanked them both for attending and giving a very informative presentation.

Joanne Andow and Emma Graves left the meeting at 7.33 pm.

6. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE KITE TRUST TO DISPLAY A COW ON COUNCIL LAND

Cllr C Whelan proposed the council agree to the display of the Kite Trust's cow behind the railings at the front of Sessions House. This would be for the month of February for LGBT+ month. This was seconded by Cllr Phillips and unanimously approved.

Cllr Ganivet asked if we should ask the Kite Trust to present to the council, which led to a discussion regarding what charities/organisations are operating in Ely. The Clerk will contact ECDC to see if they can provide a list of these. The Inclusivity Working Group will then make contact with organisations to see how the council can support them and work with them.

7. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman wished everyone a happy New Year. He said that this year would be an unusual one as there were only three Full Council meetings before the quadrennial council election on Thursday, 4 May and the Coronation of King Charles on Saturday, 6 May. He was pleased that Joanne Andow, the Community Safety & Projects Support Officer from East Cambs Community Safety Partnership was able to come and give a presentation earlier this evening. He thanked Cllr Every for setting this up.

8. QUESTION TIME

As there were no members of the public present no questions were received.

9. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A written report was received from County Cllrs Coutts and A Whelan. A copy of which will be attached to the minutes. District Councillor Every had also provided a written report, a copy of which will be attached to the minutes. District Cllr C Whelan gave a verbal report of the District Council meetings she had attended.

Councillors asked if ECDC were informing residents that at the next elections voters would have to show ID to allow them to vote. It was agreed that Cllr Phillips would write to the Electoral Services Department and ask them if they are promoting.

County Cllr Coutts left the meeting at 7.49 pm.

10. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT

The Mayor had attended the big Christmas tree lights switch-on in the Cathedral; the Mayor's Christmas party in Oliver Cromwell's House for councillors and staff; Stuart Green the search for a voice painting exhibition at Babylon Gallery; a Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church; City of Ely Military Band Christmas concert; City of Ely Royal British Legion Annual Meeting and Christmas Party; The Episcopal ordination of Canon Peter Collins as the 5th Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia in the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich; the re-launch of the Swan Inn, Littleport; the Gala night of the Cinderella Pantomime at the Maltings; judged the Christmas shop window displays and meet with Ukrainian refugees in conjunction with Cllr Harris' toy bank at St Mary's Church.

The Deputy Mayor had attended the St Mary's Church relaunch.

11. PLANNING

Cllr Ganivet gave a report on the last planning meeting. She also mentioned that the Neighbourhood Plan had been raised at the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that this would be updated at the next Personnel, Finance and Governance Committee meeting when the Neighbourhood Plan Review Working Group would report back on the progress they had made.

12. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received and noted:-

Notification of Street naming and numbering:- 116 Lancaster Way Business Park, Ely; Mulberry House, 17A Forehill, Ely

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – No report as Committee had not met. The next meeting will be held on the 23rd January 2023.

(ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – No report as Committee had not met.

(iii) ASSETS – Cllr Philips presented a report of a meeting held on the 12th December 2022, which were noted and approved. The update on decarbonisation and the actions being taken to try and move this forward were noted. Councillors agreed not to investigate any further with regard to the installation of flood lights at St John's Road skate park due to the fact that bright light and noise later into the evening would have an impact on residents. The Mayor will write a letter of thanks to the lead volunteer for all the work they had put in installing the Christmas lights. The second applicant who is now discussing moving forward with the Maltings Cottage will be asked to confirm their original position to fund the refurbishment themselves if the lease is extended. Cllr Phillips confirmed that these negotiations were ongoing and some progress had been made. It would be discussed again at the next Assets Committee meeting. Clarification will also be sought from the Landlord as to the position of the insurance claim or subsidence. The next meeting with the Maltings residents will be held on the 24th January 2023.

