

Joint District Councillor's Report October 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, Councillor Martin Cahn is on 07826 748407 or Cllr.Cahn@scambs.gov.uk, Councillor Pippa Heylings is on 07837 228416 or Cllr.Heylings@scambs.gov.uk. You can also follow your councillors on our webpage <http://hiopcouncillors.org>, on Twitter @pippa4hiop , and on Facebook @pippaheylings4hiop

COVID-19

For up to date information and guidance visit:

- South Cambs: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/>
- County Council: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-coordination-hub-your-community-needs-you>
- H&I Parish Council: <http://hisimp.net>
- Orchard Park Community Council: <http://orchardpark.gov.uk/>

Although still below the national average, we are seeing an increase in cases in South Cambs, and the increase in our ward is higher than that in the district overall. 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**. Please install the **NHS Covid 19 exposure notification app** if you have a compatible phone.

The County Council website 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>

Covid business support.

The Government is making a further sum of money available to Councils to support businesses suffering from closure or a decline in business due to the latest lockdown and for those businesses subject to Level 2 and Level 3 restrictions in the period following the lockdown (which does not at present apply to South Cambridgeshire). The precise sum made available to South Cambridgeshire had not been determined at the time of writing and the amounts given to enterprises are likely to be at the discretion of the council. Letters have already been received by local businesses drawing their attention to this. Further information can be obtained from businessgrants@scambs.gov.uk or NNDR@scambs.gov.uk

Patch Officer

There has been a rearrangement of the "patch" system. There are now five dedicated patch leads, each responsible for two patches. The team include officers from Housing, Benefits and Communities. We are in Patch 9, which also includes Girton, Longstanton, Oakington, Westwick, Bar Hill, Dry Drayton and Madingley. Our officer is Ellen Bridges (Ellen.Bridges@scambs.gov.uk). Ellen

has organized an online meeting for local response coordinators on November 25th at 18:00 and the leaders of our local response teams should have received invitations to attend.

School Meals

In just over 24 hours, with generous and compassionate support from the community, we reached the fund-raising target of £3100. This meant that the every child that was eligible for free school meals and attending Histon and Impington Infant School, Histon and Impington Junior School and Impington Village College, received a week's worth of free school meal vouchers. This is how it happened:

At half-term, our community faced a difficult situation with the government's inexplicable decision not to provide free school meal vouchers for the holiday period. We had families among us who were suddenly without the support that they needed and received during the summer holidays of the first lockdown. Many of us have expressed concern about this decision especially now that we were heading into the colder, winter season and an even more difficult economic situation than during the summer lockdown. However, we managed to resolve the situation in the short-term after many people started offering their help in whatever way possible. We work best when we coordinate this kind of action together with the experts, our schools. On behalf of the village HICOV19 Response Coordination Team, Pippa Heylings was in communication with Principals of Impington Village College and the Histon and Impington Infant and Junior Schools. Even though it was the first weekend of a well-deserved half-term break, these wonderful Headteachers all responded immediately and positively and with much appreciation for the community support. If the funds can be raised, they are ready to reactivate the free school meal voucher system that they successfully implemented over the summer months, even at such short notice. We agreed that:

- it is impossible for schools to fund free school meal vouchers during school holidays without central government funding. What was needed, therefore, was a reversal in the government decision in order to cater for the longer Christmas holidays and other holidays until Easter.
- with the generous help of our community and the admin and pastoral support of our three schools, the free school meal voucher system could be swiftly reactivated starting from day one of the half-term and provide lunches for all the eligible children.
- the funds would be raised through the kind support of our local charity, HI Friends, together with the Gift Aid, and would then be immediately transferred to the school accounts to cover the total of £3100 needed to provide the daily vouchers for each eligible student at each of the schools.
- we would urge residents to write to our MP to ask government to reconsider their decision in time for the provision of funding to schools for free school meals during the Christmas holidays throughout the pandemic.

