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Special Report



Dragon Festival set to roar again

THE Dragon Boat Festival is returning to Cambridge this weekend with over 40 teams ready to take part and raise money for a variety of good causes.

All the races and family activities are due to take place on Saturday, September 10 with more than 400 people taking part and many more expected to turn up and watch. The event is expected to be jam packed with races starting every 10 minutes during the seven-hour event.

Carol Lester of Gable Events said: "We are proud to be celebrating the seventh year of the Dragon Boat Festival and looking forward to another fantastic day, jam-packed with racing and entertainment. We are sure that teams and festival visitors alike will have a great day".

East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) is one of the good causes benefiting from the money raised by the event and will be on site on the day to provide information about their work and present awards to the fastest and most charitable teams.

Dementia treatment is put under scrutiny

TREATMENT of dementia sufferers in Cambridgeshire is in urgent need of consistency, a councillor has warned.

The charge comes after a report looked into dementia services across the county and made recommendations to the county council that more cohesion is needed and funding must be maintained to ensure high standards of care.

Cllr Caroline Shepherd told a cabinet meeting on Tuesday there is confusion between different departments and, in places, a "complete reliance on volunteers".

"There is no consistency across different parts of Cambridgeshire," she said. "The problem will not go away if we do nothing now."

While the council responded to the report positively, Cllr Catherine Hutton, who is in charge of adult services, said it was not possible to maintain the current level of funding.

She added: "But we do commit to providing better care. If we spend more early we make huge savings later."

Cllr Mathew Shuter, whose father died of Alzheimer's 15 years ago, said it was "absolutely imperative" to focus on early diagnosis. At the same meeting, the cabinet heard the council was expecting a £6.3 million budget overspend, much of which will come from adult services.

Cambridge First reported in July the council's adult care budget was facing a worst-case scenario of an £11 million overspend.

Cllr Lucy Nethsingha said: "The entire time I have been on the council there has been an overspend on this budget and we have been going on and on about how to get it under control. But it's still not."

Council leader Nick Clarke said the county cannot control people getting older and that's why the budget is one of most difficult to handle.

Trains could new station

A RAILWAY station in the north of Cambridge providing a direct link to London, Birmingham and Norwich "will be built" and named the Cambridge Science Park Station.

The reactivated, disused railway line at Chesterton Sidings will serve as a link to the city's technology and innovation centres and provide easy train travel to commuters and rail users living in the north of Cambridge.

Currently they battle their way across the city to Cambridge Station - a journey which can equal the 48-minute travel time from Cambridge to London King's Cross.

The scheme has been in the pipeline for almost two decades and suffered years of setbacks including

BY HUGH MORRIS

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a £10 million loan bid being turned down by the Government last year.

But confusion in the scheme is now running high with Cambridgeshire County Council development bosses working on the basis the station in Chesterton could be ready in four years.

"We are working on the basis Chesterton will happen," said Graham Hughes, the council's director of strategy and development.

"We are revising our business case, we are starting to get through design plans, and we are looking at funding franchises. We are working on the assumption that we will find funding for this."

He added it was "not unreasonable" to expect that the station could be ready in four years.

A station in Chesterton will dramatically reduce congestion on Cambridge's roads with some 80 per cent of the traffic which uses the main station coming from the north to the south east of the city.

The area surrounding Cambridge station is attracting record business rents for the city of £30.40 per square foot largely due to easy links to the capital, and a station on the north side of the River Cam would open up a similar wealth of opportunity for other businesses.

Today the minister of

transport Theresa Villiers will be in Cambridge to hear the case for the railway station from county council development officers and a cross-party selection of the region's MPs.

Mr Hughes will lead the presentation.

"What we want to get across is, yes, Chesterton is a railway station, but it is also about much bigger issues locally," he said.

"If you think about Chesterton linking up with the guided bus, the science and business parks, and the new developments at Northstowe, quite quickly you can see a corridor of employment - the proposals will secure future employment."

The plans took a huge step forward recently when a new study showed the £25 million station could be funded privately and would return the investment in a matter of years.

The study also showed the station would bring in £10 million of fare revenue, £5 million of which would be from new rail users - based on an estimated 2,800 passengers a day using the station, a figure that would undoubtedly grow.

Cambridge MP Julian Huppert has been campaigning for the additional station for 10 years and believes it is vital to the city's economy.

"It will be good for the growth of Cambridge and it will ease traffic on the city's roads," he said. "The Government seems to be supportive



Graham Hughes

City goes global

CAMBRIDGE has become the latest city to have a custom globe made to display its major landmarks, joining the ranks of Paris, Rome and New York.

The map displays key landmarks and attractions such as King's College Chapel and Wren Library.

The Cambridge globe was unveiled by the Kent-based family business Globee yesterday.

David Sinclair, managing director and his wife Harriot

have links with Cambridge - Harriot's father went to Emmanuel College and two of David's siblings were at Sidney Sussex and Gonville and Caius colleges.

Mr Sinclair said: "We hope that it will entice more people to come and visit this beautiful city".

Globee's globes come with a booklet describing the displayed landmarks and are on sale at the Cambridge Gift Shop and The Parade Gift Shop other souvenir shops.