(iv) TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE – Cllr Warman presented a report of a meeting held on the 28th November 2022, which were noted and approved. Visit Ely are now a member of the Chamber of Commerce, which will be very beneficial to the service. Visit England had assessed Oliver Cromwell House and once again had been awarded the accreditation rose for 2022/23. Councillors thanked the staff for achieving this award again. An update on the Visitor Guide for 2023 was noted. The digital signage boards would be delayed now until June 2023 due to procurement and supply issues.

14. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association – minutes of meetings held on the 16th November 2022 were noted.

Cllr Every informed councillors the Outdoor Sport & Leisure Working Group had a site meeting at the Hive today and had agreed in principle a location at this site for a splashpad. ECDC will work with the splashpad group to get a business plan drawn up and how this would move forward. The key issues will be who owns the splashpad and who manages it.

15. TO PASS A RESOLUTION THAT MISS JESSICA BENNETT BE SPECIFIED AS A PENSIONABLE EMPLOYEE UNDER REGULATION B1(5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS 1986 (AS AMENDED)

Cllr Morgan proposed the Council pass a resolution that Miss Jessica Bennett be specified as a pensionable employee under Regulation B1(5) of the Local Government Regulations 1985 (as amended). This was seconded by Cllr Every and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC Cllr Morgan proposed to resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Phillips and unanimously agreed by councillors. There were no members of the press or public present.

16. TO CONSIDER DRAFT OVERTIME/TOIL POLICY

Councillors agreed subject to two amendments that this Policy be approved and adopted.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS

AND THE PUBLIC Cllr Morgan proposed to resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Phillips and unanimously agreed by councillors. There were no press or public to readmit.

17. FINANCE

Cllr Morgan proposed these all be approved, which was seconded by Cllr A Whelan and unanimously approved.

Direct debit payments and BACS payments

ECDC	948.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	279.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	1821.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	923.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	260.82	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	597.66	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	2489.28	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	70.12	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	266.84	Paid by direct debit
Drax Energy Solutions Ltd	34.57	Paid by direct debit
Liquidline	162.02	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	257.35	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	440.28	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	7102.14	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	17.75	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	96.03	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	188.23	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay	682.50	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	265.43	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	107.08	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	42.54	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	381.55	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	1001.90	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	552.71	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	127.89	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	161.18	Paid by direct debit
Drax Energy Solutions Ltd	35.69	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1089.40	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	70.12	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	172.63	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	383.70	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	352.06	Paid by direct debit
Liquidline	461.52	Paid by direct debit
Fracotyp Postalia	250.00	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	2628.27	Paid by direct debit
Voluntary Community Action		
East Cambs	1250.00	Paid by BACS
S Bradley	300.00	Paid by BACS

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MAYOR
27th February 2023

17. FINANCE CONTINUED

N J Marketing Ltd	296.52	Paid by BACS
Mile Tree Brewery Ltd	66.96	Paid by BACS
The Cromwell Museum Trust	85.00	Paid by BACS
Mrs N Booth	311.15	Paid by BACS
G & G Gallo	348.62	Paid by BACS
Shefs	1209.60	Paid by BACS
S Blake	346.50	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department Ltd	178.80	Paid by BACS
Ligna Consultancy Ltd	1980.00	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	204.60	Paid by BACS
B J Waller Ltd	9.19	Paid by BACS
Ely Central Heating Services Ltd	350.00	Paid by BACS
RGP Security Services Ltd	211.20	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	41.99	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	24.99	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	46.80	Paid by BACS
D Holt	50.00	Paid by BACS
Cranbrook Plants	144.00	Paid by BACS
Julia's Tea Rooms Ltd	63.00	Paid by BACS
Yandell Publishing	172.80	Paid by BACS
We Are Blueshed	300.00	Paid by BACS
Arco Ltd	351.56	Paid by BACS
J Peck	337.00	Paid by BACS
Market Kitchen	191.00	Paid by BACS
Warren Access	1152.00	Paid by BACS
SMBE Direct Ltd	198.00	Paid by BACS
March Town Council	80.00	Paid by BACS
South Holland District Council	100.00	Paid by BACS
Thetford Town Council	80.00	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage	234.00	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department Ltd	178.80	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	24.00	Paid by BACS
Ellgia Ltd	202.54	Paid by BACS
S Blake	445.50	Paid by BACS
Thomas Ridley & Son Ltd	669.65	Paid by BACS
East Air Conditioning Services Ltd	144.00	Paid by BACS
Signscape & Signconex Ltd	2394.66	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	104.04	Paid by BACS
David J Richards Ltd	298.80	Paid by BACS
Harper Collins Publishers	185.22	Paid by BACS
CaterFix Ltd	222.00	Paid by BACS
Rotary Clubs of Ely Hereward	3780.00	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	356.12	Paid by BACS

