

Deryk Eke Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure, Transport and Stansted Airport.

Infrastructure – Parking issues in Uttlesford have continued to be problematic but progress is ongoing through a combination of efforts by our UDC officers and co-operation from NEPP.

NEPP had instigated a series of workshops for TC's and PC's to help them understand the process for applying for TOR's. These have been put on hold due to Covid 19.

NEPP have responded to queries from residents who have been forced into lockdown, by allowing parking in restricted areas as long as pavements and roads are not obstructed.

I previously reported that the NEPP management meeting in January approved our bids for residual funding, from NEPP reserves, for additional parking projects were successful to the tune of £300,000. This was in support of extensions to Crafton Green and Lower Street car parks in Stansted and for variable car park messaging around Saffron Walden. However, it appears the decision taken at the meeting has subsequently been challenged and has been the subject of additional supporting information and email exchanges. No conclusion has been agreed.

The implementation of cycle paths across Uttlesford remains outstanding. 3 cycling strategies have been issued since 1999 and only ONE cycle route implemented. The major blockage to progress is still Essex Highway's arbitrary specification for 3m wide cycle paths and lack of funding. However, with the recent announcement of £2bn of funding and new Statutory Guidance Document to go with it, I have written to ECC asking for action.

Transport – A further meeting of the Uttlesford Transport Forum was due to be held in March but cancelled.

A follow up meeting with ECC to explore local bus routes and focus on school bus provision had to be canceled.

A meeting of the ECC Passenger Transport group scheduled for March was likewise canceled

Stansted Airport – The consultation on Future Airspace at Stansted Airport is on going with various Focus Groups representing stakeholders such as general public, elected representatives, business, aviation, consultative bodies and national organisations taking part. There have been several meetings of the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG), attended by myself via zoom, to review the process and provide constructive comment.

Other meetings of SASIG (Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group) and Stansted Airport Transport Forum were canceled.