

The Good News

There's a new café at 121 Milton Road.



Hoorah! and best wishes to Simon and his friendly team.



Frustrating News

The long-awaited draft policy on a city-wide on-street parking scheme has been postponed yet again.

This policy is supposed to be a key feature of City Deal's 8-point plan for dealing with traffic congestion and pollution caused by commuter vehicles parking in residential streets. The review was originally commissioned in 2015, then re-commissioned in January this year and scheduled to be announced on 25th October. It was then delayed until 1st November, and has

now been postponed until 24th January 2017. At yesterday's meeting of the Cambridge Joint Area Committee we were told that legal advice had not arrived in time! Such schemes are already in operation in Oxford, Bristol and Edinburgh but in Cambridge the dithering continues and we are likely to see yet more piece-meal attempts to implement residents' parking schemes, displacing the problem from one neighbourhood to the next.

Unexpected News

The almost extinct yellow lines at the junction of Leys Road and Arbury Road have been re-instated by the county highways department.

Amazing!

But ... Elsewhere ...

The yellow lines for Hurst Park Avenue are still 'work in progress'. There were a few objections about the length of the lines proposed for the south side of the avenue but the consultation period ended two months ago and officers have still not communicated the outcome. Speaking to our long-suffering county councillor yesterday it was still 'no-news'.

Milton Road Latest

We have now attended six *Local Liaison Forum* workshops on the Milton Road project. The consultants and officers will be making a presentation of the outcomes to a public meeting of the LLF on **Tuesday 8th November at Chesterton Community College at 6.00pm**. It's unlikely that we will get to see any documents much before the meeting so we will be asking for more time to consider the report and get another meeting so that we can propose

resolutions to be put formally to the City Deal Executive Board.

This is a long and tedious process but we have made some headway and, having come this far, we plan to see it through.

Proposals from the community which the officers cannot fail to have noticed after six meetings include:

- **Proper consideration of Highworth roundabout.** Previously, the City Deal team had been citing cycle safety as one of the main reasons for replacing the roundabout with traffic lights. However, cyclists are generally in agreement with a modified roundabout scheme that features safer cycle and pedestrian routes and retains the greenery. Everyone's happy – except, of course, those who would prefer not to have to take residents' views seriously into consideration.

- **Maintenance of the trees, verges and maximising greenery.** Most residents fully accept that the leafy and spacious European street-scape examples presented early on by the city urban design team are ideal for Cambridge – so why are they still not shown in the City Deal plans? Most likely the obsession with bus-lanes just doesn't leave enough space for creative landscaping.

- **No overlapping of bus lanes.** Maximum 3 motorised lanes. The councillors supported this demand and then we received a letter from the Executive Board accepting this as a principle. More recently, a new innovative idea has emerged which **removes ALL bus lanes** save perhaps for short priority sections on the approach to junctions. A great idea with wide support offering the opportunity for better use of the road space for cycling and walking. We will wait and see if the City Deal team has the appetite and community spirit to properly consider this.

What is very clear to us is that it's not over till it's over. Even at this stage in the proceedings, if you have something to say, an idea to offer, or something you foresee will cause problems, please email us or put pen to paper and write to both the City Deal team and your councillors. Don't wait until decisions have been ratified before you have your say!

If you have Internet access there is a link to a draft LLF workshop report on the City Deal web-site. It's a downloadable PDF file at: http://www.gccitydeal.co.uk/citydeal/download/downloads/id/390/milton_road_workshop_report.pdf

If you don't have Internet access call John on 359554 and he'll print off the report for you to read at your leisure.

Diary News

Sunday 6th November, 11.30am

Where's East in the North-South Divide?

SG1/SG2, POLIS, Alison Richard Building, University of Cambridge, 7 West Road

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wheres-east-in-the-north-south-divide-tickets-26819313288

Tuesday 8th November, 6.00pm

Milton Road Local Liaison Forum

Chesterton Community College. All welcome.

Thursday 10th November 2016, 4.00pm

City Deal Executive Board

South Cambs Hall, Cambourne

Delivery and Emails

We have email addresses for about 185 residents, so for those people we will be sending out this newsletter only by email to save on paper and printing costs. If any of the remaining 300 residents would like to be contacted by email out of preference, please let us know - secretary@hpera.co.uk