The following invoices had already been paid prior to the Full Council, due to due date of payment with the approval of the Chairman

City Cycle Centre	127.50	114265
S Thompson	10.00	114266
G Wayman	710.76	114267

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MAYOR
27th February 2023

17. FINANCE CONTINUED

1st Call (Hire & Sales) Ltd	7.08	114268
Cambridgeshire Turf Nurseries	300.00	114269
Allens Skip Hire Ltd	220.00	114270
Aztek Services Ltd	661.32	114271
Eden Farm Hulleys	577.53	114272
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	52.15	114273
ECDC	51.60	114274
Konica Minolta Business Sols Ltd	116.01	114275
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	37.48	114276
ESPO	326.06	114277
G & J Peck Ltd	446.96	114278

The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting

City Cycle Centre	22.68	114279
G & J Peck Ltd	285.59	114280
Information, Tickets & Travel	110.00	114281
Thalia WB ODC Ltd	13.24	114282
R Morgan	53.55	114283
ECDC	1787.93	114284
Jewson Ltd	97.49	114285
Gordon Harrison	38.40	114286
L Price	10.00	114287
Millennium Pest Control Ltd	72.00	114288
Eden Farm Hulleys	497.96	Paid by BACS
D Holt	75.00	Paid by BACS
G & J Peck Ltd	117.25	114280
Lex Autolease	352.06	Paid by direct debit
M Chinery-Colyer	194.75	Paid by BACS
Soham Pest Control	99.00	Paid by BACS
CaterFix Ltd	357.00	Paid by BACS
Barclaycard	712.26	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	118.81	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	1721.65	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	296.24	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	490.56	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retailing Ltd	2556.81	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	8293.28	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	17.63	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	310.88	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	240.69	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	122.66	Paid by direct debit

Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 29th November 2022

Salaries and wages	£33,336.72 (Dec)	£33,151.73 (Jan)
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£18,176.78	£10,002.17
Pension fund payments	£15,289.42	£10,613.29

Councillors noted and approved the bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 30th November 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

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MAYOR
27th February 2023

Cllrs Alison Whelan and Piers Coutts

MONTHLY REPORT January 2023

Best wishes for 2023!

FULL COUNCIL

Full Council meeting 13 December

Of the five motions for debate listed in last month's report, one was withdrawn, two were passed, and two were defeated. The two motions passed were

- A Lib Dem motion calling for managed divestment by the Cambridgeshire Local Government Pension Scheme from fossil fuels, and a timeline to reduce carbon emissions with an aim of reaching net carbon zero earlier than the Paris Accord; and
- A Labour motion committing to the development of a local, county-wide 'Place of Safety' pledge, which supports the right of all to seek services, advice, support and representation without fear of adverse consequences; establishing a councillor 'migrant champion' role; and asking the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary to highlight the challenges faced by asylum seekers and refugees in Cambridgeshire and to call for safe and legal routes for asylum and adequate funding for local authorities to support resettled communities in Cambridgeshire.

Staffing

The full council meeting appointed a new Service Director Legal and Governance (Emma Duncan) and a new Executive Director of Finance and Resources (Michael Hudson). Frank Jordan will also join Cambridgeshire County Council in the spring as the Council's new Executive Director of Place and Sustainability.

STRATEGY & RESOURCES

Government settlement

Just before Christmas the Government issued its 'provisional local government finance settlement'—the annual indication to councils of the money they will have available for local services next year. The Government proposes that Cambridgeshire County Council's 'core spending power' (the overall revenue funding available for council services) should increase by 9.5 per cent.