We are all obviously relieved that the government has now performed a U-Turn on this key issue. They have announced that funding will be channelled through local councils rather than schools. However, we now hear from the Local Government Association that the details are still unclear as to how this funding will be distributed and under what conditions. So we will continue to urge for clarification to ensure no eligible child goes hungry, whilst also looking at those families who will also be struggling given the economic downturn and hardships that are likely to follow.

Planning

Government Planning White Paper

The Council, jointly with the City Council, has submitted its response to the government Planning White Paper. You can read it in full here:

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=11457>

Pre-application Service

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has launched a new pre-application service with revised charges. This is a single, aligned pre-application charging scheme across the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Council areas. Applicants are encouraged to use this optional service to help get advice at the outset of a project which can help simplify and speed up the progress of getting planning permission. The service will offer a pick and mix menu of the level of details and advice an applicant wants, and that will reflect the charge that is applied.

More information on this is available at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/aligned-planning-service-pre-application-charges-take-effect-across-greater-cambridge/>

Greater Cambridge Local Plan Update

Work on the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan continues. The reports for the studies we commissioned will be presented to and discussed at the JLPAG (Joint Local Plan Advisory Group) meeting on 24th November.

Housing

The Handyperson Service

The Handyperson Service exists to assist older people and adults with a disability living in Cambridgeshire. Their service is for small jobs such as putting up shelves, curtain poles, building flat pack furniture, replacing toilet seats, changing light bulbs etc. they charge £30 per hour plus materials and can be contacted on 01480 700205 or email: chp@ageukcap.org.uk

Consultation on Allocation of Social Housing

South Cambs District Council owns and maintains around 5,500 Council homes, and many other housing associations own homes in the district. The council has proposed making some changes to how these houses are allocated with the aim of making sure allocations are to those most in need, and done in a transparent and fair way. One of the proposed changes is to how the “local connection” is defined.

To find out more and take part, go to <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/comment-on-proposed-changes-to-social-housing-allocation-policy/>

The consultation ends on 18 December 2020.

New Council Homes

We continue to expand the pool of council houses available to people in the district. We have acquired nine new energy efficient council houses in Foxton, being a mix of 1-bd, 2-bed and 3-bed

houses. The new tenants are expected to move in by Christmas 2020. We are hoping to have more houses added over the coming months.

Policing

Police Cuts

We will be meeting with the local Policing team to understand the impact of the announced reduction of PCSOs.

Police and Crime Commissioner Toolkit to encourage reporting

A request was made at a previous PCC briefing that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner produce a toolkit for local community leaders to help them encourage reporting incidents online.

The toolkit is presented as an appendix to this report and may also be found on their website:

www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk

Environmental Health

Green Homes Grant scheme

Government funding is now available to make homes more energy efficient, helping homeowners do their bit to move to net zero carbon by 2050 while saving money on household bills.

The grant could help the cost from two thirds to full cost of improvements, from £5000 to £10,000 depending on your circumstances. Find out more if you are eligible at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme>. The scheme closes on 31 March 2021.

Electric bin lorry

The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service has now taken delivery of its first 100% electric-powered e-collect bin lorry. It is the first in Cambridgeshire and in the planned replacement programme for the entire fleet of 55 waste vehicles over eight years.

LED Lighting Upgrades

The work to upgrade streetlights maintained and operated by South Cambs to energy-efficient LEDs is under way. The council plans to invest up to £1.38million on replacing all the streetlights, including columns and brackets, with low energy LED versions to cut energy bills, reduce light pollution, and improve lighting. 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. Lights that only need the lanterns replacing have already been replaced in Histon and Impington. Those lights that require new columns will be replaced shortly.

Transport

Greater Cambridge Partnership and Combined Authority

The Cambourne to Cambridge busway plans by the Greater Cambridge Partnership was paused following the intervention of the Mayor who claimed some to have an alternative route. He wants the busway route to be able to be converted into his proposed CAM metro.

The Mayor has now unveiled his preferred indicative route. This route has two options, one runs north of the A428 past Madingley Cemetery turning south to enter the City. The second option involves the use of a tunnel from Madingley Mulch area into West Cambridge.

