

# Cllr Lorna Dupré

## MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024

---

### ADULTS & HEALTH

#### Priors Field Sutton

For the last eighteen months Malling Health has held a caretaker contract to provide primary care services from Priors Field Surgery. They will continue to do so until 31 March 2025.

The NHS has now launched an open procurement process to seek a provider to deliver services from the site under a ten-year contract, with the potential for a five-year extension. The NHS hopes to identify the most suitable provider before the end of 2024, with the new contract taking effect on 1 April 2025.

The NHS has worked with Priors Field PPG to identify patient representatives to serve on the procurement panel, so that the views of local residents are taken into account as part of the process.

Meanwhile work to enable the NHS to purchase the Priors Field Surgery building continues to move forwards, with more news expected in the coming months.

#### Covid vaccination programme

The government has accepted advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation for an autumn COVID-19 vaccination programme this year. All those aged 65 or over, all those in care homes for older people, and those aged six months or over who are in a clinical risk group, will be eligible for vaccination this autumn.

---

### CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

#### 'My Smile' accreditation for Children & Family Centres

All of the County Council's Child & Family Centres and Family Hubs are now 'My Smile' accredited.

The 'My Smile' programme is aimed at reducing oral health inequalities for the most deprived and disadvantaged children in early years. The programme offers training to Child & Family Centre and Family Hub staff by the Oral Health team from Dental Health Care, part of Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust.

There are four steps to the programme, consisting of

- Training in good oral health
- How to share information to families around toothbrushing

- Tooth friendly diets
- Dental visits.

Acquiring a 'My Smile' accreditation shows that the staff at these centres have received the most the up-to-date, evidence-based oral health training. It also shows that their centres promote a 'tooth friendly' environment for children and can confidently promote and advise visiting families on how to support good oral health at home.

## **New Director of Education**

Sarah Callaghan has joined Cambridgeshire County Council's as its new Service Director for Education. She has come from a similar position in Islington and started in Cambridgeshire on 5 August.

---

## **ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT**

### **Sunnica**

After the decision by the Government to permit the development of the Sunnica solar farm between Burwell and Red Lodge, the four 'host authorities' (Suffolk and Cambridgeshire counties, West Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire districts) submitted a 'pre-action protocol letter'.

This asked the Government to correct an error in the permission, which loaded considerable costs onto the councils for all the work they will need to do on the detail of the permission. The councils expected the Government to correct this, but the response from Government was that this was not an error, and the councils were indeed expected to shoulder the financial burden.

This was the only ground on which the four councils were seeking to challenge the decision, and would not have affected whether the development itself went ahead or not.

Two of the councils—West Suffolk and Cambridgeshire—decided not to proceed any further with the challenge, based on their judgement of the legal advice all four councils had seen, their view that the likelihood of success was low, and the consequent financial risk to local taxpayers.

The remaining two councils—East Cambridgeshire and Suffolk—are claiming that they would have proceeded to apply for judicial review if it had not been for West Suffolk and Cambridgeshire's decision. As all four councils had seen the same legal advice this appears to smack of political opportunism. And of course there is nothing to stop East Cambridgeshire and Suffolk going ahead with a judicial review application on their own.

The Say No To Sunnica action group, who had opened a crowdfunding webpage for their own judicial review, are now saying they are reviewing the situation and taking stock.

### **Community energy consultation**

The County Council is currently consulting on its proposed Action Plan to support community energy. The draft Action Plan and survey seeking your views on the proposals have been published, and the survey will remain open until Monday 16 September.

**<https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/community-energy-project>**

### **Waste partnership awards new recycling contract**

Local council waste partnership RECAP has awarded its contract for mixed dry recyclables (blue bin waste) to Biffa and Re-Gen after a procurement exercise. The contract was previously held by Thalia who run the waste facility at Waterbeach. The handover will take place on 1 September.

---

## **HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT**

### **Ely Road and The Brook Sutton**

I have received comments from a few residents who were not satisfied with the recent works on Ely Road and The Brook. The contractor and the Local Highways Officer have both assessed the works and found that they complied with the council's agreed standards. The works were carried out at night to prevent traffic backing up on to the A142, and to enable buses to run during the day.

### **Chain Causeway**

Work on Chain Causeway, originally planned for the autumn, will now take place in January and February next year. This will consist of deep excavations of the road on the bends between South Fen Farm and the point where the road starts to follow the straight line which extends beside the Hundred Foot to Earith Bridge. The road will be closed at this point for the whole duration of the works, which are expected to last around ten weeks.

