

County Councillor Report for Parishes – February 2025 – Cllr Anna Bradnam

Balfour Beatty - street light LED lantern LED replacement - Milton

A reminder - between 2011 and 2016 the council undertook a procurement exercise to deliver street lighting at a lower cost and a lower carbon footprint than before. Balfour Beatty won the contract and switched light bulbs to fluorescent units and one in ten lamp posts were removed, which was controversial at the time, leaving pools of poor light between the wider-spaced posts.

During January 2025 (without warning to the parish) the light units in Milton were changed again, to LED lanterns. Members of the parish council complained to me (06/01/2025) and residents in Willow Crescent complained to the Cambridge News, who published a story “Rage against the dimming of the light” (15/01/2025). This change had been approved by County Highways and Transport Committee, on the basis that ‘illuminance’ would be ‘like for like’ from the LED lanterns.

This is not our experience in Milton. The change has cast Willow Crescent, Coles Road, Fen Road and others into the gloom.

I requested a meeting with officers and the Chair of Milton PC (21/01) at which the principles were explained and our concerns expressed. Since then I have personally undertaken a small survey of LED lanterns in various roads in Milton.

I note LED lanterns on ‘main’ routes provide broadly adequate light but different lanterns have been used in residential roads which provide much less light, and which seem unable to cover the gaps created by the 1 in ten removals. Some residential roads are now very dark.

I am arguing the case that better lanterns need to be used. I don’t think the lamp posts removed in 2016 will be replaced. I am NOT embracing the gloom but instead I’m asking for decent lighting to be restored, so we can feel safe walking around the village at night.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

Bus Franchising – an enormous amount of research, consideration and public consultation has been undertaken, culmination in a suite of reports to go to the Board on **6 February**. The process has been very thoroughly observed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on which I sit. The current recommendation to the Mayor “that he makes a franchising scheme complying with all associated statutory requirements”

Recycling – routes to recovery....

At last month’s parish council meetings I was asked about recycling contracts, because the County Council is responsible for waste disposal. However the contract for reprocessing of recyclable materials was drawn up between the local collection authorities (Cambridge/ South Cambs/ Peterborough) and Amey (now Thalia).

My colleague Cllr Bearpark is covering the contract in the District Councillors Report, so the only aspect I will cover here is the journey impacts on the A10.

“To answer the question of the impact on the A10, I need to refer to the fact our neighbouring Waste Collection Authorities have also changed their contracts.

The ending of the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) contract with Thalia at Waterbeach by the District and City Councils, of the RECAP partnership has actually had a positive impact on the traffic on the A10 because going forward only approximately 27,000 tonnes of recycling is being handled on the site and not 82,000 tonnes.

East Cambs DC recycling lorries are no longer travelling to the site to tip their recycling, as they now use a Transfer Station in East Cambridgeshire. Large haulage trucks are no longer transporting bulked up recycling from Huntingdonshire/Peterborough/Fenland up the A10 to the Waterbeach MRF. A lot less recycling is being sorted at the MRF at Thalia and so Thalia themselves are using significantly less haulage to send recycling to re-processors around the country.

The traffic movements that remain relating the Re-Gen contract are the usual Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service collection trucks (same number as before) and the haulage trucks that will be collecting GCSWS recycling to send to the new MRF. This replaces the haulage that Thalia would have been doing anyway. As mentioned above, these journeys will only be a small proportion of the vehicles movements that were occurring when all RECAP partners contracted with Thalia.

...and while we are thinking about recycling...

Household Recycling Centre, Butt Lane, Milton - Opening times - October to March:

Monday to Sunday - 9am to 4pm (Site may close at dusk if earlier)

Entrance gates shut 10 minutes before closing time

See Milton Household Recycling Centre improvements

Redevelopment of Milton Household Recycling Centre will start in **autumn 2025**. It will take around nine months to complete. The site will remain in its current location but extend onto the adjacent landfill site. It will be about 70% bigger and able to accommodate additional waste from expected household growth until 2070.

The new site will be built to modern standards. Like the sites at Bluntisham, St Neots and Witchford users will no longer need to climb steps to deposit waste.

There will be:

- More parking spaces on site for unloading of waste
- A cycle parking area
- A separate pedestrian gate for foot access (for the first time)
- A re-use shop to increase recovery of reusable items
- Increased separation of site users from heavy vehicles servicing the site

It is expected that much of the redevelopment work can be carried out whilst the site remains open but that the site will need to close for an as yet unconfirmed period of time. The Council is working with its contractor Barnes Construction to minimise this period.



Unfortunately, during site closure it isn't feasible to put an alternative temporary replacement site in place. Site users will be asked to use the nearest alternative sites at Witchford, Bluntisham and Thriplow.

Due to the extra demand on these sites a temporary online booking system will be put in place, for these three sites only, while the Milton site is closed. This will help manage the flow of traffic and reduce waiting times. The booking system will be 'real-time', allowing residents to secure a slot on the same day should they wish to. For those without internet access, bookings can also be made over the phone.

Site extension area

The below plan shows the current site area and additional extension area (to the south) that will be added to the new site. The southern area will be at a lower level to make it easier to drop materials into containers below.



Current site area ———
 Extension area - - - -

Cambridgeshire County Council apologises for any inconvenience caused by redevelopment of the site but will endeavour to keep disruption to a minimum.

Local Highway issues

Milton – LED lantern replacement – see above.

Landbeach – in my last report I let you know that the camera investigation of the drainage pipe under the crossroads was due to be carried out in January 2025. (LHO 17/12/2024) When I followed up with the LHO, he discovered that I was advised that, much to his disappointment, his order for the camera survey had been cancelled. The survey has been re-ordered today (27/01) and he will seek a new schedule date. If there is any flooding he has undertaken to get an emergency team to clear any gully blockages.

Horningsea

GCP Horningsea to Cambridge Greenway - I continue to seek improvements to the build-outs and islands installed in the High Street to make them more visible at night.

Northgate Farm – black hoarding

Street Works are discussing the position of the hoarding on the verge with the contractor and hoarding company. They have been asked to paint it white and move it back.

Waterbeach Village Green - City Fibre confirmed (23/01) that they will be moving their telecommunications Hub from the Village Green to the verge at the junction of Cambridge Road and Car Dyke Road. It has taken some time to agree with GCP and with their contractor, the exact position. Firstly they will build a new plinth in the new location. Then the cabinet will be moved from the Village Green, where a temporary cap will be placed over the old plinth. Then the old base and chambers will be removed. There may be a gap between the cabinet being moved and the concrete plinth being dug out.

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