



MINUTES

Shepreth Annual Parish Meeting Monday 27th March 2023 at 7.30pm at Shepreth Village Hall

Present: Cllr Ruth White, Cllr Tony Dutton, Cllr Turlough Stone, Cllr John Fisher, Cllr Nick Downer and Cllr Chris O'Brien and several members of the public

The meeting opened at 19.30

1. The Chairman of Shepreth Parish Council, Cllr Nick Downer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone
2. Apologies for absence Susan van de Ven, Cllr Gail Cartmell and the District and County Councillors
3. The minutes of the last APM meeting on 25th April 2022 were accepted by the meeting, proposed by Cllr Downer and seconded by Cllr White.
4. Parish Council accounts will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 15th May 2023
5. Chairman Cllr Nick Downer gave his report from the Parish Council over the past year and took questions from the meeting.
6. There were no reports from either the County Council or District Council
7. Lucy Smith gave a glowing report on how well Shepreth Spitfires are doing
8. Charles Cook presented the report for the Shepreth School Trust
9. Malcolm Price presented the report for the Parochial Church Council
10. Shepreth Relief in Need Charity report
11. Nick Mann presented the report on Shepreth Village Hall
12. Robert Fox presented the report on Happy Bunnies Nursery
13. Caroline Pepper presented the report on Shepreth WI
14. Steve Swain presented the report on Friends of the River Shep
15. Melbourn Area Youth Development (MAYD) – was not presented
16. Melbourn, Shepreth & Foxton Rail User Group and Community Rail Partnership – reports on all of these sent in by Susan van de Ven
A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign - reports sent in by Susan van de Ven & SCWAG report
17. Cllr John Fisher presented a report on Energy saving initiatives in Shepreth
18. Cllr Chris O'Brien presented a report on engaging with the community of Shepreth
19. **OPEN FORUM** – everyone had the opportunity to ask questions that affect themselves and the village and local community

Please note: reports attached to this document



Shepreth Parish Council Report to Annual Parish Meeting 27th March 2023

It has been a privilege to serve as chairman over the past year and I am grateful to my colleagues for their wisdom and support. There are seven seats on the Parish Council, held by me, Turlough Stone as Vice-Chairman, Gail Cartmell, Tony Dutton, John Fisher, Chris O'Brien and Ruth White.

Whilst the parish council has limited powers to act, it works closely with both the District and County Councils, who are better placed to achieve results on behalf of the village. With that in mind, I am also grateful to Cllrs Jose Hales and Sally Ann Hart at South Cambs District Council and to Peter McDonald at the County Council for their efforts on behalf of the village.

The political and economic environment remains extremely challenging, with energy and food bills in particular constantly rising. With this in mind, we were pleased to announce a reduction in the parish precept of 1.5% per average household and still maintain and improve the level of services. This compares to increases of 3% by the County Council, 3.1% by the District Council and a general inflation level of around 13%. We have also set aside funds to work with a local charity in alleviating hardship around the village.

Planning remains a priority. The parish council reviews all local planning applications and tries, where practicable, to be supportive of residents. We continue to input into the new Greater Cambridge local plan. We are aware of pushback by some developers but to the best of our knowledge there is only one site in the village included in the plan. This is the Grant building by the station that will be retained for industrial use only. We will need to remain vigilant to ensure that any future development enhances the character of the village and does not further overburden our creaking infrastructure. On other planning matters, East West Rail, Thakeham and the OxCam Arc have all gone quiet for the time being. We will also need to keep a close watch on this.

One item of interest to the village will be the proposal to install double barriers at the Meldreth Road level crossing. The Parish Council noted the delay and disruption

caused by the similar conversion of barriers at the station crossing and has objected strongly to the proposals, sending detailed rebuttals in September 2022 and January 2023. We have won a public inquiry, to be held in April, at which the matter will be decided.

The Parish Council has undertaken a number of energy saving initiatives over the year: we applied for and won a grant to install solar panels on the roof of the village hall which should reduce energy bills. Work is expected to start soon. We have applied for a grant to assist with the installation of two 22KWH electric vehicle charging units which we hope will benefit residents and visitors. Also around the village hall, we have installed CCTV to cover the access paths, road and the car park and are grateful to the hall committee for improving the lighting at the rear of the hall.

In November 2021, we were given notice by the Parochial Church Council that the churchyard at All Saints would be closed to further burials with immediate effect. We were subsequently approached by a number of concerned residents who had been led to believe that they could be interred next to loved ones and that this was no longer the case. We wrote to the diocese in October 2022 asking if all options had indeed been explored prior to closure but at the time of writing five months later, have yet to receive a reply.

If due process has been followed, the Parish Council will receive a formal notice requiring us to take over maintenance responsibility for the churchyard. We will be obliged to do so by law, although we have an option to pass this maintenance responsibility to S. Cambs District Council. There are pros and cons on both sides and we will need to consult with the village to determine the way forward. There will inevitably be increased costs for the village.

