

Superfast Broadband

Registration for Superfast Broadband continues. At present 194 out of a potential 504 premises have been registered in Thriplow. This represents 38.5%.

Some villages have achieved over 80% but Thriplow's number is pretty good for this part of the world.

Registration will continue until the end of November. The County will then use the statistics to persuade suppliers to take a commercial decision to install superfast broadband. If they won't, then the County will have to prioritise where to spend its own (borrowed) money.

I have found from experience in Heathfield that knocking on people's doors gets a pretty good response.

A reminder that the website is at :

www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Issues and Option report

The Local Plan Issues and Options consultation is now closed. I remain quite keen that parish councils should have more say in the planning process and this could save the necessity of creating a Neighbourhood Plan at some considerable expense.

As I understand it the District Council will digest the responses made already and then will go out to a further round of consultation early in 2013.

Residual Capital Funding

The County has discovered that it has some money left over for capital projects this year. Unusually it has given all Councillors an opportunity to comment on a short list. One of the projects is completion of the cycleway and footway from Wandlebury to the Babraham Institute at a cost of some £800,000. I have warmly supported that.

In addition I have suggested that it was unfortunate, to say the least, that the project for a cycleway along the A505 from the Sawston roundabout to the Abington slip road has not been included. We know that such a project would cost in the region of £500,000, that all the land is in the hands of the County and that it would have a great impact locally for travel to work as well as leisure cycling.

As a result I have contacted I have contacted The Genome Campus and Granta Park and both have confirmed that they are keen for the project to succeed. With that support I have gone back to the County who have reinstated this project as a possibility. I have asked affected parish councils, the Genome Campus, Granta Park and the Babraham institute to write to the County to push the idea. A report is to be presented to Cabinet in December or January. I'm not sure if Thriplow would like to add its voice to the campaign.

Minor Highway Improvements

You should have received notification that the County is looking for bids for next year. The limit of money available per project is £10,000 and 10% has to be paid for by the parish council. Any excess over £10,000 has to be paid for by the parish council or any outside party.

If you have identified a project it's always helpful to get Brian Stinton out to give advice.

Fire Service Consultation

Public consultation on further collaboration, up to a full merger, between Cambridgeshire and Suffolk fire and rescue services is now open.

A three-month public consultation starts to gauge how people feel about further collaboration or a merger in principle, providing it would bring about significant savings and help protect the number of frontline firefighters.

People can find out more and make their views known either online at www.cambsfire.gov.uk or by picking up a hard copy of the consultation pack and survey at Cambridgeshire's libraries and fire stations next week. Alternatively a hard copy of the consultation pack can be posted to residents, if they contact the fire service on 01480 444500. The closing date for the consultation will be January 14, 2013.

New Constituency

The Boundary Commission has just published its latest proposals for changing parliamentary constituency boundaries. The Commission is charged with culling English MPs from 533 to 502, and arranging the numbers of electors so that every MP represents a similar number – between 72,810 and 80,473 people. No constituency is allowed to be more than 5% above or below an electoral quota.

The new South East Cambridgeshire constituency would include, amongst others, Soham, Duxford, Cheveley and Linton as well as Thriplow.

If you would like to comment then you have until 10th December to make a representation.

Possibly the best way to get there is through the Boundary Commission website.

7a bus

The County has now gone out to tender for the 7a service to Babraham Road Park & Ride. I am still not sure about the last minute wiggle around Stapleford to try to attract more passengers from there. The County says that any modification of the route will not greatly affect the cost, so they are pressing ahead. The new route is likely to come into service in April next year. The current route costs the County over £16.00 per passenger journey.

Tim