

County Councillor's Report March 2018

Longstanton Road

The developers of Northstowe phase two have submitted a TTRO (Temporary Traffic Regulation Order) to the County Council for the temporary closure of the Airfield Road. This is to enable them to build the crossing where the Southern Access Road will eventually cross the Airfield Road. I am working to make sure that pedestrians, cyclists etc. can gain safe access across or around the works during the period of the Regulation Order.

New Secondary School update

I have in the past few weeks attended two briefings on the proposed fantastic new Education Campus planned to be built at Northstowe. The new Campus will contain the following;

- ✓ 1800 place secondary school
- ✓ 400 place sixth form
- ✓ 110 place SEN School (special educational needs)
- ✓ 3 form entry Primary School with Nursery facilities
- ✓ Local amenities for sports, music, arts, and theatre provision.

It is expected that the new design will be presented to the County Council for planning permission in April, with building starting in December this year ready for the first pupils in September 2019.

Phase 1 of the build will comprises of:

4FE (400 pupils) Secondary School

4FE Secondary Sports – including school and community All Weather Pitches

12FE (1800 pupils) Core – Library, Arts, Drama, Music and Dining forming a Performing Arts Centre

110 pupil SEN School.

Although we are not within the primary school catchment area for Northstowe, the admissions criteria now includes “children who live outside the catchment area, but nearest the school as measured by a straight line”.

Award winning support for Cambridgeshire parents

Two schemes that help families in Cambridgeshire to find the right childcare have won national awards. The 30 hours childcare offer for working parents launched in September 2017, which doubles the 15 hour entitlement introduced in 2010 and can save families of 3 and 4 year olds up to £5,000 per year per child. As at the 20th of February more than 3,800 families in Cambridgeshire were taking up their entitlement. Of these 12.3% claimants are taking the full 30 hours entitlement and almost a quarter (23.8%) taking up more than 15 hours but less than 30 hours. The winning Cambridgeshire projects at the national Childcare Works Awards were:

- **Winner of the Partnership Award category** - Mel Negus, a childminder, was concerned with the amount of information available to providers about the 30 hours extended

entitlement. She arranged local meeting so that all childcare providers could come together to support each other. As a result her local childminders and nurseries have all worked in partnership to offer 30 hours childcare for parents.

- **Winner of the Local Authority Sharing Practice Award category** - Cambridgeshire County Council officers developed and shared a spreadsheet modelling tool to help childcare providers to model their costs and income in order to assess their capacity to offer the extended entitlement.

Thanks to the hard work of childcare providers across the county, the latest estimate is that there will be sufficient spaces for all children looking for a 30 hours childcare place for summer term 2018 – The County Council is currently predicting a surplus of approximately 500 places across the county. However, the County Council is conscious of the need to support childcare providers, and have commissioned the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) to support with business planning, support, advice and training to enable them to deliver the extended entitlement.

£4million Government funding for future proof fibre networks in Cambridgeshire

The Chancellor has announced up to £4m Government funding to help bring full fibre broadband connectivity - capable of gigabit speeds of over 1000Mbps – to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Connecting Cambridgeshire programme, led by Cambridgeshire County Council is one of just 13 selected for Wave 2 funding from Local Full Fibre Networks Challenge Fund by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The innovative Cambridgeshire project aims to expand the gigabit capable fibre footprint to ensure the county has the digital connectivity needed to support future growth and prosperity. It builds upon Connecting Cambridgeshire's strength in delivering leading digital programmes, particularly the successful rollout of superfast broadband, which has already reached 96% coverage and is on track to achieve 99% by 2020.

The package of measures to be delivered by March 2021, includes:

- Creating a 40Km stretch of fibre ducting from St Ives to Linton – linking fibre in new and existing routes and making it available to commercial operators to bring Gigabit networks to nearby homes and businesses.
- Providing fibre upgrades to around 30 public buildings, including schools, libraries, fire stations and GP surgeries, across nine locations in Cambridgeshire, to benefit surrounding homes and businesses.
- Supporting businesses, leading business parks and clusters of SMEs to access the new gigabit fibre networks.

Peter Hudson

County Councillor

Oakington, Westwick, Longstanton, Over, and Northstowe