

Passing of Her Majesty The Queen

It was a day we were dreading when operation London Bridge would be enacted. Her Majesty the Queen has been a huge part of all our lives, for most of us she is the only monarch we have ever known. There are no words to describe this unique sense of sorrow that we are left with. The Queen was our monarch, our head of state, Defender of the Faith, head of the commonwealth, and cornel in Chief of our armed forces. So many roles that her majesty managed seamlessly and with grace. Her majesty the Queen was the finest public servant we have ever known, an exemplary role model for those like us who seek to serve our communities. The Elizabethan age that we have had the honour to live in has seen much change, advancement and progress but the reassurance that our Queen provided remained constant throughout. Her majesty has shown leadership in so many crucial periods of concern and worry for her peoples, from World War 2, reassuring evacuees and learning to be a mechanic through to the recent pandemic. For the last year Her Majesty the Queen has continued to serve us with out the support of His Royal Highness the Prince Philip by her side who the Queen affectionally referred to as her strength and stay, it has been Her Majesty that has been our strength and stay for all these years. Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole royal family especially with His Majesty King Charles as he now must follow in the footsteps of his mother, what an example she has set and May her legacy live on for many years and generations to come.

During the mourning period essential meetings such as planning and cabinet have continued but less essential meetings have been postponed. As there has been a bank holiday for the Queen's funeral bin collections will be a day later than usual.

4 day week

At Cabinet this month a decision was made to trial officers working 4days instead of 5days a week. Officers will be expected to do the same amount of work but within 4days and will receive 100% of their current pay. This trial is due to start in January to March with the potential to be extended. This will only apply to desk based staff like planning but not to services such as waste bin collection. South Cambs will be the first local council that trials this scheme. The reasons for trying this has been given by cabinet to increase productivity and help with recruitment. Currently the Council has only been able to fill around eight out of every ten (or fewer) of its vacancies. Between January and March 2022, only around half were filled. There are currently 23 agency staff covering office-based roles, which should ideally be filled by people in permanent positions. I have previously raised recruitment and staff moral issues at the council and normally been dismissed so one positive is that the council is recognising that there is a problem. However I am not positive about the prosed trial, The report to cabinet refers to potential benefits but would require hard working, already stretched employees to get 100% of their work done in 80% of the time. I simply don't believe that that our officers are wasting 20% of their time, and if they are it is an admission of poor oversight by the administration. To be reducing man hours at a time where the administration are struggling to finalise accounts on time and have planning back logs is in my mind absurd. We need more officers, more collective working hours, and more support for our staff – not cuts. At the cabinet meeting I raised a series of questions, some of which were answered but I have strongly raised my objection to this decision being made by council alone as this means on an issue that affects all residents that only 8 out of 45 councillors have had a say in this, meaning that the residents of 37 councillors have had no fair say in this decision. I have also expressed my unhappiness that the national press was briefed about this proposal

before staff at the council whom this effects and residents who are paying for this. Time will tell if this will work, but to be making such an experiment with taxpayers money at this time seems wholly inappropriate.

Money Helper – new Government website

Given inflation as it is and energy costs rising, the Government has set up a website called Money Helper with huge amounts of information on all things money related. Such as:

- Benefits
- Family and care
- Money troubles
- Savings
- Everyday money
- Homes
- Pensions and Retirement
- Work

The website is really easy to use and has lots of links to other organisations and applications for benefits grants etc. It also has calculators, helplines and a live chat functions on the website. If you are aware of anyone that this would help please do pass this on. A link is provided below.

[Free and impartial help with money, backed by the government | MoneyHelper](#)

