

Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting – September 2021

I held a meeting with Highways England at the parishes adjacent to the A14 regarding safety improvements to the A14. In the short term Highways England would be looking to improve grass cutting and sign cleaning, replace missing signs such as the Spaldwick services sign. Introduce Mobile variable messaging signs (MVMS) to display a message to increase awareness of the at grade junctions and potential for slow manoeuvring vehicles are being considered for a time limited period. Along with improved Road markings and additional warning signs for Catworth Farm Lane, as well as reviewing signage along the route. I have another meeting with Highways England on the 27th September. With regard to upgrading the road, please see item at the end of the report

The Combined Authority is setting up a Demand Responsive Transport Trial Scheme for West Huntingdonshire, serving St Neots & Huntingdon, as it is now the Authority in charge of Buses.

DRT is a totally flexible service, so it does not have to stick to a specific timetable or route. Using either an App or a phone call to the travel hub customers will be able to book a journey from a location of their choice. The technology will tell passengers where to wait at their virtual bus stop for pick up and drop off points. This makes it the perfect solution in Rural Areas where a normal bus service would struggle to reach the necessary passenger numbers to remain viable.

The service is not door to door, but is corner to corner. The service will define pickup points and places where buses can turn around to get to the next pick up point safely and efficiently.

The service aims to get a bus to you pretty much whenever you need it. Obviously it cannot serve everywhere all the time, but the computer will join up several peoples needs for a bus into one combined journey. It will always aim to be as direct as possible

Customers will be able to book a journey up to one week in advance. The service will operate from 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 4pm on Saturdays. With no service on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

All existing bus services will operate during the trial. I have no specific start date for the trial is of yet.

If the Parish wishes to submit a Local Highways Improvement Bid, this year it needs to be in by 30th September.

Cambridgeshire County Council is funding a one year Community Action Programme from April 2021 to March 2022.

The programme hopes to establish a network of Community Flood action groups, creating flood action plans for communities to enact in the event of a flood. As well as providing a one stop shop for flood risk information, an improved flood reporting system which will be accessible from a smart phone

The A428 dualling between the Black Cat Roundabout and the Caxton Gibbet has entered the Examination stage of the Development Consent Order Application on the 18th August, this will last six months. You will be able to follow the scheme throughout the examination period on the Planning Inspectorate website

Cambridgeshire Libraries are looking for feedback from residents on why they value their local library service as part of Libraries Week which runs from Monday 4th October to Sunday 10th October, to take part in the survey go to <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/6HSTQX/>

The County Council is now in the process of looking for a New Chief Executive. The new administration have stated that this post will only cover Cambridgeshire County Council and will not be a shared position with Peterborough City, along with all future executive positions. This is likely to result in higher costs for the County Council.

Joseph Hudson's replacement as the local Highways Engineer is due to start on 20th September following training.

Highways England are asking for your views regarding the A14 between Ellington and Thrapston. I would urge all Parishes to engage with their route strategies process, if you want grade separated junctions or deceleration lanes through the purchase of land to remove the at grade junctions with no slip roads: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/our-route-strategies/>

You have until the 30th November 2021 to feedback your views on <https://routestrategies.highwaysengland.co.uk/>

The District Council is applying for Civil Parking Enforcement measures so that the Council will be able to employ Traffic Wardens to enforce parking restrictions.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County Councillor for Alconbury & Kimbolton