

Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting – January 2023

The County Council's Children's and Young Persons Committee have agreed to commence a consultation on the closure of Great Gidding school in July 2023, with pupils being sent to other local schools, even though the majority of these are over-subscribed in certain year groups. The new Primary school in Sawtry is not due to open before September 24. At least one of the pupils comes from the Alconbury/Alconbury Weston area

At the CYP committee I argued for this to be a genuine consultation and that no decision should be reached until everyone has given their view. If however closure is the preferred solution following consultation, then the closure of Great Gidding school and the opening of the new Sawtry school should be aligned.

I am working with the other neighbouring County Councillors on this issue, to try and keep the school open, particularly as HDC are preparing a new Local Plan which may result in more homes within the catchment area.

Chief Inspector Paul Rogerson of Cambridgeshire Police has offered an open invitation for him and his team to meet a Cluster group of parishes to discuss any specific issue.

Applications for LHI funding for 23/24 have now closed, the Panel meeting to discuss the applications will be in May 23

The consultation regarding Sustainable Travel and the associated Congestion Charge has now closed. The County Council will be voting on the proposed Sustainable travel proposals and the associated congestion charge in March

At the latest consultation meeting for Councillors at HDC, I have asked that they look at providing an extension to the improved bus service to the villages such as Spaldwick As none of the villages west of the A1 are included within the Sustainable Travel Zone proposed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership. Or an out of town Park & Ride site

They are also proposing to increase the number of buses providing the Ting Service in West Huntingdonshire. Although I have been receiving complaints about the new service provider.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership are now saying that residents travelling to A&E at Addenbrookes would not be liable for the Congestion charge but have not said how this would work. The congestion charge will only operate on weekdays ie Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm. All vehicles entering the zone will be charged including Electric vehicles.

The Cambridgeshire Mayor has consulted over his proposal to add a Mayoral precept to your Council Tax Bills from April 23. We wait to see if this proposal goes ahead

The County Council budget meeting is on February 7th at which its budget proposals including Council Tax increases will be known. I am expecting a maximum increase in Council Tax from the Lib Dem/Labour/Independent administration.

The Fire Authority is proposing a £5 increase on its Council Tax levy for a Band D property.

The District Council has decided to prepare a new local plan to ensure the plan meets all the NPPF requirements. This process will take 5 to 6 years so you should continue to prepare you Neighbourhood Plan

You will be consulted on the New Local Plan, but the consultation periods will be tight. The Parish will need to keep abreast of the consultations, some of which will affect Alconbury Weston others not.

The recycling centres are now accepting bulky waste such as sofas and chairs.

The proposed HDC Climate Strategy will be going to Cabinet tomorrow.

The District Councils budget meeting is on 22 February

Contact Email on Ian.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Spaldwick