

## Paul Gadd County Councillor Update

SWTC Planning & Transport 22/7/21

1. Highways and Sustainable Transport generally:
  - a. During recent conversations, it has emerged that ECC Highways policy currently prioritises road transport over sustainable transport (in contrast to eg Cambridge CC policy). I've raised this at the ECC FC meeting on 13 July 2021 and I am due to have a meeting with the Cabinet Member for Highways when he is back from holiday to talk about sustainable transport generally and giving it more priority and also how we actually get some cycle paths in Uttlesford;
  - b. In response to a written question at the July ECC FC meeting, it seems clear that, again in contrast to Cambridge CC, Essex seem to have a "gold standard" policy for cycle schemes, so schemes that don't meet the high standard get rejected – the result being that almost everything gets rejected; I have again raised it with the Highways Cabinet member about ECC adopting a more pragmatic policy in line with Cambs CC, and will address it when we meet;
  - c. ECC are implementing the Government's "Bus Back Better" strategy, although given the general lack of funding for it, it is unlikely we will see any significant improvements, but I will keep under review;
  - d. A draft ECC Organisation Strategy was brought to the ECC Full Council meeting last week; it looks good in theory, but as I indicated before I fear that ECC's financial position means that it is unlikely that the money will be available to implement much in practice, but we'll see. The final Strategy will be brought to the ECC Full Council in the autumn.
2. Specific SW / Little Walden issues:
  - a. Little Walden drainage – I've tracked down an ECC Drainage Engineer who will be coming up on Thursday 29/7, so I'm trying to arrange a time for him to come to Little Walden;
  - b. Little Walden concrete posts – I've put an enquiry in but waiting for an answer;
  - c. Various pothole and drainage enquiries I'm pursuing;
  - d. Bridge St issue raised – I need to meet with Rissa and Lisa on site and talk about any options.