

ALCONBURY - A NEW ENTERPRISE ZONE

Government is being urged to back a bid to make Alconbury a new enterprise zone - signalling to the world that the greater Cambridge and Peterborough area is open for business. The decision to put forward Alconbury to Government would be a win for the whole area and urges communities to get behind the bid. Cambridgeshire's economic success is vital for the country. Not only would local jobs and business prosper from an enterprise zone but it is well recognised that Cambridgeshire is an area whose success could kick start and grow the UK's economy.

The Government's enterprise zone initiative would see an area set up where businesses are encouraged to grow with the reduction of previously constricting red tape. In return the local communities across the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership area would benefit as the business rates are reinvested in the area rather than going to the treasury as they do now.

Developers working in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council are planning a dynamic and innovative employment-led development on the former Alconbury Airfield just to the north of Huntingdon. The Enterprise Zone would cover 150 hectares of what is a very large 575 hectare site in total. Alconbury is ideally placed between Cambridge and Peterborough, and should help to enhance the economic links between the complementary business communities in and around those two cities.

Councillor Clarke, who sits on the Local Enterprise Partnership Board, said: "Although Alconbury was chosen out of the five bids if it is granted enterprise zone status it will benefit the whole area making it a win for everyone. Now is the time for us as councillors, our communities and businesses as well as our MPs to get behind this bid and do what we can to persuade Government that it's in the local and UK interest to grant us an enterprise zone.

This would see more jobs and prosperity created while money raised locally is kept locally to benefit the area rather than going into a large Government pot. We know that the area is a world beater in innovation and is a leader in driving forward the UK's economy.

KEEP THE ZIG ZAGS CLEAR - CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

A campaign has been launched to persuade drivers to stop parking on the zig zag markings outside Cambridgeshire's schools. The initiative is being launched at four schools across the county in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council's Safer Routes to School (SRTS) project. Banners will encourage drivers to think about where and how they park around the school. Devised by the Safer Routes to School team these banners are attached to railings outside the school near the yellow zig-zag 'keep clear' markings on the road.

The banner campaign will be running until the end of term. It starts with a green banner reminding drivers to keep the zig zags clear, and escalates via an amber and then red banner with a much stronger message on the red banner if the warnings are still being ignored.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds said: "One of the major concerns is the safety of children outside schools. These banners draw attention of drivers to the dangers school children face as a result of parking on zigzag lines outside schools. The banners reinforce a safety message to drivers the zig zag lines are there for a reason. This project is an example of real partnership working with local communities and our schools to highlight this major safety issue."

NEW SUPPORT SERVICE FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF ROAD COLLISION VICTIMS MOVES CLOSER

A support service for the family and friends of those killed in road collisions has moved a step closer for Cambridgeshire, due significantly to the support of the County's Road Safety Partnership. Thanks to an initial donation from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership and the tireless energy of Cambridge resident Lady Susan Acland, a branch of the Road Victims Trust could soon be established in the County.

Lady Acland was supported by the Road Victims Trust following the death of her husband. Lady Acland is now using the same philanthropic spirit to help establish a road victim support service for Cambridgeshire with the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire charity the Road Victims Trust.

As a result of the donation received from the Road Safety Partnership, the Trust has now been able to secure some training funding for Cambridgeshire volunteers from the Ministry of Justice and is now seeking to raise a further £75,000 to extend their free support service to road victims locally.

Cambridgeshire County Council Road Safety Team which forms part of the Partnership, has volunteered to help develop the service they said: "We are delighted with our progress so far but we are realistic that to launch this really important support for road victims we need to attract further funds. Through specialist trained counselling volunteers we provide free emotional, practical support and access to some legal support to road victims. Funding limits the service we can offer. Unfortunately road victims are the forgotten victims because when someone is killed on the road it is invariably not recorded as a 'crime' but labelled as an 'accident.' Yet there are five times more road deaths than there are murders – in every county."

The new branch has also won the wholehearted support of Cambridgeshire Police and Chief Constable Simon Parr has agreed to become patron of the Trust. He was previously involved in developing the same support service in Hertfordshire.