This begs a further question about future graveyard provision. The Parish Council notes a nearby village has budgeted £500,000 for the purchase and construction of a new cemetery. Whilst no formal decision has been taken, the Parish Council believes that Shepreth is unlikely to be able to afford this level of expenditure.

Last year we were unsuccessful in our application for a Local Highways Initiative grant to fund the purchase of a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign for speed control in the village. We have resubmitted this year but it is a highly competitive process and it is becoming clear that we are being hindered by an absence of hard data. We planned to commission a traffic survey last December but the snow forced cancellation. We will recommission the survey in the late spring/early summer in the hope that solid data on volume, speed and direction will underpin future applications (including an application next year for Shepreth to become a 20 mph zone) and decisions regarding traffic in the village.

We have long been promised a renewal of all white lines around the village, especially the junction and "Keep Clear" markings. We will maintain pressure on the County Council to bring this into being. We are also aware that the development of the Melbourn Greenway could have positive implications for Shepreth, with cycle-friendly improvements to the route between the A10 and the station.

The results of the traffic survey may well confirm what most of us have suspected for a while: that we have a traffic congestion and parking problem in the village. We have been considering the installation of double yellow lines from the station to Angle Lane and will consult with the village on this later in the year to establish whether this would be useful.

In July, the Parish Council launched "Shaping Shepreth" under the lead of Cllr. Chris O'Brien. This is a community survey to explore residents' views on how the village should spend £70,000 of Section 106 funds – money for the community from new housing built in Shepreth – on sports and leisure facilities. We have published a preliminary report, available on the Parish Council website, which summarises the survey findings and outlines the proposed next steps. Please do take the time to read it through, as it has been a valuable exercise in understanding where people's priorities lie. As the report says, we are going to need your help and a large dollop of community spirit to take the ideas forward, so we hope many of you will be keen to participate in 'the journey'.

The council has also dealt with a series of other matters over the year, which I hope all contribute to improving life in Shepreth. These include:

- Created a Jubilee orchid garden in May 22, with more planting to come;
- Financed and facilitated a successful Jubilee event on 2nd June 22;
- Financing and facilitating the Coronation Committee for the event on 7th May;
- Received £70,000 of S106 Money August 22;
- Compiled a definitive tree report June 22, obtained £3,000 reimbursement by the County Council for the Huckles Corner poplar;
- Applied for a grant to facilitate a condition survey of the station building with a view to exploring opportunities to convert the building for the benefit of the village. (Grant unsuccessful, other possibilities being considered) August 22;
- Installed gate in recreation ground fence at no cost to council October 22;
- Support for Shepreth Spitfires November 22;
- Support for Melbourn Area Youth Development November 22;
- Obtained aid from Network Rail for a stage at Barrington Primary School;
- Organised gutter sweep and drain jet by the County Council, December 22;
- Facilitated the founding of a village Eco-group, December 22.

In addition to the many planning submissions, the following consultations were completed during the year:

- Greater Cambridge Plan August 22;
- Meldreth Road Level Crossing to District Council and Dept. of Transport September 22;
- EWR representation to District Council September 22;
- Cambs County Council Transport consultation September 22;
- Melbourn Greenway October 22;
- Cambridgeshire Active Travel Survey October 22.

I should finish by expressing our thanks to Barbara Isherwood, our excellent clerk who does all the work, whose patience is no doubt frequently and sorely tested and who keeps us on the straight and narrow.

Nick Downer, Chairman
27th March 2023

SHEPRETH SCHOOL TRUST
Charity Number: 1062515

Annual Parish Meeting Report for 27 March 2023.

The Trust was set up following the sale of the village primary school to manage a proportion of the funds set aside for Shepreth residents.

Funding relies on income received by the Trust from its closely monitored investments, especially since the period of Covid-19 and recent inflation trends.

The Trust offers assistance within a number of provisions. These are for the advancement of education of children and adults, recreation facilities and other leisure or occupations that are in the interest of social welfare for the inhabitants of the village, including the protection of the village environment.

During the financial year ending 31 March 2023 the Trust received and approved five applications from residents and schools with Shepreth connections, awarding a total of £2,111.00 for a range of needs including study materials, sport equipment, tuition and educational trips.

Annual Return details of income and expenditure for last year, 2022, are available on the Charity Commission website. The details for 2023 will be available later this year.

The current trustees are: Nick Lee, Caroline Pepper, Jeremy Hill, Peter McDonald and Steve Swain.

Applications for grants are invited throughout the year and should be submitted in writing either by email to sheprethschooltrust@gmail.com, or letter to any of the Trustees, or to the Trust Secretary at 14/16 High Street, Shepreth, SG8 6PP. These details are published in Shepreth's monthly church newsletter.

Charles Cook 27 March 2023
Secretary to the Trustees

Church Report to the Annual Parish Meeting March 2023

During the last year no major tasks or changes have occurred. With regard to health and safety the church and churchyard are in a reasonable state of repair with no obvious defects or hazards which prevent or inhibit the everyday use and/or access to the premises.

