

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

Councillor's Monthly Report – October 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.

COVID19 UPDATE

There is a rise in the number of Covid cases across Cambridgeshire county, which is largely due to the return of schools. Stats show that 32% of recorded Covid cases for the week ending 22 September were in the 10 to 14 age group. A further 11% were amongst those aged 15 to 19. The case rate is 383 per 100,000 in Cambridgeshire, 36.2% increase on the same time last week. It is higher than the national average of 333.9/100,000 cases, and the regional average (315.7 per 100,000 cases). Public Health Cambridgeshire is now offering covid vaccines in secondary schools to 12 to 15 years olds. This should protect and prevent passing on to parents in the 40+ age bracket

South Cambridgeshire rate is 284.6/100,000, an increase of 12.5% on previous week. However, Cambourne is seeing a very high infection rate of 1002/100,000 cases, whilst surrounding villages are quite low. So please be careful. You can find some more info on my facebook page a <https://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi/posts/4472275862829195>

Hospital capacity is now being threatened as they are at over 95% full, much higher than the 80 to 85% they generally like to be. Please be kind to the doctors and nurses who are doing their best in a very difficult situation – they deserve our support and respect. Also take extra precautions, wear a face mask in public places, limit contact with others and consider those who are more vulnerable.

Hands-Face-Space is still the wise thing to do.

Local NHS #BeKind Campaign as GP practices face growing pressure

GP Practices across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough adapted with remarkable speed to new ways of working that were instated at the start of the pandemic, offering face-to-face, telephone and online appointments throughout the COVID-19 outbreak. The COVID-19 pandemic is not over, which is why it's vital to keep both patients and staff safe, that they maintain safe infection control and minimise unnecessary physical contact.

In July 2021 alone, GP practices in the area held over 422,973 appointments, of which 55% were face-to-face. Between them, they also took an average of up to 40,000 calls a day. Even with this pressure GP practice staff are facing unacceptable abuse and threatening behaviour from patients. GP Practices are there to help ensure patients get the right care at the right time. You might not always need to see a GP - professional nurses, pharmacists and healthcare assistants can treat a range of conditions, helping you to get advice or treatment sooner. Whether your appointment is over the telephone, via an online video consultation, or face-to-face, patients will always receive the same high quality standard of care from your GP practice team.

So please, if you contact your practice, be kind. Visit #BeKind <http://bit.ly/3zmx4ac> to find out more about how your GP Practice is looking after you.

Letters to clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) residents

A joint letter from the CCG and Cambridgeshire County Council is being sent out early this week to South Cambridgeshire residents classified as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), or their parents or guardians. This local letter follows a recent letter from Government to all CEV people nationally to confirm the end of the shielding programme. The local letter provides information about the support that remains available locally to CEV residents should they require it. The methods of requesting this support are:

- By completing the 'I need help' form. This can be accessed at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk and clicking on the 'I Need Help' banner at the top of the page
- If you do not have access to the internet you can call on 0345 045 5219 from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

International travel update

From 4am on 4 October 2021, the UK's new travel system comes into effect with countries and territories categorised as either on the red list or the rest of the world. The new travel system also means that eligible, fully vaccinated passengers and eligible under-18s returning from over 50 countries and territories not on the red list, no longer need to complete a pre-departure test (PDT), a day eight test or enter a 10-day self-isolation period. New rules also mean that, from later in October, eligible fully vaccinated passengers with an approved vaccine and recognised certificate from a country not on the red list will be able to replace their day two test with a cheaper lateral flow test. The government aims to have this in place for when people return from half-term breaks. Anyone testing positive will need to isolate and take a confirmatory (PCR) test, at no additional cost, which would be genomically sequenced to help identify new variants. The Announcement is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uks-new-simplified-travel-system-takes-off-from-today>

Black History Month 2021

This year, South Cambs has joined forces with Cambridge City Council to run events for Black History Month. The first virtual event took place on Monday 4th with Patrick Vernon OBE who spoke about preserving the legacy of the Windrush Generation. The second live event will be hosted by the Cambridge African Network on Thursday 14 October at 6pm with a panel talking about their experiences of living in the UK and Cambridgeshire..

