

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

(comprises the Parishes of Caldecote, Childerley, Kingston, Bourn, Longstowe & Little Gransden)

Councillor's Monthly Report – November 2021

This report of previous month events is for all the Ward, so please be aware that some of the content may not be relevant to your particular Parish.

General

Please contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc. Don't fight on your own. I am available to help you to get the best outcome possible for your situation.

Check out articles on my facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi> and my blog <http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk>. What I post on there is my view and not LibDem or South Cambs official policy unless I state that it is.

COVID19 UPDATE

As I reported last month Covid infection cases across Cambridgeshire county rose significantly. Infection rates have continued to rise. Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust have announced it is offering Covid19 vaccines to 12-15 year olds. It is now possible to book appointments for them at local large scale vaccination centres via the National Booking Services at www.nhs.uk/covidvaccine or by calling 119. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to their pre-booked appointment.

The R value and growth rate

The R value as of 22-October is between 1.0 and 1.2 meaning that, on average, every 10 people infected will infect between 10 and 12 other people. The growth rate is currently between 1% and +3% which means that the number of new infections could be growing by between 1% and 3% every day. Find more on Gov website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-value-and-growth-rate>.

The main points in the latest covid activity report are:

- Case rates were highest in those aged 10 to 19, with a weekly rate of 1,366.8 per 100,000 population
- The lowest case rates were in those aged 80 and above, with a weekly rate of 121.2 per 100,000 population
- Weekly case rates per 100,000 population were highest in the South West at 667.6 and lowest in London with 253.0
- The hospital admission rate for week 41 was 7.20 per 100,000 population compared to 6.26 in the previous week
- The highest hospital admission rates continue to be those aged 85 and above

The announcement is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports-published> and the report is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports-2021-to-2022-season>

Enhanced Response Area (ERA) Classification

The rapidly rising Covid19 infection rates in older people (60+) combined with the low vaccination rate in some parts of the region is putting severe pressure on Health Services. This led to the

Director of Public Health for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (PHCP) asking and the Government agreeing to classify Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as an Enhanced Response Area (ERA). This classification will be for at least five weeks starting on 1 November 2021. This ERA status will enable the PHCP to ask for and get additional support to accelerate vaccine rollout to 12-15 year olds in areas where infection rates are highest. Also to help deliver booster vaccinations quicker and increase vaccination rates in the areas with the lowest uptake so far.

The advice given to schools before the half term that face coverings should be worn in secondary school communal areas, and that meetings happen virtually where possible still stands. PHCP will ask for more funding to push communications to the general public to wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed areas, get vaccinated, meet outdoors where possible and let fresh air into homes or other enclosed spaces.

More information at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/enhanced-response-area-status-vital-to-protect-nhs-and-vital-services>

Workplace Covid19 Guidance: It is a legal requirement for employers to ensure an adequate supply of fresh air (ventilation) in enclosed areas of the workplace and, alongside cleaning, hygiene and handwashing, good ventilation is one of the best ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has updated guidance to help councils and businesses identify poor ventilation in work areas and take practical steps to improve it. There are also a series of new ventilation guidance videos

Guidance:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/index.htm>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/how-you-can-improve-ventilation.htm>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/index.htm>

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUgskOJdB41CvP0CffILI7unWe0QGYFm8>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation/index.htm>

New requirements for travel can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/move-to-lateral-flow-tests-for-travel-begins-today>. Lateral flow tests must be taken as soon as possible on the day of arrival in England or at the latest before the end of a passenger's second day and can now be purchased from the list of private providers on GOV.UK from as little as £22. Lateral flow tests for international travel must be purchased from a private provider, as NHS Test and Trace lateral flow tests cannot be used for international travel.

COVID Business support grants update

Our Business Support team has just finished administering its final tranche of COVID-related business support funding. We've paid out £1,377,000 in Government funding to 102 South Cambridgeshire businesses since July this year, as part of our Growth Fund. This is a fund supporting businesses who are looking to diversify, scale or start up in our region. Thanks to our Business Support and Finance colleagues for their efforts in making this such a smooth scheme to administer. It means that, as a Council, we've paid out more £38 million in Government funding via local business support grants since the onset of COVID.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan – First Proposals

The consultation is now open for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals from 9am Monday 1st November until 5pm on 13 December 2021. Here are the key links for your easy reference:

- Local Plan homepage - www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan which is also where the event listings are for in-person and online events

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- [Interactive map](https://bit.ly/GCLP-InteractiveMap) is at <https://bit.ly/GCLP-InteractiveMap>
 - [Full version Digital plan](https://bit.ly/GCP-DigitalPlan) – <https://bit.ly/GCP-DigitalPlan>
 - [Document library](https://bit.ly/GCLP-DocumentLibrary) - <https://bit.ly/GCLP-DocumentLibrary>
 - [Quick questionnaire](https://bit.ly/GCLP-QuickQuestionnaire) - <https://bit.ly/GCLP-QuickQuestionnaire>
 - All Events - <https://bit.ly/GCLP-Events>

The first online event/webinar is taking place on Thursday 4th November 2021 on zoom, 12 to 1pm. It will be to talk about the plan and how to comment. Join via **Zoom using the Passcode 164536**.

We have put [#ClimateChange](#) at the heart of this new Local Plan. We are ahead of government on this issue and even ahead of [#COP26](#). We are [#GreeningSouthCambridgeshire](#)

Everyone who lives in the district or does business in the district have a stake in this emerging local plan, so please get involved. I am particularly keen to hear from young people because these proposals will most likely be seeing the light of day in their time, and they would be the ones that live with it for most of their lives. Therefore it is important we hear from them what they think life would be like say from 2031 onwards. What makes a great place for them, how is their wellbeing to be protected based on their vision.