### **Active travel hierarchy consultation**

A consultation on the development of an 'Active Travel Hierarchy' was launched on 22 July. This seeks feedback on which routes and public rights of way are considered most important to users, as well as asking residents about their preferences for prioritised maintenance activities.

Some of the feedback, including from me, was that the consultation was difficult to use and understand. In response, the council has revised the online material to make it easier and extended the consultation to 30 September.

**<https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/active-travel-hierarchy>**

## Mill Road (Cambridge) bus gate new consultation

Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed with the claimant to end legal proceedings in relation to the Mill Road Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) challenge. The Council will no longer be defending the case through the courts, and the judge has agreed to quash the decision that was made to approve the traffic regulation order for the scheme.

A new statutory consultation on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order started on Friday 9 August. The Order would close Mill Road bridge to all vehicles, with some exemptions. The consultation runs until midnight on Friday 13 September. <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/transport-projects/cycling-pedestrian-improvements/mill-road-bridge-tro>

## Vision Zero and iRAP (International Road Assessment Programme)

An update on the Vision Zero Partnership will be presented to the County Council's Highways & Transport Committee in December. At the same meeting, a report setting out the analysis of the Council's A roads using the iRAP methodology will be considered.

Vision Zero is a road safety partnership including local councils, police, fire, NHS and other relevant organisations. It is committed to preventing all road deaths across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and to significantly reducing the severity of injuries, costs and social impacts resulting from road traffic collisions.

iRAP is a registered charity working with governments, highways authorities, and others to provide the tools and training to make roads safer.

## Government review of transport priorities

The new government is undertaking an internal review of the Department for Transport's capital spend portfolio and will be making recommendations about current and future schemes.

This could have implications for schemes in or around Cambridgeshire, including the A10 from Ely to Cambridge, East West Rail, and the Ely Area Capacity Enhancements around Ely railway junction.

## Highways projects overview

The council wants to use its website more to enable residents to see more up to date information on highways projects. This is very much a work in progress, but some of the larger projects can be seen at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/highway-projects/our-projects-and-programmes>

## Local Highways Improvement schemes

Local Highways Improvement applications are being scored and will be presented to the Highways & Transport Committee in October for approval.

36 of the 77 schemes added to the programme last year have been delivered, with a further ten ordered. Of the remainder, fourteen are with the contractor for pricing, fifteen are in design and consultation stage.

Five schemes prior to 2023/24 have not yet been completed.

## 20MPH schemes

Scoring of the new and updated applications took place in May and June in preparation for presentation to the Highways & Transport Committee in October. These remain popular, with 65 applications received this year, many of which were re-submissions from the previous year.

Some of the 2023/2024 have been delayed as applicants undertake further informal consultation following feedback from residents, or due to changes to guidance from the Department for Transport, and the amount of time the formal consultation phase is taking to conclude.

## Weeds

The first round of weed treatment, for those communities wishing to have this, is now coming to an end, and the second round will begin in October.

## Winter gritting

Preparations are under way for the 2024 winter, which starts on Friday 1 November, with salt barns being replenished and servicing of gritting vehicles.

---

### Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is consulting on bus franchising. The consultation will run until 20 November. The consultation outlines two options—franchising, and an Enhanced Partnership.

Bus franchising would put routes, timetables and fares in the hands of the local transport authority. An enhanced partnership with bus companies would give local authorities less influence over buses than franchising, but would still allow for multi-operator ticketing and targeted fare discounts.

More details, and residents' chance to have their say, can be found at <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/news/bus-franchising-consultation-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough-goes-live/>

## MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

- **Sutton:** Cllr Mark Inskip and I will be in the school Community Room on Monday 2 September and Monday 7 October at 6:30-7:30PM.

I hope to attend

- **Witchford** coffee morning Wednesday 4 September 10:30
- **Sutton** Timebank coffee morning (MAGPAS) Tuesday 10 September 10:00
- **Coveney** coffee morning Wednesday 18 September 10:30
- **Little Downham** book café Friday 27 September 10:00
- **Sutton** Nellie's Macmillan coffee morning Friday 27 September 10:00

Please note that these dates may be subject to change.

I can also be contacted

- by email at [lorna@lornadupre.org.uk](mailto:lorna@lornadupre.org.uk)
- on Facebook
- by phone on 07930 337596

---

**Cllr Lorna Dupré**

County Councillor for the Sutton division