

County Council Budget 2017-18

In our report last month we referred to the County Council meeting earlier that day that had decided no increase in Council Tax and 2% Social Care precept. This decision means that the County Council's portion of Council Tax will rise by about £24 per year for a Band D property with proportionate rises for properties in other Council Tax bands.

The two other amendments, both lost, that proposed Council Tax rises:

- 2% increase in Council Tax and 2% Social Care precept,
- 2% increase in Council Tax and 3% Social Care precept,

would have resulted in the County Council's portion of Council Tax being increased by approximately £48 and £60 respectively for a Band D property.

To put things in context, a 1% rise in the County Council's portion of Council Tax raises an additional £2.4 million whereas a 1% rise in the District Council's portion of Council Tax raises an additional £70,000.

Social Care budgets all over the country are under great strain, and further financial support for Social Care was announced in the budget. Cambridgeshire will get an extra £8.33 million in 2017-18. This is over and above what the County Council is precepting.

A1307 Local Liaison Forum (LLF)

Tony was ratified as Chair at the first meeting of the A1307 Local Liaison Forum which was held in Linton on 20 February.

The meeting date was deliberately chosen to be between the publication of agenda papers (expected on 16 or 17 February), and the meetings of the City Deal Joint Assembly (1 March) and the City Deal Executive Board (8 March). However, the agenda papers relating to the A1307 were only published at about 4 pm on the afternoon of 20 February, so those attending the LLF meeting had had virtually no time to consider the agenda papers before the meeting.

A number of proposals were put forward relating to various parts of the A1307 between Haverhill and Addenbrooke's.

The proposals included road safety measures, a bus only lane near Linton, an improved cycleway between Babraham and Granta Park, a Park and Ride site near Four Wentways, a revised road layout at the A1307 / Haverhill Road, Stapleford / Gogs Shop junction, a bus-only lane from the Gogs to the roundabout at Shelford Bottom and an on-highway of off-highway link to the Biomedical Campus. However, there was **nothing** linking in the Genome Campus / Sawston / Pampisford area with the A1307.

The clear view of the meeting was for a pause in the process whilst further work was done including talking to all landowners potentially involved, discussions with neighbouring local authorities and internal joined-up work, for example in relation to any proposals for changes at the Addenbrooke's Bus Station, and/or access to that Bus Station. There was also support for a wider vision rather than a very narrow focus on the A1307.

At the City Deal Joint Assembly meeting it was decided to request delaying the next round of consultations from July till September so that *'a second public consultation exercise on the preferred options [would] commence in September 2017 after further workshops had taken place with Local Liaison Forums and councillors, and agreed a delegation to finalise consultation materials.'*

The City Deal Executive Board took this a stage further by agreeing to the delay so that the Local Liaison Forum could consider these (that is, the proposals set out in the agenda papers) **and other proposals**.

Local Highways Improvement (LHI) Bid by Sawston Parish Council

Sawston Parish Council was one of many parish councils that submitted LHI bids to the County Council. The Sawston bid was for a crossing in New Road near the entrance to the Village College.

Tony was one of the Panel members who considered and scored these bids, though Panel members could not score schemes in villages that they represent. However, they were free to express their views about schemes in areas that they represented, so Tony was happy to make clear his support for the Sawston PC bid.

The County Council's Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee is meeting on 14 March (that is, earlier today) to determine which bids are successful.

Sawston Library Hub

We are pleased to be able to report that the planning application for the new library hub was approved a few days ago, subject to conditions. Work will be able to start once the conditions have been met.

Issues raised at the February Parish Council meeting

These are being followed up and we will report back in due course.

Tony Orgee and Gail Kenney
County Councillors for Sawston