Unfortunately however ...

- That is less than the current rate of inflation, so overall it will buy less.
 - Half of the 9.5 per cent is from the council's power to raise council tax—in other words, the Government expects local tax payers to shoulder a lot of the extra costs.
 - Some of the remainder replaces lost business rates income.
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ADULTS & HEALTH

Director of Public Health annual report

The annual report of Cambridgeshire's Director of Public Health to the Adults & Health Committee in December argued strongly in favour of universal, rather than targeted, approaches to health inequalities. She observed that targeted public health interventions risked missing the majority of people needing these services. Her conclusions and recommendations were as follows.

The renewed interest and commitment to tackling health inequalities as a result of the pandemic, is very much welcomed. Historic approaches at tackling these inequalities have not been successful, in fact inequalities have widened.

The automatic response to tackling inequalities is to target, however, as demonstrated in this report, universal approaches can be far more effective at reducing inequalities than targeted approaches. Universal approaches are also necessary in identifying those individuals who are in need of further intervention. Targeting has also often been carried out on geographical basis or using IMD [Index of Multiple Deprivation] quintiles, as argued in this report, this can often lead to the majority of individuals in need being missed.

To be fair to our residents we need to successfully reduce inequalities in health outcomes. To be successful in this we must be more intelligence-led and evidence-based.

We need to:

- Keep a focus on universal interventions as a key way of improving outcomes, reducing inequalities in health in our population.
 - Make sure that any universal offer is systematically planned and delivered to enable access to all and give additional support according to need.
 - Start early (pregnancy and childhood) before inequalities become entrenched.
 - Ensure that any targeted intervention is
 - based on need, ideally through universal identification of need or risk rather than grouping by easily available information such demographics or geography
 - evidence-led as to approach.
 - Be transparent and explicit around considerations for interventions clearly articulating the proposed individual and population benefits, draw first on evidence-based approaches with proven cost effectiveness and where evidence is not available, research and evaluate the impact of new and innovative approaches.
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COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION (COSMIC)

Births, deaths and marriages

A report to the COSMIC Committee in December on the Council's registration services included the following information about the numbers of births, deaths, marriages, civil partnership ceremonies, and new British citizens in Cambridgeshire in the last two years.

	2021/22	2020/21
Births registered	7,760	7,135
Deaths registered	5,779	6,115
Notices of marriage / civil partnership	5,417	2,737
Marriage / civil partnership ceremonies	1,925	608
New British citizens	2,322	874

Both years' figures were affected by the pandemic.

Mobile library service review

A review of the Council's mobile library service took place last year, resulting in a number of improvements. Twenty-one additional stops were added and routes were rearranged, enabled by storing vehicles within communities, rather than centrally.

- Mobile libraries are now available to the public nearly 20 per cent longer, due to reduced driving between stops.
- Travel has been reduced, with over 150 fewer miles travelled a month and so less fuel used.
- The service visited several events around the County, such as Thriplow Daffodil weekend, Ely and Cambridge Prides, fetes in Sutton, numerous outdoor *The Library Presents* events, *Our Place in Space*, and many more summer fetes by local staff using the new book bikes.
- 300 new members joined between May and September; and there were 6,296 visits to the vehicles and over 20,000 items issued—a stronger recovery than many of the service's static libraries to pre-pandemic levels.
- Bessie the book bike and Jessie the Jubilee bike attended twelve events to raise awareness for the service, including a royal reception at Cambridgeshire Day.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

POPs in WUDS

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are found in various Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS) such as sofas and upholstered dining chairs. Such materials should not be landfilled.

The law against landfilling of POPs was introduced in 2007, but the Environment Agency recently announced it would become more rigorous in its enforcement.

The Environment Agency announced in August 2022 that it would soon expect councils to cease landfilling upholstered seating, and instead to incinerate it. It published its Final Regulatory Position Statements on this matter on Monday 19 December 2022, with implementation starting on Sunday 1 January 2023.