He said: "The sudden, often violent, death of a loved one on the road is traumatic. On average each year, in the past 10 years in Cambridgeshire, more than 50 people have been killed on the County's roads. I am delighted to be involved in establishing the Trust in Cambridgeshire. The support offered by the Trust complements that of police Family Liaison Officers and is invaluable."

To find out more about the Road Victims Trust or how you can help with the fundraising, go to: www.roadvictimstrust.org.uk

DRINK DRIVING DOESN' T ONLY HAPPEN AT CHRISTMAS

County Road Safety Officers have been out and about in Bar Hill handing out early 'Christmas cards' to spread the word that drink driving does not only happen during the festive season. This included an exhibition trailer decorated as a 'Christmas Grotto' at Tesco. The leaflets spelt out the personal and legal consequences of drinking and driving and reminding people of the length of time alcohol takes to clear the body. Many thanks to the 157 people who completed the questionnaire.

FUTURE JOBS FUND

During the last 15 months Cambridgeshire County Council Adult Careers Service (Next Step) has worked with 35 local employers to support over 200 unemployed young people to find work. This six month job, funded through the Future Jobs Fund, has resulted in many young people moving into full time employment or going into further/higher education.

BOOK YOUR ROOM IN A LOCAL LIBRARY

Community groups and businesses are being invited to check out their local libraries if they are looking to book space or meeting rooms. The invitation is part of Cambridgeshire County Council's drive to make sure libraries are not just places to pick up books but are used to help benefit local communities and business.

Cambridge Central Library makes for an ideal location to hold meetings, right in the centre of the city with plenty of space for all users. Already libraries across Cambridgeshire see companies using them for business meetings or community groups, such as parents and toddlers, use them to run activities.

To keep costs down rooms can be booked on affordable hourly rates, with discounts for community groups, charities and government organisations. All bookings are VAT free.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds said: "Our libraries are vibrant places that have something for all the community. We know from our conversations over the last year with communities that they are often looking for meeting places for local groups. Equally we can provide businesses, from large to small, with high standard meeting rooms and facilities at reasonable prices." For more information click on:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/about/policy/room_hire/library_meeting_rooms_for_rent.htm

CAMBRIDGESHIRE MUSIC 'A GOOD SERVICE WITH OUTSTANDING FEATURES'

The music service provided by Cambridgeshire County Council has been described by inspectors as 'good with outstanding features' in a recent review. Cambridgeshire Music is evaluated annually to a variety of standards covering breadth, access, quality of delivery and support and leadership. In the space of a year the service has developed from an 'improving service' to 'a good service with outstanding features'.

In particular the external moderator noted that the service had very good breadth of provision across the county, excellent approaches to measuring student progression and outstanding partnership development and leadership.

The review, carried out in March, said teaching and learning within the service were good, with many very good examples in ensembles. "Teaching and learning was rated good or better in 76 per cent of lessons and outstanding in 22 per cent of lessons," it stated.

Support for the breadth, access and participation for young people's engagement with music was also described as outstanding. "A wide range of partnerships have given young musicians many additional opportunities to develop their musical skills and interests. More than 30 separate projects this year have been developed," the review said.

In concluding that Cambridgeshire Music was a good service with outstanding features, the review added: "The senior leadership team work well together to deliver the aspirations for music education, with well-defined processes to develop quality and value for money."

Local County Councillor John Reynolds said: "This review and the progress identified is testament to the hard work of all the music team and school partners, as well as the excellent support from other departments within the County Council. Congratulations to everyone involved in supporting high quality music education in Cambridgeshire."

ROADS DRESSED FOR SUCCESS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

County Council Contractors have been out and about across Cambridgeshire carrying out an extensive programme of work to improve the roads. Over the past few weeks, the work costing a total of £1.2 million, has seen many miles of road surface dressed to improve the highways for all road users. The team have used recycled granite railway ballast, which will cut costs and protect the environment by re-using materials.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "This extensive programme of work is part of the County Council's commitment to repair and maintain the highway network in the best possible condition within the resources available to us – by re-using the old railway ballast we can keep costs down and surface dress more miles of road within the same amount of money."