Routine tasks have been carried out to preserve the premises and keep it fit to use. The safety inspections on the stability of the memorials (with particular emphasis on the crosses that can be moved on their bases) showed that one had deteriorated and was a hazard. The cross was removed and stores against the church yard wall to remove the potential of falling on visitors; subsequently this has been repaired by two parishioners.

Electrical installation – the PCC have appointed an architect to produce a specification and manage the installation of the replacement lighting circuits he has obtained 3 tenders for the works. These works will require a faculty and fund raising as we do not have sufficient funds to complete the project.

A Quinquennial inspection was undertaken in December 2022 and the condition of the church is described as poor, this does not mean the church is unsafe, only that the fabric of the church will fail if repairs are not undertaken. The report is still being evaluated, once this is complete an action plan will be compiled. The funds held by the church will not cover these repairs and considerable fund raising will be needed.

Closing the grave-yard – during the processing of the legal documentation of the PCC decision to close church yard the Parish Council challenged the basis of the PCC decision on several counts, the PCC is currently consulting with the Environmental Agency to verify our decision. The PCC is aware that its decision has caused great distress to some of the parishioners who expected to be interred near to their loved ones and is committed to providing comfort and support to them.

Malcolm Price
Church Warden
20 March 2023

Friends of the River Shep (ForShep) – Annual summary April 2022 to March 2023

Report to the Shepreth Annual Parish Meeting (APM) – 27th March 2023

This report covers the period from April 2022 to the present day.

The Full ForShep committee resumed regular face-to face meetings in November 2022 following the hiatus due to the COVID pandemic. Prior to this we were communicating via e-mail and 'phone as circumstances required to continue the river maintenance whenever possible.

Now that things are hopefully getting back to normal, we plan to resume our full programme of social activities in 2023 including a guided walk in the summer, pond dipping in September and the Boxing Day walk.

We have used our first meetings to develop a 5-year strategic plan for the river. Most of the work this year will focus on improving the stretch along Angle Lane.

Despite the COVID disruptions, much river restoration and maintenance work has been achieved this past year as COVID restrictions were removed.

A few highlights:

In April Rob spent a day leading a work party to repair the banks at RSPB Fowlmere. They fixed lots of brash in the river margins to create a complex network of twigs and branches to provide cover for the trout fry as they emerge. April was also a great month for water vole sightings, with many gorgeous photos being posted in our Facebook Group and on the ForShep noticeboard.

In July ForShep volunteers undertook a Saturday morning's weed clearance up at RSPB Fowlmere. At this time the river flow was being augmented by the Environment Agency due to the dry conditions. With the pumped water entering the river it's important that it has the chance to flow downstream towards Shepreth.

In August we were in severe drought conditions and Rob managed to get a slot on the BBC Radio Cambridge Breakfast Show, to speak about the drought and its effects on our local rivers, including The Shep. Volunteers put in a few flow deflectors to help the river flow, and pollarded a collapsing willow before it could topple onto the footpath.

In September we noticed that the weed growth near the pump output at RSPB Fowlmere had grown out, restricting downstream flow, so Rob cleared some away to hopefully get more flow to the village. It seemed to do the trick! Rob also worked with the RSPB Warden to cut out some willow roots which were starting to engulf the channel. Some fallen branches and most of the roots were left as they provide great cover.

In October we were able to assist the Riparian Owner with managing the bit of the river behind Riverside Cottage. No work had been done there for over 2 years and the iris and burr reeds were taking over in the low flow. The reach had been the focus of a lot of work 3 years ago but had not been completed due to COVID. We installed a flow deflector and pulled up many irises and reeds. The iris plants were passed on to the River Mel Restoration Group for them to use (once they've been stored and cleaned to avoid transferring invasive species).

In November, work focused on a collapsing willow up near the gauging station. If the willow fell it could have damaged the bridge, or even worse damage the trout spawning area, so it was time for it to be cut back. The clearance let in light which is good for that part of the river too. Some more gravel was added to enhance the spawning area, and a destructive dog access point was blocked using the cut wood.

Later in November we had some significant river action with the council drainage team desilting the mill pond. They removed as much silt and vegetation as they could from the Docwras meadow side. It's expected that a follow-up will take place this autumn to remove what can be reached from the opposite bank. With a large plug of silt and growth removed the village is less prone to drainage problems, and the mill sluice will act better to control upstream levels.

In December volunteers lent a hand to clear the blockage at the railway culvert at the end of Angle Lane, and to stabilise a slipping bank, all ready for the upcoming trout spawning season.

A big thank-you to everyone who turned out for the Shepreth village Boxing Day walk, after a two-year gap due to COVID. The weather was perfect! There were about 40 of us this year. We had a good hour or so stroll along the river. Great community spirit! Same again this year we hope! Maybe we'll even have a pub to retire to at the end!

The trout spawned well in January and February – again lots of photos and videos on our Facebook Group.

