

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

Councillor's Monthly Report – May 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.

If you have time to spare – check out articles on 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.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

These are items in my previous reports that require action due to time limitations or important.

1. Rapid Covid Tests

If you need a rapid test, then remember a Rapid Testing Centre is available at The Hub, High Street, Cambourne, CB23 6GW, 8am-8pm, Mon-Sat. It is for key workers and people who are unable to work from home who are showing no symptoms to get tested if they are worried. You can book test at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting>

COVID19 UPDATE

As of today there are 22 people in hospital with Covid in Cambridgeshire with 3 in Addenbrookes. This is a huge improvement and will of course allow our hospitals get back to treating people with other conditions many of which are now very urgent.

The supply of AstraZenica, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines over May and June are limited but should increase significantly mid-June to July just in time for many of us to be completely ready for the summer holidays! Over 90% of over the over-75s have received their jabs and over 51% of the over 50s.

There has been some increase in transmission in South Cambs and Cambridge City and there is still a possibility of further rise as lock down lessens. South Cambs is currently at the national average rate of about 25 cases per 100,000 people.

Please remain cautious, even if you've had the vaccine. This is because the vaccine takes two to three weeks to work and for a full course, two doses are required. It is still possible to catch COVID after having had the vaccine, so please continue to sanitise your **hands**, wear your mask to cover your **face** and **social distance**.

Find the full details of easing lockdown at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary>

Business Grants

The District Council has now paid out over **£11 million** in Government grants to **4,834** businesses for the recent lockdowns running from November 2020 onwards, and it will be paying out further sums over coming weeks.

Restart Grants Open for Local Businesses

Businesses that are predominantly reliant on delivering in-person services affected by the post-Christmas national lockdown can now apply via our website for the Government's Restart Grants f up to £6000. Go to <https://www.scambsgov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/financial-support-for-business/restart-grants/> to make your application before closing date of 30th June 2021.

Hospitality

There has been some conversation in the media over the past couple of weeks regarding the use of shelters for use in outdoor areas at hospitality venues. The Councils' Covid Team would like to highlight that [acceptable outdoor shelters](#) (any shelter, marquee or other structure) can have a roof but needs to have at least 50% of the area of their walls open at all times whilst in use.

Winter Support Grant: family fund:

Residents can now access schemes which can be used for those in need of urgent food or fuel. The vouchers are worth up to £49 (per scheme) for a family, or £29 (per scheme) for an individual. The first scheme allows a voucher for food or fuel, and the second scheme is for a fuel voucher only.

The schemes are funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the national Winter Support Grant. The vouchers can help residents who find themselves in a desperate situation to address their immediate need. We then work with the resident and other agencies to provide longer term advice and support. If you come across a resident in need of urgent food or fuel, please consider referring them into this scheme by emailing duty.communities@scambsgov.uk (we will then send you a simple form to complete).

Vaccine hesitancy

Academic research published last week suggests high numbers of people refusing to take a COVID-19 vaccine could increase the mortality rate by up to eight times compared with ideal vaccination uptake when restrictions are relaxed. The [latest report by the Imperial College London COVID-19 response team](#) evaluates the potential impact of vaccine hesitancy on the control of the pandemic and suggests high vaccine hesitancy could prolong the need for non-pharmaceutical interventions, for example social distancing, to remain in place.

If you know anyone who is hesitant, please do your best to encourage them.

PLANNING

Five Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS)

The big good news here is that South Cambs jointly with Cambridge City have a 6.1 years of housing land supply. We announced this a week ago and it takes effect on 1st April. It is critical to avoiding fake news or scaremongering in certain quarters.

You will find more details in the links below. The full report is 568 pages long, so perhaps you should read my blog post for a summary then delve into the full report if you still need more or need to identify the sites that have been included and the criteria and all that.

<https://tumihawkins.org.uk/5-year-housing-land-supply-for-south-cambridgeshire/>

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/current-plans-and-guidance/monitoring-delivery-in-greater-cambridge/>

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/media/2129/greater-cambridge-housing-trajectory-and-five-year-housing-land-supply-april-2021.pdf>

East West Rail – Bedford to Cambridge Railway.

The East West Railway Company announced their detailed routes for the new railway line from Bedford to Cambridge, including the route alignments that they prefer. The second non-statutory public consultation asking for our views starts on 31 March 2021 and closes on 9th June 2021.

This is a National Infrastructure project, and completely in the hands of EWR and Department of Transport to make the decision. EWR is an integral part of the Government’s planned growth agenda for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc!

The villages of Bourn and Highfields Caldecote will be seriously affected if either route from North or South Cambourne Station to South Cambridge Station are chosen. I am aware that both villages now have their own working groups digging into the implications and putting together their responses. Both also have opposing views which is an interesting place for me to be as Ward councillor, but I am supporting both communities as best as I can with information. It also has an added dimension for me as Lead Cabinet Member for Planning on its potential implication for the District as a whole!

I am also having meetings with other stakeholders to ascertain how their views and how they could support these two villages. It is likely that EWR have underestimated the impact of their state preferred routes through Highfields because of the potential effect on Bourn Airfield. Countryside are looking very closely and will be making their own representation.

The consultation website is at <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation> so please have your say. Feel free to send me your views so I can take that into account when I respond and pass on to the Council.

EWR created a series of **virtual consultation rooms** to provide easy access to information and host a series of live chat sessions where members of the public are able to discuss key topics directly with the project team.

Thursday 13 May	10am-12pm
Saturday 22 May	10am-12pm
Monday 24 May	2-4pm
Saturday 29 May	2-4pm
Tuesday 1 June	6-8pm

The dedicated **EWR Co telephone line** is **0330 134 0067** and available throughout the consultation period to speak to members of the Project team and request a paper copy of the consultation document and feedback form. Or email them at contact@eastwestrail.co.uk

How to respond to this consultation

- A full list of consultation documents and feedback form is on the East West Rail website: www.eastwestrail.co.uk.
- EWR is encouraging people to share their views via their online feedback form which can at www.eastwestrail.co.uk/feedback.
- Alternatively, the feedback form can be downloaded from the website, completed and posted to **Freepost EAST WEST RAIL** or emailed to consultation@eastwestrail.co.uk.

The results of this consultation will be compiled and summarised into a report to be given to the Government to make a decision after which it will be published on the EWR website. The plans will then be further refined before being presented to the public in a Statutory consultation probably later in the year..

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

Please remember - The maxim **Hands – Face – Space** still very much the rule. Now add **Fresh Air**. Please Stay safe.

Tumi

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1 May 2021

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