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN LEADS ARMED FORCES DAY CEREMONY

The Chairman of Cambridgeshire County Council, accompanied by Captain Victor Lucas RN, Deputy Lieutenant for Cambridgeshire, led the County Council's flag-raising ceremony in recognition of national Armed Forces Day. Capt Lucas inspected the standard bearers of the Royal British Legion and cadets from Kimbolton School. Children from nearby Mayfield Primary School attended to watch the ceremony and talk to the veterans. A special Armed Forces Day flag was raised on the County Council's flagpole at Shire Hall. The flag-raising ceremony event was one of many being organised to take place simultaneously across the country.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds said: "I am delighted at the way the whole country comes together to recognise the armed forces and the work they do. The flag-raising at Shire Hall will combine ceremony, celebration and dignity, but more importantly will contribute to a wider understanding of the armed forces and the crucial role they play in our national life."

CAMBRIDGE GUIDED BUSWAY - SECTION

SHORT BACK AND SIDES FOR THE BUSWAY

With the opening of The Busway just over 50 days away, grass cutting crews have to give the route a trim ready for the opening on Sunday 7 August. The team will be working their way along The Busway trimming back verges, the grassy area between the tracks and generally ensuring the track is ready for the opening. The work will involve mowers and trimmers and the public are again reminded that The Busway is still a construction site and they should not venture on to it. The Busway is going to be a great new facility to help people beat the queues on the A14 and will make a real difference to their journeys to work, to the shops or to catch up with friends and family.

BUS SERVICE CHANGES

With the opening of the Cambridge Guided Busway, the Bus Operators (Stage Coach & Whippet) have lodged with the Transport Commissioners a number of changes to existing services from the 7th August. Stagecoach will be deregistering services A, B and 55 and amending services 20 and 21, replacing the deregistered services with new Busway services A and B. Whippet will continue to run their existing services and will also operate Busway services C and D.

There are no changes to the County Council supported bus services. As normal, the County Council will be notifying County, District and Parish Councillors about the changes to commercial bus services when we have finished analysing the registrations.

ALL ABOARD TO PLAN YOUR BUSWAY JOURNEYS

Timetables for The Busway have been released so people can begin to plan how they will use the new reliable, fast and frequent bus service. Stagecoach and Whippet Coaches, who will run the services on The Busway, have now registered the new services and timetables, including maps showing stops the different services will use. Timetables are now available on The Council's website by visiting: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/thebusway.

Printed timetable booklets will be made available on current bus services between Huntingdon, St Ives and Cambridge before The Busway opens on Sunday 7 August. The timetables confirm Busway services will run seven days a week, and from Monday to Saturday 7am to 7pm there will be buses running between St Ives and Cambridge at least every 10 minutes. Services to Huntingdon will be every 20 minutes with an hourly evening service running until midnight.

It is anticipated around 3.5 million trips will be taken on The Busway each year and the guideway will provide far more reliable journey times for passengers than current services. The timetables include bus services from the new Busway Park & Ride sites in St Ives and Longstanton. The southern section of the Busway will also open on Sunday 7 August and the completely traffic-free route will allow passengers to travel from the Trumpington Park & Ride to Addenbrooke's Hospital in just four minutes.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "With around fifty days to go until we open The Busway it is great news we have been able to publish the timetables so people can begin planning how they will use the route. With WiFi, air conditioning and leather seats the buses will offer a high quality rapid transit for journeys in and out of Cambridge. Each week more and more jobs are ticked off the list as anticipation is building to the grand opening."

TOP NOTCH SURFACE FOR FINAL SECTION OF CYCLING SUPER HIGHWAY

Transport chiefs have announced a super smooth blacktop surface will be added to the final section of the 16-mile path next to the Guided Busway on the section between Swavesey and St Ives. would have an upgraded blacktop surface rather than crushed limestone as originally planned. Work has already begun to add a blacktop surface to the path for cyclists, walkers and horse riders and following the successful bid for £150,000 of Government links to schools funding, held by transport charity Sustrans, every section will now have the highest quality surface.