Finally, in March, ForShep volunteers carried out a work party in Angle Lane. This was the first of what will be a series of mini projects this year to improve the whole of the Angle Lane stretch. The team cleared a lot of bramble and waterside vegetation opening up the river to some more light. They also planted some irises for the water voles to munch.

I want to say a massive you to all the volunteers who have turned out for the work parties throughout the year. Thank-you all very much – but especially to Rob Mungovan who orchestrates the whole thing. And of course, thank-you to all the ForShep committee members.

ForShep continues to use Facebook, The Village Newsletter, our Noticeboard and occasionally Twitter as a mean of direct communication. Members receive regular e-mail updates on our river restoration activities and notifications of upcoming work parties.

For Facebook users, search for "Friends of the River Shep", and join the Facebook Group – this is the best way to keep up with lots of photos and videos being posted. Over 220 people are now members of this group.

For Twitter follow @ForShep at <https://twitter.com/forshep> (the Twitter is not updated regularly)

The static Website can be found at <https://forshep.wixsite.com/forshep>

The membership of ForShep remains healthy at around 100 households. If you would like to join, please download a membership application form from the website. Annual membership is from only £5 per household, although larger sums are gratefully accepted and standing orders can be set up with your bank online.

Steve Swain, Chairman, ForShep, March 2023

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership



2022-23 Annual Report

A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign Annual Report 2023

Work over the past year has focused on putting our case for infrastructure improvements forward with the Greater Cambridge Partnership, maintaining public awareness, and seeking funding support for supplementary path vegetation maintenance.

A new Melbourn Greenway officer team assembled in early 2022 after a transition period initiated by the County Council in 2020. The A10CCC has worked closely with the team.

A well attended Annual Awareness Ride took place in autumn 2022, convened in partnership with CamCycle and attended by GCP officers. The event included a cycle ride from Trumpington Park and Ride and walk from the Melbourn Hub, meeting at Phillimore Garden Centre.

A GCP 'Engagement' exercise was held in autumn 2022, which the campaign participated in.

Mayor Nik Johnson came out to ride the local path network in autumn 2022, at the invitation of the A10CCC, in particular to understand the criticality of the bridge to Royston.

The Combined Authority submitted an application to government's Transforming Cities fund for the bridge project but was unsuccessful. However, bridge design work to make this a shovel ready scheme, able to take advantage of time-limited funding opportunities, is due for completion soon.

Intensive work to progress the link between Melbourn Science Park and Meldreth Station has been underway; this link has been funded by S106 agreements and stands to support sustainable travel commuting to a growing Melbourn Science Park.

Two Melbourn Village College students spoke at the GCP Board meeting in March to emphasize key goals of the campaign.

A10CCC has successfully bid for a grounds maintenance grant from Melbourn Science Park's communities funding scheme. A grant of £10K has been awarded for the coming year and the campaign will be invited to reapply year by year. The amount of funding doubles the grant previously received by a local business and should make a positive difference to the problem of overhanging vegetation.

All in all, it has been a successful year thanks to the continuing hard work, enthusiasm and vision of all concerned.

Susan van de Ven and Adam Bostanci

Chair and Vice Chair, A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign

[A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign | Covering the corridor between Royston and Cambridge
\(a10corridorcycle.com\)](https://a10corridorcycle.com)



Contents

Introduction by the Chair	3
Providing a Voice for the Community	4
Promoting Sustainable, Healthy and Accessible Travel	6
Bringing Communities Together, Supporting Diversity and Inclusion	7
Supporting Social and Economic Development	9
Strengthening the Partnership	10
Financial Report and Funding	11
Who We Are	12

Cover photo credit: Simon Smith, Railscene Cambridge

Introduction by the Chair

'Try the Train!'

This year, our job as Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership (MSFCRP) has been to keep a strong focus on the future and sustainability of local rail services. We've rekindled community involvement in looking after our station environments and encouraged take-up of rail travel as society reshapes itself in the wake of the pandemic.



The foundation of a Community Rail Partnership (CRP) and the access to a wide range of networks has provided a good footing for rebuilding ridership and cultivating wider interest in sustainable, active travel. Some of these networks are new and have fostered new ideas. A strong relationship with our train operating company provides constant close attention to detail.

The effects of the pandemic on mental and physical health, and the importance of physical exercise and social contact, has underpinned new emphasis on active travel.

Big infrastructure projects continue to demand careful thought and attention and we have sought to make local voices heard and consider the long-term public interest.

We've been delighted to work in new ways with our closest secondary school, Melbourn Village College, as well as other schools further afield who've taken an interest in Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteering opportunities.

And we've taken an active role in the national network of CRPs promoting rail for tourism – all part of the picture in choosing to Try the Train! We were delighted to win an award for communications in the Countryside, Capital, Coast campaign, hosted by the Community Rail Network.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the passion and dedication of our Project Officer, Sarah Grove, whose role is supported by a multitude of partners, reflecting widespread commitment to the future of active sustainable rail travel for our local communities.

