

## Report of County Councillor Claire Daunton to Parish Councils for July 2024

*Some county council business was affected by the six-week pre-election period in the run up to 4<sup>th</sup> July, hence this is a much shorter report than usual. The GCP Assembly meeting, at which the move of the Newmarket Road park and ride was to be discussed, was cancelled and has now been rescheduled for mid September.*

*County Council Full Council meets on 16<sup>th</sup> July. I will bring any items for report from this meeting to the parish council meeting that evening.*

Highways: there are a number of **outstanding issues**: footpath at the junction of Station Road and Stow Road; a number of potholes. These have all been reported by me and will be followed up.

**Gulleys** across the village were all cleaned out in the fourth week of June. Surface water drainage seems to be working well at present.

**Grass cutting and weed killing** is to take place over the next month and into August. Please be sure to send to me any reports of particular areas of concern.

GCP Assembly Meeting: this has now been fixed for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September. I will keep the parish council informed of the agenda.

### Waste Water Treatment Plant

The Examining Authority's recommendation has been sent to the Secretary of State.

The [Examination Library](#) (PDF, 1MB) has been updated.

### County Adults and Health Committee

The committee met on 27<sup>th</sup> June. Amongst the points for discussion which parish councillors might find of interest were:

- (i) An update on the debt position in relation to Adult Social Care services as at the end of March 2024 and the actions being taken to improve this position. There was an overview of the financial assessment process which establishes the means tested charge for care and support, along with information on how adult social care charging links to debt and to the support offered where individuals face difficulty in paying these charges. A number of points were made including the difficulties being experienced both by the council and by relatives over the long delays in the probate service and other national bodies. It was also agreed that the county council should look again at how it deals with families suffering bereavement and having to deal with social care debt.
- (ii) The tendering for new contracts for county-council independent-living housing schemes (termed 'extra care schemes'), how these are run, future contractual arrangements, what payments residents make, how much choice residents have in seeking to provide their own care within these

- schemes. There will be a paper in future concerning housing for older people.
- (iii) A discussion of the desirability of increasing direct payments for social care. Direct payments allow individuals to choose their own care, tailored to their own needs and offer an alternative to the county council providing the care from the contracted services it uses. The Cambridgeshire Direct Payment Support Service (DPSS) is an all-age service which supports people who receive direct payments to purchase their own care and support. Its aim is to help improve the independence, health, and wellbeing of people with eligible care needs. It also makes having a direct payment easier and a more attractive option to service users.
  - (iv) Care Together initiative: a new approach to providing localised care and support for older people is now in place. If the parish would like to receive a presentation on the initiative from a county officer, I would be happy to arrange this.

### **County Children and Young People's Committee**

The committee met on 25<sup>th</sup> June. Business discussed and agreed included;

- (i) The county council has agreed to set up two new homes for children in care using its own properties. These are now being made ready. The committee agreed to go out to tender for providers to run these homes in conjunction with the county. This arrangement would enable more children to be cared for within Cambridgeshire, closer to friends and to family support, as appropriate.
- (ii) Commissioning of a new school-aged health improvement and prevention service which includes emphasis on healthy eating, oral health, information on vaping and a range of other concerns. The new arrangement aims to integrate more fully and effectively current health-improvement services.