It has also been agreed to raise the level of the sections of the path next to the guideway between St Ives and Swavesey as approved by the Environment Agency. After the work is completed rain water will no longer collect, flood the path, and make it impassable for much of the year. The cost of raising the level of the defective path will be deducted from former contractor BAM Nuttall as they built the path at too a low level despite independent and official warnings.

The work is scheduled to take place in August and September and does not need to be completed before The Busway opens on 7 August. As originally planned, the path will be built above the level of the surrounding land.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "The path next to The Busway is going to be a fantastic addition for Cambridgeshire and it is great news that we have secured the funding to make sure it as attractive to use as possible. Cyclists I speak to are really excited about the path, which will be part of the national cycle network, and the blacktop on every section is a massive bonus.

EDUCATION - SECTION

COUNCILLORS LISTEN TO PUBLIC ON FUTURE OF GAMLINGAY VILLAGE COLLEGE

Following careful consideration of all the options and local views Councillors have said the failing Gamlingay Village College should become part of a federation - keeping the school open. Cambridgeshire County Council Cabinet emphasised that their main priority is the future and educational standards of the children at the school which was put in special measures by OfSTED earlier this year.

Councillors considered all the options for the school as well as looking at the results of a public consultation and the impact on the community. They also heard from campaigners who wanted to keep the school from closing as well as local residents who wanted the children to be sent to nearby Bassingbourn Village College.

After careful consideration and hearing all the arguments as well as the results of community impact assessments the Cabinet agreed a federation should be established with another school - keeping Gamlingay open. The vast majority of respondents to the consultation - 611 - were in favour of keeping Gamlingay Village College open and federating it with Stratton Upper School in Biggleswade.

Cambridgeshire County Council Leader Nick Clarke said: "Gamlingay Village College is a failing school and at the forefront of our thoughts is the welfare and educational achievements of the local youngsters. When we are talking about the future of children it is the strength of argument rather than the strength of voice that we listen hardest to.

"Clearly doing nothing was not an option but we listened carefully to the arguments for and against closure. We took particular attention of what local people were saying, as any proposals we make will directly affect the lives of their children and the impact of any decision on the community. Equally we listened hard to the people whose job it would be to try and turn this school around and have confidence in their ability and enthusiasm to do their best for the children of Gamlingay. That is why we decided to opt for the federation option. The decision was not a reflection on Bassingbourn Village College in any way - that school would have coped admirably with the extra pupils."

JEAVONS WOOD CAMBOURNE - 'A GOOD SCHOOL WITH AN EXCITING AND INSPIRING CURRICULUM'

Jeavons Wood Primary School in Cambourne is a good school, according to inspectors from OfSTED - the Office for Standards in Education. They praised the 'consistently good' teaching, the energy and drive of headteacher and the behaviour of pupils.

"Good progress and rising attainment are due to consistently good teaching. Teachers know what they want pupils to learn and offer varied and inviting activities, designed to enable pupils to find out for themselves. This leads to self-motivated learning where pupils set their own challenges about what they want to learn.

"A creative and flexible approach to planning leads to an exciting and inspiring curriculum. Pupils enthusiastically engage in a range of stimulating tasks, indoors and out, which encourage exploration and imagination. This has a highly positive effect on developing confidence and self-reliance," said the inspectors' report.

They particularly praised provision in the Reception classes. "A strength of the school is the outstanding start offered to children in the Reception classes. Here excellent teaching creates an exciting and stimulating environment where children excel in developing curiosity, imagination, decision making and problem-solving skills.

Headteacher said: "We're absolutely delighted with this report and feel that it accurately highlights what is special about Jeavons Wood - confident, happy children who love learning and are making good progress; a vibrant curriculum which encourages independent learning; supportive parents who share our school values; and a Foundation Stage that is truly outstanding. We're a rapidly expanding school so there are still areas for development but we feel the report endorses what we are aiming to achieve and gives us encouragement to carry forward our vision for the future."

