

## Joint District Councillor's Report September 2020

District councillors' monthly report for the communities of Histon & Impington, Orchard Park and King's Meadow.

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these - or indeed any other - matters, please do not hesitate to contact us. Councillor Steve Hunt is on 01223 455180 or [Cllr.HuntS@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.HuntS@scambs.gov.uk), Councillor Martin Cahn is on 07826 748407 or [Cllr.Cahn@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Cahn@scambs.gov.uk), Councillor Pippa Heylings is on 07837 228416 or [Cllr.Heylings@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Heylings@scambs.gov.uk). You can also follow your councillors on our webpage <http://hiopcouncillors.org>, on Twitter @pippa4hiop, and on Facebook @pippaheylings4hiop

### Planning Committee

Planning Committee was held in September and has already been held in October.

The October meeting considered the proposal for student flats at the Neal Drive site in Orchard Park. The appeals on the earlier applications have been withdrawn and as reported last month, the modified proposal for 80 build to rent houses was approved in August. Another application that had been made for student accommodation on the site was also outstanding and was being considered. This proposal was of the same scale, bulk and orientation as the proposal for buy to rent flats – thus being much further from adjoining properties than the earlier refused application and this provided more scope for landscaping. Unlike the flats, this had no underground car park. It was proposed to prevent all students (except disabled students) from bringing a car to the area via a condition to be imposed in student tenancy agreements, a condition that had been considered acceptable in other proposals for student accommodation, thus it was difficult to hold an objection on highways/parking grounds. Significant finance was being made available to the community council through a S106 agreement. Therefore the only potential grounds for refusal was that students changed the social make up of the area and would prevent it having a 'family' character. That is not normally considered a material planning matter, and in any case there was already a permission that is directed to young single professionals, so refusal would be unlikely to achieve that aim. Therefore the proposal was approved. We wait to see which, if either, proposal is followed through to completion.

### Decisions from Full Council, 24<sup>th</sup> September

At Full Council the following decisions were made.

Approve recommendations from Cabinet regarding General Fund Revenue and Capital Outturn. A General Fund Revenue Carry Forward in the sum of £30,000. In relation to the Capital Programme: The carry forward of £2.081 million in relation to General Fund capital projects due mainly to slippage. Additional funding of £105,000 from earmarked reserves to meet the expected cost of the Lighting renewal programme.

The Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budget Carry Forwards in the sum of £0.020 million, in relation to tenant participation. In relation to the Capital Programme: The carry forwards to 2020/21 of £1.611 million in relation to HRA Housing improvements due mainly to slippage. The bringing

forward of £1.530 million from 2020/21 in relation to HRA housebuilding during 2019/20, due to works being ahead of expectations.

Annual Pay Award 2020/21: Council Agreed to approve an additional 0.75% to all spinal column points of the pay grade.

Approve the appointments of Peter Campbell and Jeff Membrey as Directors of the Council's housing company, Ermine Street Housing Ltd, alongside their roles as Head of Housing and Head of Transformation respectively.

Appoint Councillor Pippa Heylings to the outside body Natural Cambridgeshire.

To refer to the Civic Affairs Committee a motion regarding SCDC's policy on bullying.

Agreed to a motion that recognizes the problems caused by illegal parking and to continue to explore the options available to us, as an authority, to assume the responsibility of civil parking enforcement.

Agreed to a motion to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people.

Agreed to support the Local Electricity Bill, and to contact our MPs and the Minister of State for BEIS to support the aims of the bill and ask for these aims to be taken into account in the forthcoming Energy White Paper.

## COVID-19

For up to date information and guidance visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

Although the number of cases in South Cambridgeshire is still below the national average, we are seeing an increase in cases in our area. In the last couple of weeks, the number of new daily cases in South Cambridgeshire has more than doubled and at the time of writing is approximately 16 new cases per day.

We all need to remember the longstanding guidance to regularly wash our hands, maintain social distancing of 2 metres from others, and wear face coverings.

The County Council has a library of government / Public Health England posters that can be downloaded and printed to use as you wish:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-campaign-for-communities>

### £500 support for people told to isolate by NHS Test & Trace

The Government has created a package to support and enforce self-isolation with payments of £500 for people who have been asked to isolate by NHS Test & Trace, which residents can apply for via an online form on SCDC website: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/help-if-you-are-self-isolating/>

Residents who want to claim for a period of isolation prior to the form having been available (from 9 October) will be able to claim retrospectively, if the period of self-isolation began on or after 28 September 2020. Payments will be made within three working days of submitting a fully completed

application form. People who are not eligible for this scheme should still contact us, as other support may be available to help them during self-isolation.

### Track and Trace App

It's good to see our venues and shops now displaying the official check-in QR codes.

Please use the official NHS Track and Trace app if your phone supports it and encourage others to do so. There have been many false claims circulating on social media that the app gives away your location and personal information to the government or its commercial partners. In reality the app and its infrastructure have been designed to be anonymous and to protect your privacy. It does not know where you are or who you have met. (The jury is out on how *effective* it will prove to be, but it's important to try everything we can to reduce the spread of the virus.)