Strike action threatened by South Cambs Bin workers

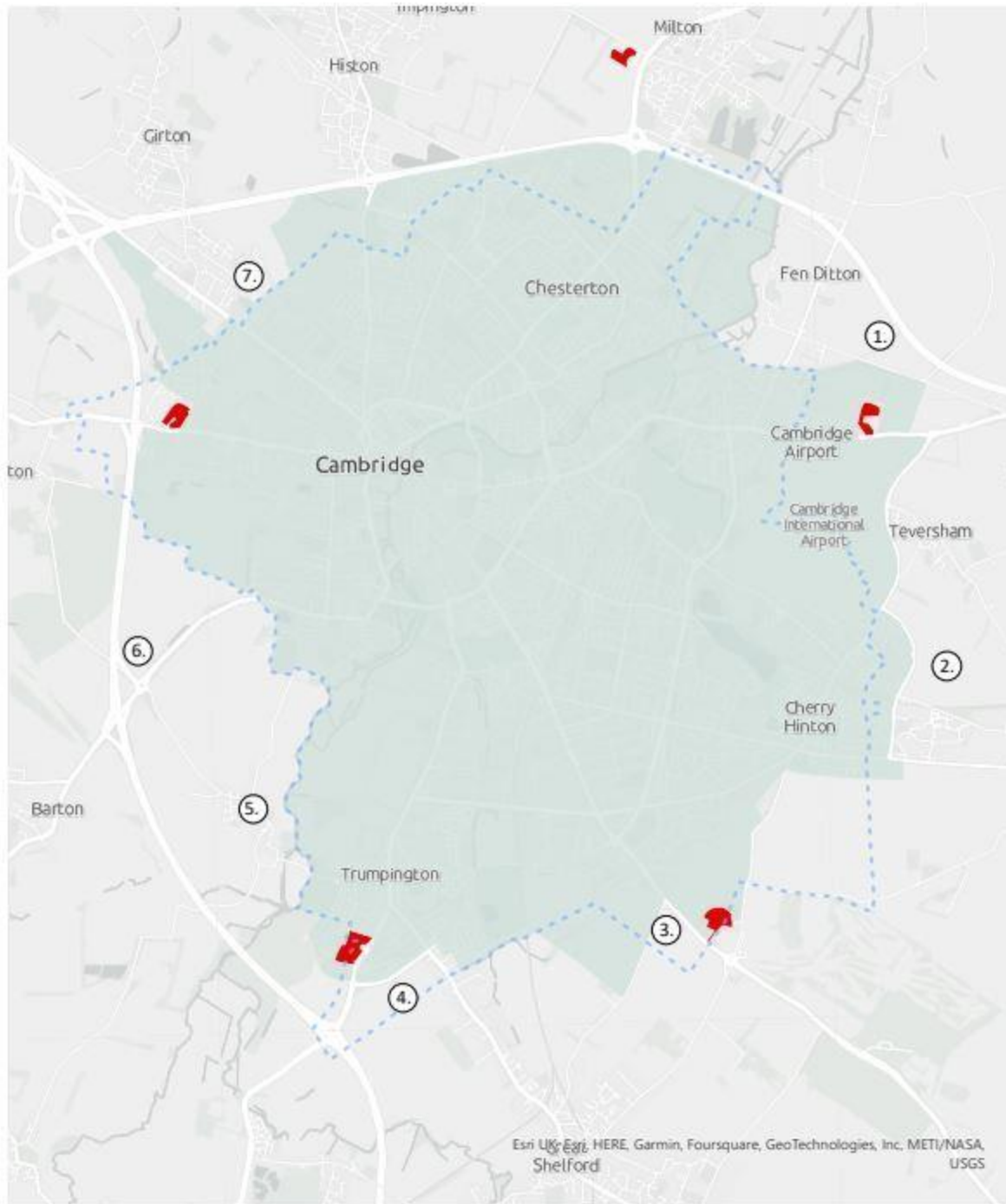
Previously I have reported on the dispute over pay offers at the Greater Cambridge Waste Service. I'm pleased to report that the unions and the council have agreed on a pay settlement and that strike action is no longer being threatened as part of the negotiations.

Congestion Charging

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Board are meeting on the 28th of this month and will be discussing pursuing the introduction of congestion charging and starting another consultation on the matter. I sit on the GCP Assembly and have spoken against this many times, myself and colleagues have written to the board, brought motions at full council to oppose it all of which have been voted down or ignored. I've included on the next page a map that shows the proposed area for charging is essentially the whole of Cambridge and parts of South Cambridgeshire including Addenbrookes and Papworth Hospital. The cost could add over £1,000 to commuters travel costs and charge people visiting loved ones at Addenbrookes.

The money from this charge will go towards subsidising buses, and while of course I welcome better bus provision I cannot agree that busses alone will provide anywhere near the reliable, affordable and comprehensible public transport network that would be needed to justify such a charge.

While I am opposed to such a charge there are many voices in support also, this is why it is so important that when the consultation is opened that all have their voices heard and I will do all I can to ensure residents know how they can take part and any support from Parish Councils and Parish Chairman in promoting the consultation would be greatly appreciated.



1. High Ditch Road - potential need for traffic management measures
2. Gazelle Way and Yarrow Road - outside zone to maintain access to strategic road network from Fulbourn via Airport Way
3. Granham's Road / Hinton Way - height restriction to consider for re-routing traffic
4. Addenbrooke's Access Road - outside zone to maintain access to the strategic road network from the Shelfords
5. Non-Grantschester traffic can turn at M11 J12 (advanced signing)
6. Approach to Barton Road - turning facility location proposed at J12 roundabout via advanced signing
7. Thornton Close - potential for no-through road restrictions at Huntingdon Road

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