The short notice over Christmas provided Council officers very little time to organise incineration capacity and undertake the necessary discussions over options with our waste contractor Thalia (formerly Amey) and with the district councils who collect Cambridgeshire's waste. Therefore for a few days from 1 January Council sites ceased to accept soft furnishings, but by the end of that week a short-term solution had been found and CCC sites were able once again to accept such waste for disposal.

Sunnica solar farm application

The Planning Inspectorate conducted a number of meetings in December as part of its consideration of the Sunnica application for the country's largest solar farm, spanning East Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk.

Cllr Dupre, as chair of the environment and Green Investment Committee, addressed one of the Open Floor meetings, in Newmarket on Tuesday 6 December. She highlighted food security and soil quality, biodiversity, transport and public rights of way, as well as the concerns the County Council raised in July 2021 with the Secretary of State regarding the size and scale of the proposal, the effect of Covid restrictions then in force on opportunities for public engagement, the exclusion of some residents from the initial round of consultations, and the impact of the proposals on rural communities.

Swaffham Prior energy scheme in the spotlight

The flagship renewable energy scheme at Swaffham Prior, initiated by residents and supported by the Council, was covered by BBC Radio 4 in its *Money Box* programme between Christmas and New Year.



HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

20MPH schemes

The Highways & Transport Committee approved the changes to the Council's policy on 20MPH speed limits outlined in last month's report. The proposed timetable for applications for funding for new 20MPH speed limits is as follows.

- Go 'live' with application process on-line for new schemes (February 2023)
- Application period (February to April 2023)
- Prioritisation (May to June 2023)
- Committee report for approval (July 2023)
- Programming and delivery of schemes (August 2023 onwards)

Local Highway Improvement scheme

Applications for Local Highway Improvement schemes for 2023/24 closed at 5:00PM on Friday 6 January 2023. Applicants can apply for funding of up to either £25,000 for complex projects or £10,000 for non-complex projects. These can include applications for lorry weight limits. The applicant is expected to provide a minimum of 10 per cent towards the total scheme cost. City of Ely councillors considered several possible schemes but none fulfilling the criteria were sufficiently developed to be put forward this time.

Making Connections consultation

The Greater Cambridge Partnership *Making Connections* 2022 consultation closed on Friday 23 December. Around 23,000 responses have been received, and the Greater Cambridge Partnership expects to publish a final report on the consultation outcomes and next steps, for consideration by its Board in June 2023.

The consultation is about proposals for public transport improvements, and better cycling and walking options, as well as about the element which has been most talked about—a congestion charge.

Any decision on a charge for driving on roads in Cambridge—or anywhere else in the county—would be a matter for Cambridgeshire County Council. We would expect the proposals in the consultation, including the proposal for a congestion charge, to be significantly changed by the public response to the consultation. Indeed, we would hope they will be, as we would struggle to support them as they stand. We do not yet know whether a proposal for a congestion charge will progress beyond the consultation, or if it does, what it might look like after the public responses to the consultation have been taken into account. And we would want and need to know what the public—*all* the public responding to the consultation—thought before casting a vote on this important question.

Safe and Dry

The Council has used a data interpretation and modelling tool to process information about local flood locations. As a result, it has identified a 'Safe and Dry' programme of 115 locations where work is needed to improve flood resilience, and work has begun on the first 50 of these locations. The remaining locations will be kept on a 'long list' for future works, which will be added to on an ongoing basis.

The Council is also in the process of delivering a two-year programme of works to clean and plot all gullies and surface drainage features countywide using the Kaarbontech Asset Management System.

A10 grip cutting

The County Council is planning to cut 'grips' along the A10 from the Wisbech Road roundabout at Littleport to the Cambridge Road roundabout at Angel Drove Ely. This work is planned between Monday 13 and Friday 24 February, and is intended to improve surface water drainage along the A10 as part of the Council's ongoing improvements to highways drainage. The road will remain open, but with a 40MPH limit in place from 09.30 to 15.30.

A10 / A142 BP roundabout

The BP Roundabout NMU [Non-Motorised Users] Project Board met on Wednesday 7 December to consider the next stages of work to deliver a safe crossing of the A10 at the BP roundabout.