### Grants for every area for community support

The Council has set aside £50,000 to support communities. To make sure it can reach people in the greatest need quickly, upfront grants of between £100 to £400 are now being offered to parish councils and community groups that are at the forefront of their village's response to Covid-19.

The amount available will vary according to the number of houses in the area covered. Designed to support the vital work carried out to help vulnerable people and those who need to self-isolate, it can be used to buy items such as sanitiser, print information leaflets, or provide emergency food or electricity top-ups until other support or self-isolation grants can be arranged.

### GCP Consultation on Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) scheme

The new public transport route between the A11 at Babraham and Cambridge was approved in principle by the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board in June. The route would run from a new travel hub near the A11 and Babraham to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus via Sawston, Stapleford and Great Shelford connecting to the planned Cambridge South Station and existing guided busway. This would potentially provide a public transport route from our community to significant employment centres to the south-east of Cambridge such as the Babraham Research Campus and Granta Park.

A further public consultation is being held on the detailed route and its impact on communities and the environment. Your comments on the scheme can help to shape the design that will form the Transport & Works Act submission. The consultation opens Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October and runs for eight weeks. It can be found here: <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/cset-eia>

### GCP Consultation on A10 Corridor scheme

Another consultation of local relevance is that for the Waterbeach to Cambridge public transport and active travel corridor. This consultation opens Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October and runs for eight weeks. It can be found here: <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/w2c-consultation-2020>

### Cambridge South Railway Station Consultation

There is also a second round of consultation for Cambridge South. With the preferred location of the station selected, they are now seeking views on the current proposals, the access arrangements and the cycle facilities. The aim is to make sure that the proposals that have been developed are suitable

for all users and that they have addressed feedback raised during previous consultation and engagement activities. This is open from 19th October till 29th November. Take part at: <https://cambridgesouthconsultation.com/>

## LED Lighting Upgrades

The work to upgrade streetlights maintained and operated by South Cambs to energy-efficient LEDs is under way. There are a number of such in the villages (although the majority are operated by the County Council and are not part of this programme). If a light has a number beginning "SC" then it will be upgraded. The work programmes will be continuing district-wide through to March with Histon & Impington planned for October/November.

## Support for EU citizens obtaining Settled Status

Many EU citizens living in the UK have not yet secured their grounds to be here after Brexit. The deadline for applying for settled or pre-settled status is June 2021. We attended an online seminar about the challenges being faced by some people applying for this. Many are struggling with finding the necessary documents or just putting off applying because the process is daunting. Anyone in the community who is affected by this is welcome to contact us, and we will try to signpost them to sources of information and help with their application.

## Meetings in September

1 <sup>st</sup> September	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee	Pippa, Martin
7 <sup>th</sup> September	Call for Sites Member Briefing	Pippa, Martin
8 <sup>th</sup> September	Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping	Steve, Pippa, Martin
8 <sup>th</sup> September	Planning Committee Site Visit	Martin
8 <sup>th</sup> September	Doubling Nature Briefing	Steve, Pippa, Martin
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Planning Committee	Steve, Pippa, Martin
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Presentation of proposals by Macarthy and Stone	Martin, Steve, Pippa
14 <sup>th</sup> September	Member Briefing – Call for Sites	Steve
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Doubling Nature Forum	Pippa
18 <sup>th</sup> September	Waterbeach New Town East briefing - Masterplan	Pippa, Martin

21 <sup>st</sup> September	Waterbeach New Town East briefing – viability & S106	Pippa, Martin
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Planning White Paper – Member Briefing	Pippa, Martin, Steve
23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Waterbeach New Town East – Briefing on Transport	Pippa, Martin
24 <sup>th</sup> September	Full Council	Steve, Pippa, Martin
25 <sup>th</sup> September	Future Parks Catch-up	Martin
30 <sup>th</sup> September	Scrutiny Workshop	Martin, Steve, Pippa

## Meetings in October

6 <sup>th</sup> October	Scrutiny Committee Preparation meeting	Steve, Martin
7 <sup>th</sup> October	Future Parks Accelerator Nominated Member meeting	Martin
7 <sup>th</sup> October	Scrutiny and Overview Committee	Martin, Steve
8 <sup>th</sup> October	All-Member Briefing	Steve, Martin, Pippa
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Member Development Programme – Planning	Martin
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Planning Committee	Martin
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Member Workshop on Housing Development Policies	Martin, Steve, Pippa
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Histon and Impington Parish Council	Martin, Steve, Pippa
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Member Workshop on Doubling Nature Strategy	Martin, Pippa
20 <sup>th</sup> October	North East Cambridge AAP Community Liaison Forum	Steve, Pippa, Martin
21 <sup>st</sup> October	JDCC	Steve
21 <sup>st</sup> October	OPCC Full Council	Martin, Steve, Pippa

