(Appendix:B)

Ellington Parish Council Meeting – March 2023

Apologies for not being at your meeting tonight, as I a travelling back from Lisbon

The County Council on 08 March decided to proceed with the closure of Great Gidding School.

The Cambridgeshire Mayor has decided to add a Mayoral precept to your Council tax Bill, which I understand is £12.00 per annum for a Band D property. This money is to be ringfenced to maintain the existing Bus Services.

The Fire Authority has agreed to a £5 increase on its Council Tax levy for a Band D property

The Lib Dem/Labour/Independent Administration on the County Council have agreed at the Budget meeting earlier this month to increase General Council Tax by 2.99% and Social Care by 2%

The administration also voted through a 25% cut to the winter gritting network across Cambridgeshire. The routes to be cut are still to be advised, but the Chair of Highways said priority would be given to Active Travel Routes, we therefore will have to wait and see how this will affect our rural roads.

The administration also agreed to stopping all weedkilling on footpaths and roads, unless it poses a safety hazard, cutting 125K from the budget

The Administration also cut £325K from the Family Safeguarding budget and £150K from the Community Mental Health Support Budget by not filling vacant posts.

Applications for a 20mph schemes has opened on 27th February and will close on 28 April. The application must have the support of the Parish Council and the County Councillor. Once an application has been submitted, it will be processed and prioritised until all schemes have been delivered.

A 20mph limit will be prioritised against the following criteria-

Evidence of traffic incidents or potential dangers within an existing 30/40mph zone

Vulnerable Road users

Visible Homes, shops and businesses

A school or a school route

A cycling Route

An area that would benefit from more active travel such as cycling and walking.

The application form is on the County Council website :

https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/20mph-funding

The Active Travel Routes ie Cycleways and paths in West Huntingdonshire , which would have enabled residents to have an alternative means of transport to the car, have been scaled back by the Lib, Lab, Independent administration. The only routes left to the west of the A1 are Tilbrook to Kimbolton, Buckden to Grafham to Ellington and Brampton, along with the completion of the cycleway into Alconbury. These are all Tier 2 projects for which the County is looking for funding.

Contact Email on Ian.Gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Kind regards

Ian

Cllr Ian Gardener

County Councillor for Ellington