Susan van de Ven

Chair, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership

Providing a Voice for the Community

This year we have continued to make local voices heard during important infrastructure consultations that will affect our local area and rail users. We have energetically engaged with our train operating company through several changes to the timetable.

Timetable Issues

Throughout the ups and downs of the pandemic we have liaised closely with Govia Thameslink Railway, ensuring that the timetable supports our key workers, commuters and school travellers. At times, special stop orders were put in place for our villages, and we have continued our campaign for a half-hourly service. This was returned in December, only to be dropped again due to the emergence of the Omicron Coronavirus variant, however we have great hopes to see it return in May 2022.

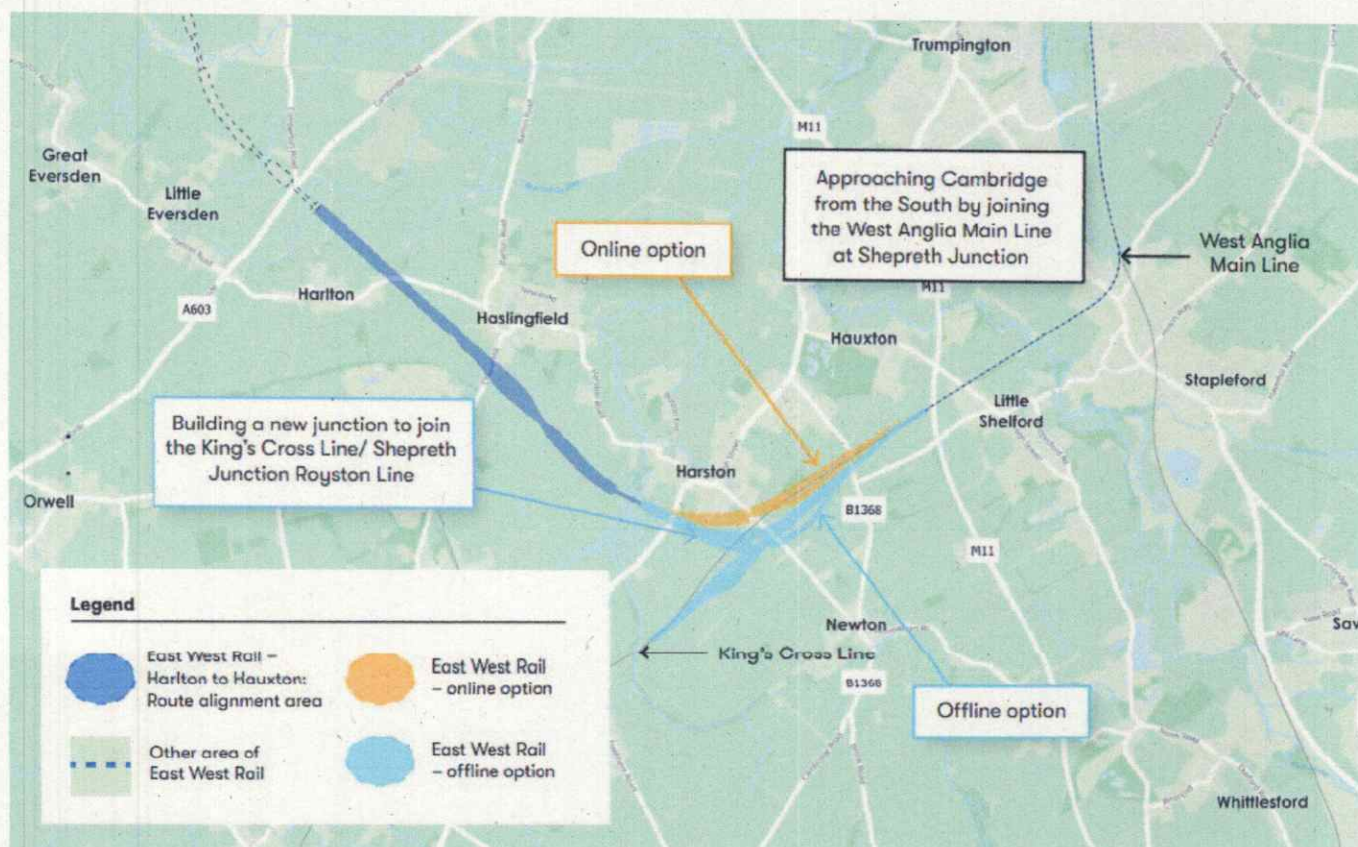
Foxton Travel Hub

In our response to the Travel Hub consultation in September 2021, we tried to strike a balance of considerations on what has been a contentious proposal for the local community. As one of the smallest stations between London and Cambridge, and one situated on a complex level crossing/road junction, the proportion, scale and physical siting of new car parking facilities at Foxton have been extremely challenging. At the same time, we recognize that investment in this small station is vital for the future of rail services here. We participated extensively in the Non-Motorised User Group, championing all aspects of passenger accessibility, and raised concerns on platform capacity and safety for projected passenger growth ahead of the reduction to 200 car park spaces in the proposals of December 2021. Concerns remain about the safety of passengers who will be required to cross the A10 from the new car park. We expect a planning application to be made in Summer 2022.