We have structured this consultation in a way to make it easy for you to read the sections that are of interest to you without having to wade through pages and pages of technical stuff.

The only proposal that is in Caldecote Ward is the inclusion of Phase 2 of Linden Homes development for 74 homes. The employment site proposed on the old St Neots Road is in Dry Drayton ward but is on boundary of and impacts Caldecote. I will be holding online zoom events specifically for villages in Caldecote Ward on the following dates/times:

- Tuesday 9th November 6pm-7.30pm: Meeting ID: 829 3824 7736, Passcode: 253835
- Monday 15th November, 7pm to 8.30pm: Meeting ID 844 3831 9981, Passcode: 963448
- Tuesday 23rd November 6pm – 7.30pm: Meeting ID: 829 3824 7736, Passcode: 253835
- Wednesday 1st December 7pm to 8.30pm: Meeting ID- 833 8801 5686, Passcode: 301402

Check out my blog and facebook page for details and updates on these planned meetings.

Digital initiatives to make planning process more accessible

On 22 October the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) announced that new digital tools to help local people have their say in the planning process will be trialled in 13 areas across England. Over £1million funding has been allocated to 13 planning authorities under the PropTech Engagement Fund, to test new digital initiatives to make the planning process more open and accessible and improve public engagement.

The *Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service has been awarded £98,250 as part of this trial*. The pilots, which will run until March 2022, will inform the government's work to modernise the planning system. DLUHC is working with planning authorities to establish best practice and identify where further digital guidance and innovations are needed.

Black History Month 2021

The celebrations just concluded and went well. Some of the content presented and shared can still be found on the South Cambs website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/equality-and-diversity/equality-activities-and-events/>. I highly recommend checking some of them out if you have not done so already.

South Cambridgeshire Outdoor Christmas market

Arrangements for this event is ongoing. It is being held in collaboration with Cambourne Town

Council and scheduled for to take place on the High Street on Sunday 5 December 12Noon to 6PM. Put it in your diary to attend.

Zero Carbon Communities – Green Connect networking event

Our Zero Carbon Communities team is launching a series of monthly networking events - Zero Carbon Communities Green Connect - to bring South Cambridgeshire's residents and community groups together to discuss a different theme each month. To tie in with COP26, the theme of the first event is *COP26: what it means for South Cambridgeshire*. It will kick off with a talk by Cllr Pippa Heylings, followed by Q&A and discussion, before attendees are split into small break-out rooms to share inspiration, challenges and ideas. The event will take place on 9 November from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Further information about the events taking place over COP26 is available on our [COP26 webpage](https://www.scams.gov.uk/nature-and-climate-change/cop26/) at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/nature-and-climate-change/cop26/>

"On Your Doorstep" - Promoting Local Businesses

South Cambridgeshire District Council have launched a 'On your Doorstep' social media campaign to help showcase local shops, hospitality, businesses, attractions and outdoor spaces- providing residents with inspiration for different activities and treats that can also help to support the local economy. We would appreciate Parish Councils sharing this campaign on their own social media platforms to help promote our wonderful district.

Follow SCDC social media accounts on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to find out what's on in our local high streets and green spaces throughout the autumn, and in the run up to Christmas. Or search our hashtag **#OnYourDoorstepSCDC**. For more information, please visit <https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/reopening-the-high-street/on-your-doorstep/>

Rehoming Afghan Refugees

The three Afghan families we were expecting have now arrived and are settling into their new homes. We expect to be hosting a further five in due course.

Health and Wellbeing

The Action for Happiness theme for October is **New Ways November**. The calendar is at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/november> This month's actions are encouraging us to learn something new or getting involved in an activity that really absorbs and interests us because it is great for our wellbeing. Do continue to share this calendar?

New devices for disadvantaged children and young people in school or college

The Department for Education (DfE) has announced that the Get Help with Technology (GHwT) service is providing an additional 500,000 laptops and tablets so that disadvantaged children and young people in school or college can access remote education and social care services. DfE is offering various grants to help councils, schools and colleges with:

- the cost of technical support to set up and reset devices they received from GHwT
- providing connectivity support to children and young people who do not otherwise have access to suitable internet connectivity at home

Further information about these grants, including the eligibility criteria, is available on GOV.UK <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/care-leavers-and-disadvantaged-pupils-to-benefit-from-126-million-investment-in-new-laptops-and-tablets>

Caldecote Liaison Forum Meeting: The next one is taking place on Wednesday 17th November 2021 on Teams. The meeting, which I chair, is expected to be attended by representatives of the two major developers (Linden and Balfour Beatty), and officers from South Cambs District Council.

A428 Development Corridor Meeting: Please save the date of 24th November 5.45pm to 8pm for a meeting of Bourn Airfield and Cambourne Communities. This is an information sharing meeting to discuss the creation of a Community Forum for the developments along the A428 corridor, and the local plan in general and this corridor in particular. You can find out more about some of the other community forums for major developments in the district on the Council website at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-development/community-forums/> . These forums go as far back as 2015 and were devised as a means of keeping the existing and new communities informed of what is happening in the new developments as they get built out.

Casework

Irrespective of the current Covid19 lockdown, please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. I will help as best I can.

You will find the current and past reports at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/2020-21-monthly-reports/>. Feel free to read, share and/or download.

Please stay safe. The maxim **Hands – Face – Space - Fresh Air** is still very much the rule.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
3 November 2021

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