



The Oakington and Westwick Community Plan
Foundations for Our Future

NEWS # 1 (of 3) Traffic & Transport

This is the first of three pull-out, Information Sheets providing baseline data for the Oakington & Westwick Community Planning questionnaire.

1.1 Traffic management

Over many years the O&W Parish Council has battled with higher authorities to make our roads and pavements safer.

Traffic calming chicanes are now in place on Cambridge Road, Dry Drayton Road and in Westwick.

The road to Longstanton was closed to traffic when the MOD took over Oakington Airfield as an operational base during the war and has been ever since. Today vehicles travel both ways. Occasionally the police patrol the road and fine drivers who are using the airfield road illegally. Views within our community vary widely as to how this road should be managed in the future and how this might be affected by Northstowe.

Local traffic volumes have recently been measured but the results are not yet published.

The recently published plans to improve the A14 are of course overdue but welcome.

1.2 Public transport

The village is connected by buses which travel three times each hour between Oakington and Cambridge (Citi 6), and towards the end of the day the service is less frequent and supplemented by buses from Cambridge to Bar Hill via Oakington (Citi 5).

Citi 6 and Citi 5 timetables can be found online at:
<http://www.stagecoachbus.com/>

The Guided Bus goes to Huntingdon (some to Peterborough) and also to Addenbrookes & Trumpington P&R, leaving the tracks near the city to run like a normal bus in Cambridge. Bus users from the village have to walk or bike to the stop near Westwick, or get dropped off because there are only two parking spaces. There are 30 bike parking spaces at this stop which is well lit and has CCTV coverage.

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/around/buses/>

1.3 Travel to Impington Village College

Those who live within the designated 3-mile radius of IVC get free bus transport. But this remains a point of contention because of this arbitrary distance AND how it is deemed to be measured.

1.4 Travel Plan

Jenny Prince (school governor) writes: Oakington C of E Primary School has a travel plan because walking and cycling to school keeps children and parents fit

COMMUNITY IDEAS, ENERGY and ACTION



*The new pre-school building is brilliant.
But how did it get built and who paid for it?*

Community energy perhaps sums it up.

In 1998 the Pre-school committee began fund raising for a new building and had raised about £25,000 by 2011, but then the old building was discovered to be in danger of collapsing, so a team was formed to "get a new building".

Jo Mowatt, Clare Chapman and Lynn Macaulay set about finding £65,000 more. By July 2012, all this had been raised from grants from CCC, SCDC, O&W PC, Thomas Cook, Westerner and Garner and the 'Oakington 7' by running the Cambridge half marathon, and further local fund raising. In addition, several local professionals and service providers helped in important ways to keep costs down.

All in all, a brilliant example of how local ideas and energy can produce a significant addition to our community.

and establishes active travel habits for the future. It reduces the number of cars on the school run and helps the village as well as the global environment. As well as switching journeys away from driving, the school travel plan include tackling parking on Water Lane and liaising with the community to improve road and path safety.

The Primary School is a "Bike It" school - a project run by the sustainable transport charity Sustrans which encourages children to cycle, especially to school. Cycling skills give young people independence, confidence, fitness and safety. During the first three years the number of children cycling to school has risen from 3% to around 20%.

Among the many activities run to achieve school travel plan objectives are:

- cycle training (at all levels),
- after-school bike club,
- "Park & Stride" scheme for families who live outside of catchment,
- Active Travel weeks, bike competitions and cycling sports days.

1.5 Cycle paths and footpaths

There are a number of historic paths in and around the village. Records suggest the oldest is the track from Rampton via Lambs Cross on the Cottenham Road to Histon. This is on the border of Westwick and

The Localism Act 2011

The Bill has devolved greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods and given local communities more control over housing and planning decisions.

The government Localism web site (<https://tinyurl.com/pcl4k5h>) lists 20 'key provisions', but the gist of this latest political fashion, is that we, at the local level are being offered more powers to determine our community.

Perhaps the most significant new opportunity will be to challenge higher level councils (district and county) to take control of services, land or property, that they currently operate or own.

Building a Community Plan at this time offers interesting possibilities, it is therefore a good time to get engaged in shaping OUR FUTURE.

Cottenham. A Cambridgeshire County Council interpretation board next to the Cottenham Road explains the historic connection. It was the main route from Cambridge to Ely in the middle ages, crossing the Aldreth Causeway and known as the Portway. The Lambs Cross to Histon Section, called Guns Lane, is 2 km.

The path from Westwick Hall to Gatehouse Road, Histon is 3km. The bridge at Westwick dates from 1279 and was rebuilt out of clay gault in 1835. The new permissive footpath from the recreation ground (which can also be



approached from the bus shelter), through Mansell Wood and around Centenary Wood to Gatehouse Road, is about 2km.

The footpath and cycle path alongside the guided bus from Westwick to Histon bus stop is about 3.5km. All these footpaths are suitable for dog walking but there is a need to ensure that sheep and cattle are not molested and that dogs are safe from guided buses.

The network of footpaths and bridleways is shown on the FOOTPATH map. Most can be used by dog walkers.

A safe, scenic and largely traffic free network of cycle paths now exists for the whole of England. Called Sustrans, it includes a route alongside

the guided bus from St. Ives to Cambridge via Oakington. The alternative is along Longstanton Road.

1.6 South Cambridgeshire District Council

SCDC has just published its proposed Local Plan. This Local Plan when adopted will guide development in the District for the next 20 years. The draft Plan is available on:

<http://www.scambs.gov.uk/localplan>

This plan aims to "promote and deliver sustainable transport" with much emphasis on cycling and walking. The Community Plan questionnaire is a good opportunity to give your views.

1.7 Cambridgeshire County Council

CCC has a lot of information on Transport on its web site at:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/>

For example, gritting routes:

<https://tinyurl.com/pamrofd>

and accident incidences:

<https://tinyurl.com/3xk3rom>

among many other things.

The CCC has recently been monitoring traffic in our area as part of a major Transport Monitoring commitment for Northstowe.

Encouraging recent news is the government's announcement of an £8.2m investment in cycling infrastructure for Cambridgeshire which seems to include an upgrade of the cycling path on the Huntingdon Road into Cambridge.

1.8 O&W Parish Council

Over the last two years the O&W Parish Council has been active in the area of Traffic & Transport, on these things:

- A14 drainage works
- A14 widening between Histon & Girton
- Airfield Road rights of way
- Cambridgeshire future transport
- Church View bridleway
- cycle path Oakington – Cottenham
- guided bus
- historic rights of way
- illegal parking in Forge End/Cambridge Road
- issue of Northstowe access road via Mill Road
- liaise with MPs re excessive cost of advertising parish council funded highways alterations
- old airfield boundary fence
- resurfacing the Crossroads
- school bus
- speed stickers for bins
- speeding traffic in Longstanton Road
- speedwatch
- Stocks Green parking licence
- street lighting
- traffic management schemes



Time for ideas and action

Please share in the questionnaire, even way-out ideas for new cycling routes and footpaths.

- winter gritting