East West Rail

In May 2021 we submitted our response to the consultation on the high-level route alignment proposed for the Bedford to Cambridge section of East West Rail. Whilst supportive of an Oxford-Cambridge rail link, our response highlighted the failures of the proposed route in serving the concentration of new population growth around north Cambridge; the severance of community connections in our Community Rail Partnership area villages; the problem of blight, noise and pollution; and limitations to accessibility to new line services from our existing stations.



Promoting Sustainable, Healthy and Accessible Travel

Our focus this year has been on improving the active travel links to our stations to encourage sustainable travel.

Encouraging Modal Shift

The MSFCRP are continuing to work on improvements on the path between Meldreth Station and Melbourn, which will be widened, rebuilt and lit as part of the Melbourn Greenways Project.

We are working with the South Cambs Community Safety Partnership, the District and County Council Communities Teams, Melbourn Science Park and Melbourn Village College on a project to improve the lighting, artwork and plant life at the A10 underpass between Meldreth Station and Melbourn – part of the off-road option for active travel in that direction.



Communication and Messages

As timetables and regulations have been constantly changing, we have kept in close contact with our rail users and local communities this year to promote safe travel messages through our website, Facebook group, email newsletter and Twitter. We have continued to hold our steering group and Rail User Group meetings online, resulting in good attendance from our rail industry colleagues.

Travel with confidence

Thank you for wearing a face covering if you can, as a courtesy to others



Bringing Communities Together, Supporting Diversity and Inclusion

Our station gardens continue to provide a fantastic opportunity for the local community to get involved in gardening projects, some because they simply can't wait to get their hands dirty, and others who live near the stations but have no garden space themselves. We were also very happy that even with restrictions in place, community events such as the Meldreth Christmas Tree festival were able to go ahead this year.

May 2021 – Shepreth Memorial Garden

The memorial garden at Shepreth had become choked over the years with weeds and brambles. A day-long working party in May 2021 cleared the way for new pollinator friendly wildflower and shrub planting.



Before and after at Shepreth Memorial Garden

March 2022 – Meldreth

In March 2022 14 members of the Meldreth Veg Club came to Meldreth Station for a morning of clearing and planting of areas around the station car park. We filled a 12 yard skip, very kindly donated by County Council's waste contractor Amey, removing old, dead shrubs and cutting back encroaching ivy, and putting in lovely new perennials donated by volunteers.



Duke of Edinburgh Award Volunteering

We've been delighted to welcome back Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers to our station gardening. These young people come from a variety of secondary schools and make a critical difference to station platform gardens, through reliable help with watering tubs through hot summer months.

Meldreth Christmas Tree Festival

We were delighted to be able to participate in the return of the Meldreth Christmas Tree Festival this year. Over 30 local organisations are invited to decorate a tree, and this year ours was strung with timetables, tickets and train ornaments.



Supporting Social and Economic Development

We have worked hard this year to improve our online presence to promote our villages as destinations for tourists and locals, highlighting visitor attractions and walks.

Countryside, Capital, Coast wins award

We were delighted that our Countryside, Capital, Coast campaign – promoting destinations along the Thameslink Line – was awarded 2nd place in the Best Communications Category at the Community Rail Network awards in December. We learned so much by working with the other CRPs involved.



New “Discover” sections of the website

We updated our website with new “Discover” sections for each of our stations, including places to eat, points of interest and famous residents – did you know that Jonnie Peacock, the Paralympian Sprinter and Strictly Come Dancing Contestant, grew up in Shepreth?

Alltrails Collaboration

We contributed local station walks to the collaboration between GTR and the outdoor walking and hiking app AllTrails. Posters with QR codes were installed at Thameslink stations, so that visitors could scan the code to reveal nearby walks. Our walks also feature on the AllTrails app so that potential visitors can see what walks are available in areas they are considering visiting.



Strengthening the Partnership

The Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership feels ever more embedded in the community as a force for good as we have worked with new partners this year. Our efforts have been rewarded by reaccreditation with the Department for Transport.

New Partners

The MSFCRP has worked with a number of new partners this year. These include:

- CRPs along the Thameslink Line, working together to create the Countryside, Capital and Coast guide.
- The Community Safety Partnership, Melbourn Practical Solutions Group, and Think Communities Team at Cambridgeshire County Council on the Melbourn Greenways and Meldreth Underpass Projects.
- Melbourn Timebank, where our CRP Officer has been supporting weekly Well-Being Walks from the Melbourn Community Hub to encourage active lifestyles, tackle loneliness and improve mental health in the community.

Reaccreditation

The Community Rail Network, on behalf of the Department for Transport, reaccredited the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership in 2021.

