
County Councillor Report – Barton

Cllr Michael Atkins, Hardwick Division

28th May 2021

Summary

- Election results and new administration at the County level
- Covid cases reach a new low in S. Cambridgeshire and across the County
- Everyone aged 30 and now eligible for a vaccine – take up should be strongly encouraged
- EWR consultation closes 9th June
- C2C Independent Audit Report published today
- Contact details

Results of the election 6th May

Can I start by expressing my sincere thanks to the villagers for electing me as your County Councillor until 2025. It is truly a privilege to represent this beautiful part of Cambridgeshire and I hope I will repay your trust in me over the coming years.

At the overall County level a number of seats changed hands, and there is now a new Joint Administration with a majority on the council, comprising 20 Liberal Democrat (including myself), 9 Labour and 4 Independent Councillors. There is therefore scope for much to change in the County Council's priorities and delivery of services in this new term.

For the District Council, the by-election was won by Fiona Whelan (LD) who joins Ian Sollom (LD) and Tony Mason (LD) as your representatives.

The election for Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough was won by Nik Johnson (Lab.), and the Police and Crime Commissioner is now Darryl Preston (Con.).

Covid-19

The news across the County is broadly positive, with overall cases falling to just 4 per 100,000 residents, and a total of 4 new cases in South Cambridgeshire, both well below the average for England. Hospital admissions remain low in the County and there have been no deaths recorded since the end of April.

Nevertheless, we are reminded that case numbers can increase very fast, particularly of new variants, and therefore it's important that residents continue to abide by the restrictions in place and exercise care and good sense (particularly with indoor interactions).

Adults aged 30 and over (as of 1st July 2021) are now eligible for a Covid-19 vaccine and should take up this opportunity as soon as possible. Many residents will also be due to have their second dose in the coming month – it is important to remember that both doses are necessary for the best possible protection.

East-West Rail Consultation

East-West Rail are currently running a non-statutory consultation on their proposed route alignments, including the section of new railway from Camborne to Cambridge. This is the most significant piece of new infrastructure development in our area for many decades and could have an enormous impact on our villages. The consultation runs until the 9th of June. Please encourage as many residents as possible to complete the consultation.

C2C independent audit report

Several months ago, work on the Camborne to Cambridge busway was suspended so that an independent audit of the decisions and assumptions made so far could be carried out. This audit recently concluded and a report was made available today (Friday 28th), ahead of a discussion at the Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly on the 10th June. The report broadly recommends that the scheme should proceed to the next decision point; however, concerns are raised about how the scheme will work in the city centre, and there are significant changes in circumstances surrounding the scheme, particularly the future of the CAM scheme, East-West Rail, and the UK government's new bus strategy. I share these concerns and will be working with my colleagues at District and County level to ensure that all the issues raised in the report are considered at the Joint Assembly and Board.

Other matters

I have been warned about a collapsed section of cycleway/footpath on Barton Rd on the approach to Cambridge – roughly opposite the layby outside the city limits. Please take care on this path, particularly after dark. I am following this up with the Highways team to get this repaired as soon as possible.

There is a TTRO (road closure order) proposed to enable works on Comberton Rd – this is for the 5th-7th July, and does result in a lengthy diversion (via Longstowe, Ermine Way and the A603). Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any concerns about this.

Contact Details

Councillors and residents are welcome to contact me on any issue which is concerning them:

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