

County Councillor's Report

Girton Post Office – A Step Too Far! We all welcome the temporary post office in the village, but for some elderly and frail it is a step too far or rather too high. Residents have already asked for a step or ramp to be installed but the Post office have refused saying that as it is a temporary building health and Safety rules do not apply. What I say is that the Post Office should recognise that it is the customer that matters not bureaucracy. I have written to the Post Office and our MP asking for action.

Development NIAB 2/3. Many residents will have attended the presentation last month of proposed development of Darwin Green. Much work will have to be done by the planning committee before details are agreed. Having seen the proposals, I do have reservation about issues including: Traffic Management, Education, Renewable Energy, Housing Design and Public Transport. I would be interested in hearing your views.

Better Access to Cambridge for Cycling and Walking. One thing that I have been pushing for over many years is the connection of the cycle way / footpath from Wellbrook Way via Darwin Green to Cambridge. This would provide a much safer route to the city for walkers and cyclists. With the development of Darwin Green this route becomes a necessity. I will continue to press for the early implementation by the developers of this cycleway / footpath.

Guided Bus – The Missing Link. Last month the local planning committee agreed plans for the first phase of the North West Cambridge (NWC) Development, but in the funding for development of the local infrastructure why is there no final link for the City 6 to the Guided Busway at Oakington? Well, I keep asking the question but this low cost solution seems to be beyond the understanding of the developers. Do you have a view?

Will Heavy Construction Vehicles Cause Problems? One of the planning committee's items on last month's agenda was to consider the discharging of a number of NWC development conditions. One of these was the access for construction traffic to the site via Madingley Road. All very good but, under my questioning we learnt that room for waiting lorries was limited. Officers have now agreed to look again at how additional capacity can be provided to prevent unwanted parking. This may have been an issue for Madingley Road but the same problem could come to Girton, best to be prepared.

Layers of History Unveiled on NWC Site. Layers of history dating from the Bronze Age to World War II trenches have been uncovered at one of the largest archaeological excavations in Britain – the site for the University of Cambridge's £1 billion North West Cambridge Development.

Experts from Cambridge Archaeological Unit who are leading the dig have uncovered five separate cemeteries, two funerary monuments, two Roman roads, ring-ditch 'circles' and thousands of finds including some 30 cremation urns, 25 skeletons, a military spearhead and an array of brooches, plus quantities of slag attesting to significant iron-working.

They believe the site was first colonised for settlement in the Middle Bronze Age (c. 1500 BC) and subsequently saw Iron Age settlement (c. 500 BC–AD 50); in Roman times (c. AD 60–350) it would have been an optimum locale.

If anyone is interested I can provide a comprehensive report of the archaeological finds.

County Councillor John Reynolds
john.reynolds@cambridgeshire.gov.uk