"Accreditation is formal recognition by the DfT that a community rail partnership (CRP) operates to a high standard and that its objectives and activities are supported by Government."



Financial Report and Funding

MSFCRP is extremely grateful for the continued funding support from Govia Thameslink Railway and South Cambridgeshire District Council. It is also thankful for continued funding from Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Parish Councils.

Accounts for 2021-22

Income	
Core Funding	£16,400
Grants	£2,121
Brought forward from 2020-21	£13,787
Total Income	£32,308
Expenditure	
Partnership Officer	£14,660
Operational Expenses	£55
Administration Expenses	£847
Total Expenditure	£15,562
Balance at 31 March 2022	£16,746





Who we are

Our Community Rail Partnership aims to develop links with schools and local businesses associated with our local rail services, and to enhance sustainable transport links in the wider area.

Contact us

sarahgrove.msfcrrp@gmail.com

meldrethsheprethfoxtonrail.org.uk

@MSFCRRP

Our Partners



South West Cambridge Action Group Annual Report 2022

SWCAG has held regular meetings with parish council representatives of directly impacted villages, in order to keep abreast of planning issues, with the South Cambs District Council Director of Planning.

The Greater Cambridge (Cambridge City and South Cambs) Local Plan First Proposals include no sites in the area identified by Thakeham's ambition for a new South West Cambridge new town. Rather, Local Plan proposals are centred around existing transport infrastructure and designed for close proximity between home and employment opportunities. Mostly proposals falls along the A428 and A14 corridors.

Thakeham's 25K homes proposal is more than double what has been calculated as the optimum number of new homes for Greater Cambridge (11K).

Thakeham has made no submission to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

It appears that central government aspirations for the OxCam Arc have lost momentum, possibly affecting prospects for Thakeham.

However, SWCAG have continued to watch the Electoral Commission website where another donation from Thakeham to the Conservative Party was logged in late 2022, bringing the total to well over £700,000.

Updates and presentations have been circulated to parish councils and members of the public, and updates distributed to parish newsletters and magazines.

Cllrs Susan van de Ven, Sebastian Kindersley, Peter McDonald, Jose Hales and Aidan Van de Weyer, representing parishes in Thakeham's identified new town area.

A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign 2021-22: Annual Report for parish councils S van de Ven, Chair

Campaign meetings have continued to be held on-line. Agendas & minutes: A10corridorcycle.com

Melbourn Greenway

Progress has been slow primarily as a large new team has been recruited to deliver this and eleven other Greenway schemes across Greater Cambridge. The Melbourn Greenway team is now in place and design work is now underway in advance of a public consultation in the autumn. Contact has been re-established with Herts CC for the Royston element of the Melbourn Greenway.

The key new elements of the scheme include a path/bridge link between Melbourn-Royston, a link across the western side of Harston, a route over the M11 in conjunction with the South West Cambridge Park and Ride, and adaptations through Foxton and Melbourn High Streets, in principle with 20MPH speed limits (subject to public consultation), and junctions in the current network.

Accidents

Two cycle-vehicle collisions have been reported to the campaign at the BP station in Harston. Thankfully serious injuries were avoided though in both cases the cyclist came off their bike. Remedial work is clearly needed and CCC Highways is considering options. Concerns have also been raised with CCC Highways about the Cherry Park Melbourn junction.

Meanwhile Highways asks that ALL accidents however minor be reported to the Police, in order to create a public record that will be brought to the attention of Highways.

Path maintenance

Working parties – Thanks to members of the campaign working in Harston and Melbourn for spending regular lunch hours helping to keep vegetation cut back along the path.

Another round of vegetation cut back was carried out by Herts and Cambs Grounds Maintenance from the remaining AstraZeneca grant.

Strong reporting on the Cambs Report a Fault website resulted in additional Highways vegetation maintenance.

Following a proposal by the campaign for a sustainable funding arrangement for maintenance, CCC is supporting exploration of commuted sums arrangements for all the Greenways schemes.

Annual Awareness Ride

A very well attended Awareness Ride took place in October 2021, from Trumpington Park and Ride to Phillimore Garden Centre. An especially large proportion of the group was comprised of children. Teas were provided by volunteers on the front lawn at Phillimore.

The campaign has decided to hold its 2022 annual ride in the autumn, in advance of the Greenway consultation, in order to raise awareness for an optimum consultation response. This year we will hold both cycle and walking groups to highlight the multi-function nature of the network.

Participation in Greater Cambridge Partnership meetings

Questions from Herts and Cambs councillors and a Meldreth Primary School pupil were lodged with the GCP highlighting the urgency of delivering the Melbourn Greenway, and addressing remedial action needed at junctions.

Friends of the River Shep (ForShep) – Annual summary April 2021 to April 2022

Report to the Shepreth Annual Parish Meeting (APM) – 25th April 2021

This report covers the period from April 2021 to the present day.

The full ForShep committee has still not met since the beginning of the COVID pandemic to protect the committee members. Rather we have been communicating via e-mail and 'phone as circumstances required to continue the river maintenance whenever possible.