A comprehensive brief has been prepared for an option assessment and feasibility study. Consultants are lined up to undertake this work, subject to final approval of the brief, and funding, and consultancy work is expected to begin this month. Combined Authority 'gainshare' funding has been identified for this stage of work. The County Council and Combined Authority continue to explore options for capital funding for construction.

AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS

County Council Accounts

The Council's draft financial statements for 2021/22 were published at the end of July. The audited accounts for 2020/21 had also been published in July. It was noted that there was a limitation of scope qualification relating to infrastructure assets.

There have been objections to the County Council accounts by a member of the public. This has prevented the full completion of all work related to earlier years accounts. The former auditor of the Council, BDO, has concluded most of the work relating to the objections received in 2017 and 2018, but has not provided a full statement of reasons confirming the outcome of their consideration. Regrettably, the timelines promised by BDO had not been met.

The Chief Executive advised that he had written to BDO's UK Head of Audit & Assurance and had escalated the matter to BDO's UK Managing Partner, but received no responses.

Changes to the accounting treatment of depreciation and valuation of infrastructure assets, which are not unique to Cambridgeshire, have proved challenging to resolve and CIPFA has called on the government to operate a statutory override, which would validate the historic approach taken by local authorities.

Pension Fund

The Pension fund accounts have been completed and audited, however, they cannot be signed off until the Council's own accounts are signed off.

The Pension fund valuation is proceeding well and the good funding position continues. The valuer is discussing the level of scheme contributions with individual scheme employers.

The scheme has continued to work on the net-zero target of the fund. This has received a boost from some of the investment decisions made at the last meeting, despite such progress having been blocked at previous meetings. This will see significant sums moved into ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) positive investments.

King Charles III coronation street parties

The Council has published guidance for local groups seeking to organise street parties and highways events to mark the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023. All street party applications must be received by the County Council at least eight weeks in advance (Friday 10 March 2023) via the Council's website. Highway Events applications must be submitted at least twelve weeks in advance (Friday 10 February 2023).

More information about the process can be found at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/highway-events/coronation-events>

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

Buses continue to be a hot topic across Cambridgeshire. The Combined Authority is the transport authority responsible for passenger transport across our area, working within a legislative framework and a deregulated bus system. The following is a summary of the various bus workstreams currently being undertaken by the Combined Authority.

The Combined Authority Board agreed a draft **Bus Strategy** on 30 November—consultation is planned to start in the week beginning Monday 9 January for six weeks. The Strategy will then go to the Combined Authority's Transport & Infrastructure Committee and the Board in March. The Strategy will form part of the suite of documents associated with the Combined Authority's emerging Local Transport & Connectivity Plan (LTCP). The Government is expected to issue national LT(C)P guidance for local transport authorities early this year, and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough's draft LTCP will be assessed against that guidance before being presented to the Board.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough was one of a majority of local transport authorities to be given no funding by Government for its **Bus Service Improvement Plan**. This funding is intended to support new approaches to bus provision, not directly subsidise bus routes. The Combined Authority is working with partners to prepare a revised Plan reflecting the priorities of the emerging LTCP and the draft Bus Strategy. This will be presented to the Transport & Infrastructure Committee and the Board in May / June.

Bus franchising is the Mayor's preferred solution for bus services in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. Under this model the local transport authority takes control of the public transport network, specifying and contracting bus services, as opposed to the deregulated free-for-all in place since 1986. Work is ongoing to refresh the outline business case for franchising. This will explore all potential funding options and assess the benefits of franchising against the current system. The business case will also review other issues including geography, contracting, depots, vehicles, and branding. This work will continue in parallel with the Bus Strategy and Bus Service Improvement Plan work above. Engagement with operators and other stakeholders will be vital if franchising is to progress to the next stage following the outline business case work. It will also be essential to identify reliable ongoing revenue funding.