There are challenges with this route and still needs more work done on this suggested route to develop the finer details including environmental impact and additional costs. We expect the cost of the tunnelling section to be quite high, and it remains to be seen if the cost benefit ratio works.

Ongoing consultations

The following transport consultations that we covered in last month's report are still ongoing:

- Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) scheme: <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/cset-eia>
- A10 Corridor scheme: <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/w2c-consultation-2020>
- Cambridge South Railway Station: <https://cambridgesouthconsultation.com/>

Meetings in October

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

21 st October	OPCC Full Council	Martin, Steve, Pippa
22 nd October	All-Member Briefing	Martin, Steve, Pippa

Meetings in November

3 rd November	Civic Affairs Committee	Martin
3 rd November	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee	Pippa, Martin
4 th November	Briefing on Prior Approvals - Planning	Pippa, Martin, Steve
5 th November	All-Member Briefing	Pippa, Martin, Steve
11 th November	Planning Committee	Martin, Pippa
12 th November	Scrutiny and Overview Committee	Martin, Steve
16 th November	Briefing – Greater Cambridge Local Plan	Martin, Pippa, Steve
16 th November	Histon and Impington Parish Council	Martin, Pippa, Steve
17 th November	Meeting on EU Advisory Group	Martin, Steve
17 th November	Briefing on Bourn Airfield development transport strategy.	Martin, Pippa
18 th November	North East Area Action Plan – update	Steve, Martin, Pippa,
18 th November	Joint Development Control Committee	Steve
19 th November	Orchard Park Community Council	Martin, Pippa, Steve
19 th November	Cambridge North Ward Member Forum	Martin, Pippa, Steve
19 th November	All-Member Briefing	Martin, Pippa, Steve
20 th November	Science Park North briefing	Martin, Pippa, Steve

25 th November	COVID-19 response sharing of ideas meeting	Martin, Pippa, Steve
26 th November	Full Council	Martin, Pippa, Steve
30 th November	Greater Cambridge Local Plan - Member Workshop	Martin, Pippa, Steve

APPENDIX: Toolkit for encouraging reporting online

The following text is reproduced verbatim from a document we received from the PCC.

Using Community media platforms to promote crime reporting

Community media platforms, such as Facebook groups, Twitter pages and parish magazines can be a useful tool for promoting community safety.

1. REPORT, REPORT, REPEAT: One of the biggest obstacles to encouraging community members to report crimes or local concerns is that many believe it is not worth the time spent. This may be related to a perceived lack of a police presence or response.

Failing to report incidents to the police, particularly concerns such as driving offences, anti-social behaviour and vandalism can lead to under reporting.

Local leaders can use their social media platforms and community magazines to explain the importance of reporting and how reporting data enables the police to better understand the issues facing the community and direct resources appropriately.

Moreover, residents reporting a seeming small piece of information could be providing the police with the final jigsaw piece to secure arrests.

2. EASY AS 1,2,3: Local leaders can use their platforms to promote the different ways in which a crime can be reported. Crimes or information can be reported online, using Cambridgeshire Constabulary webchat or by calling 101.

This information can be “pinned” to the top of Facebook pages, included in crime related social media posts or featured in all local magazines.

3. MATCHING QUANTITY OF REPORTING WITH QUALITY: Reporting incidents or concerns, no matter how small they seem, is vital for helping the police understand issues within a community and direct resources appropriately. However, the quality of reporting can make a big difference for the police.

Where possible provide as much detail as possible: time frames, number of individuals involved, number plates, car colour, items of clothing worn. Where appropriate and safe to do so, also take pictures – this is especially useful when reporting vandalism.

4. BOBBIES ARE ON THE BEAT: Local district police teams have well established social media platforms and post regularly. Sharing this content will mean that even if a few people actually see a police car or meet an officer on the street, everyone feels reassured that there’s a police presence in the community.

Boosting community confidence in police response to concerns and incidents will in turn empower residents to report information, confident that their intelligence is making a difference.