Sadly, we have not been able to do any of our normal social activities such as guided walks, pond-dipping and once again we decided it was prudent to cancel the Boxing Day walk for a second year.

Despite the various COVID restrictions, some river restoration and maintenance work has managed to carry on, either by Rob working alone or with one or two socially distanced volunteers, or more recently in larger group as restrictions have been removed.

A few highlights:

In May, an electrofishing survey was conducted along the Angle Lane stretch of the river. 5 species were caught: bullhead, minnow, gudgeon, perch, and numerous brown trout. All fish were measured, recorded, and returned alive. Fascinating that this short section of river contained such diverse fish population.

In August, a river weed clearance at RSPB Fowlmere was a big success with several hundreds of metres of channel cleared. It allowed a bit more flow downstream to Shepreth. The river was completely choked in places as little work had been done there in the previous year.

In October, another river clearance up at Fowlmere, this time working alongside the excellent RSPB volunteer team.

In November, some tree clearance up at Boot Lane, Barrington. Normally we like to leave fallen trees as they create flow diversity and habitat, but a large ash was backing up the flow and drowning trout spawning habitat. The cut material was used to make a brushwood ledge.

In December, last job to do before the trout start spawning is to make sure the gravel is clean and free of silt. RSPB volunteers did some hard raking and Rob applied the finishing touches!

In February, some tidy-up/clearance work in Angle Lane. The main objective was to clear brambles which if not kept at bay can engulf the stream in a few years. Thankfully there was not much rubbish to pick up.

In January and February, the trout once again spawned well, and we have seen an encouraging water vole population along the river. Many thanks to our committee member, Darren, who has been posting lots of photos and videos on the ForShep Facebook group and, more recently, on the ForShep noticeboard on the High Street.

Finally, March saw an all-day work-party down near the footbridge over the river Shep at the bottom of Boot Lane in Barrington. The day started off creating a brushwood ledge to help plants colonise the margins and to create valuable cover for the emerging trout fry. Then some flow deflectors were installed to help the stream meander a bit more.

I want to say a massive you to all the volunteers who have turned out for the work parties throughout the year. Thank-you all very much – but especially to Rob Mungovan who orchestrates the whole thing. And of course, thank-you to all the ForShep committee members.

ForShep continues to use Facebook, The Village Newsletter, our Noticeboard and occasionally Twitter as a mean of direct communication. Members receive regular e-mail updates on our river restoration activities.

For Facebook users, search for “Friends of the River Shep”, and join the Facebook Group – this is definitely the best way to keep up with lots of photos and videos being posted. Over 175 people are members of this group.

For Twitter follow @ForShep at <https://twitter.com/forshep>

The Website can be found at <https://forshep.wixsite.com/forshep>

The membership of ForShep remains healthy at around 100 households. If you would like to join, please download a membership application form from the website. Annual membership is from only £5 per household, although larger sums are gratefully accepted!

Steve Swain, Chairman, ForShep, April 2022

A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign Annual Report 2023

Work over the past year has focused on putting our case for infrastructure improvements forward with the Greater Cambridge Partnership, maintaining public awareness, and seeking funding support for supplementary path vegetation maintenance.

A new Melbourn Greenway officer team assembled in early 2022 after a transition period initiated by the County Council in 2020. The A10CCC has worked closely with the team.

A well attended Annual Awareness Ride took place in autumn 2022, attended by GCP officers. The event included a cycle ride from Trumpington Park and Ride and walk from the Melbourn Hub, meeting at Phillimore Garden Centre.

A GCP 'Engagement' exercise was held in autumn 2022, which the campaign participated in.

Mayor Nik Johnson came out to ride the local path network in autumn 2022, at the invitation of the A10CCC, in particular to understand the criticality of the bridge to Royston.

The Combined Authority submitted an application to government's Transforming Cities fund for the bridge project but was unsuccessful. However, bridge design work to make this a shovel ready scheme, able to take advantage of time-limited funding opportunities, is due for completion soon.

Intensive work to progress the link between Melbourn Science Park and Meldreth Station has been underway; this link has been funded by S106 agreements and stands to support sustainable travel commuting to a growing Melbourn Science Park.

Two Melbourn Village College students spoke at the GCP Board meeting in March to emphasize key goals of the campaign.

A10CCC has successfully bid for a grounds maintenance grant from Melbourn Science Park's communities funding scheme. A grant of £10K has been awarded for the coming year and the campaign will be invited to reapply year by year. The amount of funding doubles the grant previously received by a local business and should make a positive difference to the problem of overhanging vegetation.

All in all, it has been a successful year thanks to the continuing hard work, enthusiasm and vision of all concerned.

Susan van de Ven and Adam Bostanci

Chair and Vice Chair, A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign

[A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign | Covering the corridor between Royston and Cambridge
\(a10corridorcycle.com\)](https://a10corridorcycle.com)