The majority of bus services in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough are run commercially by private operators, and the Combined Authority has no control over these. The Combined Authority currently **subsidises** 73 services across its area. Full support for eighteen services and partial support for a further five began in October 2022 after Stagecoach withdrew from these services. There is an option to extend the contracts for these by one year from the end of March, and final decisions on these will be taken in February

or March following the setting of the Combined Authority's budget and taking account of the draft Bus Strategy. Contracts for a further six of the 73 services expire at the end of March 2023 and a procurement process has begun to retender these. The Combined Authority will set its budget for 2023/24, including bus support, at its Board meeting on 25 January.

The Transport & Infrastructure Committee will consider a **Bus Assessment Framework** in January. This will draw on the emerging LTCP and Bus Strategy, and be used to inform decision-making on bus subsidies in future.

The GCP ***Making Connections* proposals** include an enhanced bus network and mechanisms for both upfront investment and ongoing subsidy. The Combined Authority will need to consider the effect of this on its own work. The GCP would develop any necessary outline business case, and any decision on road charging would rest with the County Council.

In an initiative with Stagecoach and the Greater Cambridge Partnership, the Combined Authority secured Government funding for thirty **zero emission buses** for Cambridge. These are expected to be available from March.

The Combined Authority Board agreed on 30 November to extend the contract for the TING **Demand Responsive Transport** service in Huntingdonshire for a further year. The Combined Authority is also exploring the case for further Demand Responsive Transport services elsewhere.

Finally, the Combined Authority is also working with bus operators to understand the scale and effect of **driver shortages** and how it can provide support through its skills programmes.

Cllrs Alison Whelan and Piers Coutts

County Councillors for Ely North and Ely South

CITY OF ELY COUNCIL

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE. 16.1.23

East Cambridgeshire District Councillor, Ely East – Cllr Lis Every

Happy New Year to everyone!

There have been fewer decision making activities in the District since the City of Ely Council's Full Council meeting and over the Christmas period. However, some committees that I am involved in have met and here are some items that affect us directly.

Planning Committee

Development at Angel Drove

Councillors involved with the planning applications will be aware of the above proposal which came to the Planning Committee in November.

The scheme proposed 78 residential units of 'Build-to-Rent' accommodation as well as commercial office use, comprising the following:

- 26 x 2 bedroom dwellings
- 52 x 3 bedroom dwellings
- 1,845.5 sqm (19864sqft) of B1a (now classified as Class E) office accommodation
- On-site parking, 78 with 7 visitor car parking spaces for residential use; 17 car parking spaces and 3 disabled spaces for the commercial uses; 2 cycle spaces per dwelling • 66 cycle spaces for commercial units

After much discussion, this proposal was agreed by the Committee. It is a new style of managed development where all premises are let. It was generally felt that following nearly 20 years of trying to build an appropriate mixed complex on this site, this, although not perfect, fulfilled the planning requirements. It was also felt that it would provide much needed good quality rental accommodation near to the station and enhance what is currently an unsightly area.

The application can be seen at this link:

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/3%20-%20PL301122%20Item%206%2021-00535FUM.pdf>

Special Council Meeting

An additional Special Council Meeting was held on 15 November 2022

The purpose was for the Council to consider a draft submission to the Greater Cambridge Partnership's (GCP's) "Making Connections" 2022 consultation against the proposed congestion charge. This meeting was well attended by the general public who posed several questions both before the meeting and during it.

This is a very important issue for East Cambridgeshire and for us in Ely.

The debate was long and lively with most councillors who were attending speaking. In order to understand the process and fully appreciate the outcome, it is suggested that City councillors read the minutes of the meeting which records what happened.

A recorded vote from the members resulted in the decision that the submission against the congestion charge was agreed with an overall majority: 14 for, none against and 7 abstaining. The link is below

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/minutes/DRAFT%20151222%20Council%20Mins.pdf>

Community Safety Partnership Board (CSP)

There will be a showcasing and networking event in the Cathedral on Monday 13th March 2023 from 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm. This will give all those actively involved in the work of the Partnership to demonstrate what has been happening in this area and what impact the CSP has had. All councillors will be invited (County, District, Town and Parish).

14.1.23