PERMISSION SOUGHT TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR NEW CAMBOURNE SCHOOL

A new secondary school for Cambourne came a step closer as plans to acquire land were approved. Cambridgeshire County Council plans to open the new school in September 2013. It will cater for up to 750 pupils aged between 11 and 16. Nearby Comberton Village College has up to now been the catchment area secondary school for Cambourne pupils, but research suggests this will be full by September 2013 and unable to provide any more places.

The County Council has identified a site for the new school on agricultural land west of Cambourne which will allow the new school to be up and running when it is needed in September 2013. A public exhibition will be held at The Hub in Cambourne on 29 June, when members of the public will be able to view the plans and comment on them. Education officers from the County Council will be present at the exhibition, which will take place between 3.30pm and 9pm.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds said: "Pupil forecasts show that a secondary school will be needed in Cambourne by September 2013, when Comberton Village College will be full. As always, we are planning ahead to ensure children living in Cambourne will be able to go to a local school which best suits their needs. This is the first step to realising that vision."

Yours John Reynolds

County Councillor: John Reynolds, 4 Hollytrees, Bar Hill, CB23 8SF.
john.reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

MP. Andrew Lansley CBE, 153 St Neots Road, Hardwick, CB23 7QJ lansleya@parliament.uk
MEP. Robert Sturdy, 153 St Neots Road, Hardwick, CB23 7QJ rwsturdy@btconnect.com

Promoted by SCCA, on behalf of John Reynolds, and printed by SCCA, all of 153 St Neots Road, Hardwick.Cambs CB23 7O

BAR HILL ROAD REPAIRS

Residents will have seen recently the road resurfacing being carried out by the County Council. Surface Dressing is a long established proven highway maintenance technique. In simple terms it involves the even spray application of an emulsion bituminous binder through a purpose built spray tanker onto the existing road surface followed immediately by the even application of aggregate chippings to 'dress' the binder. Once the white lines are completed the Council intend to carry out additional repairs to some of the estate roads in the village. This work should be undertaken in the Autumn.

A14 Girton Interchange: Resurfacing and Maintenance Works

The Highways Agency will shortly be starting essential maintenance and resurfacing works on the A14 at Girton Interchange. The works will be carried out in 4 phases.

During phases 1, 2 & 3 it will be necessary to implement overnight lane closures and slip road closures and during phase 4/5 it will be necessary to implement a complete weekend closure of the Girton Interchange.

Phases 1 - 3 works are programmed to commence on the evening of Monday 4 July 2011 and are expected to take approximately 2 weeks to complete.

The working hours are: 9:00pm to 6:00am Monday to Friday nights

Phase 4/5 works are programmed to commence at 10.00pm on Friday 15 July 2011 and is expected to be completed by 6.00am on Monday 18 July.

The diversion routes are as follows:

Phase 1: Northbound M11 Traffic will be diverted off the main carriageway at Junction 14 onto the M11 Junction 14 Northbound Off-Slip, A14 Westbound Link Road and A14 Westbound Merge with M11 to rejoin A14 at Junction 31.

Phase 2: The Crematorium Loop will be closed and traffic will be advised to leave at Junction 30.

Phase 3: A14 eastbound traffic will be diverted off the A14 mainline carriageway at junction 31 onto the M11 southbound to continue and exit at junction 10. Traffic will be directed onto the A505 eastbound to join the A11 northbound. Traffic will continue northbound to rejoin the A14 eastbound at junction 36.

Cambridge and local traffic (including non-motorway traffic) travelling east on the A14 will be diverted off the A14 at junction 31 and directed to follow the A1307 (Huntingdon Road) into Cambridge.

Phase 4/5: Traffic wishing to travel eastbound on the A14 from the M11 northbound, will be directed to proceed past junction 14 to join the A14 westbound and exit at junction 30 (Dry Drayton) to rejoin the A14 eastbound.

Traffic travelling out of Cambridge on the A1307 will be directed towards Histon Road to join the A14 westbound at junction 32. Traffic will be diverted west along the A428