The south cambs [webpage](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/equality-and-diversity/equality-activities-and-events/) at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/equality-and-diversity/equality-activities-and-events/> has been updated with content to read, watch and listen to. This will be added to continually throughout the month with cultural and educational content. I highly recommend reading about **Prominent Black British figures, past and present** – these 'firsts' in Black British history, namely Joe Clough, Janet Kay and Michael Fuller. Also check out the book **Kindred, by Octavia E. Butler** (available on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/))- The first science fiction written by a black woman, a combination of slave memoir, fantasy, and historical fiction. If you prefer podcasts, then check out **Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man - Emmanuel Acho** won an Emmy this year for Outstanding Short Form Nonfiction or Reality series. <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXAptcMQLoM6jeadgiA4YZZbgW4BDovTB> . There's more on the website so check it out.

South Cambridgeshire's Christmas market

An exciting event! Our Business Support team is organising a Christmas market in Cambourne on Sunday 5 December 3PM to 8PM to help support local businesses and communities recover from the pandemic. Please make a note of the date and come along if you can – more information will be available about the event in due course. Do you know any local performers who may like to perform on the stage at the event for about 30 minutes? They could be school, college or

community groups, choirs or amateur dramatics group, musicians or bands? Please ask them to get in touch or let us know. For further information or to register an interest in performing, please email reopening@scams.gov.uk.

Platinum Jubilee celebrations – organising a street party

The government has published guidance on organising a street party for local residents who may be planning to hold a small private street party to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in 2022. The guidance sets out helpful tips, advice and support on preparing for a party. Last month, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) launched the government's new Platinum Jubilee website, including an interactive map which will display all the events and activities that will be taking place right across the UK. The map is open for anyone to add their events and everyone is encouraged to upload any events and activities they may be planning to mark the Jubilee. The Guidance is at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party>

Funding to help faith groups support communities

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) recently announced a new £1 million fund to help faith groups to support communities. Faith groups will be able to apply for a share of the £1 million Faith New Deal Pilot Fund for projects providing innovative solutions to issues such as food poverty and poor mental health. Projects combating loneliness and isolation, providing debt advice and helping those who were unemployed during the COVID-19 outbreak return to work are set to benefit from the new pilot.

The deadline for the application window of this scheme has been extended until 14 October. More info at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-1-million-fund-to-help-faith-groups-support-communities>

Council services to support people to live independently

Residents and local community groups may like to know about a few Council services that are in place to support people to live independently at home, to keep connected and to know that someone will regularly be in touch with them or on the end of the phone if they need some practical help.

Our Visiting Support Service is free for people over the age of 65, with a short-term focus to support people in their home – perhaps someone recovering from an operation, or who will be on their own for a short time-frame, or who is having an unexpected crisis. The Community Warden Service is longer-term, and a nominal fee is payable; these clients can be of any age, and the wardens will ring up or visit on a regular basis, and can help with tasks such as form-filling, picking up some essentials from the shop, or just being a friendly face. The Community Lifeline Service (under £4.50/week) provides a worn pendant that individuals of any age can press in an emergency, such as if they have a fall at home on their own. You can find out more about all of these services on our website:

- www.scams.gov.uk/visitingsupportservice
- www.scams.gov.uk/mobilewardenscheme
- www.scams.gov.uk/lifelines

We have produced some leaflets and posters to raise awareness of these services-attached are samples. If you would like some leaflets or a few posters to display please email Lesley.McFarlane@Scams.gov.uk.

Cambourne Youth Club

South Cambs DC is also very pleased to help parishes to deliver services to their communities - especially to young and elderly residents. It is therefore good news that Cambourne parish Council are now drawing down a £500,000 loan from the District council to help them to build a new youth centre that will provide much needed leisure facilities for young people not only in Cambourne but in nearby villages

Growth Fund

Because of South Cambs success in getting all the government's Covid grants out quickly and efficiently to our businesses, we now have an additional sum of Growth Fund money to spend. The £1,383,610.00 is not for businesses to survive covid but for businesses that have survived to be able to grow and in so doing increase the number of people they employ, their turnover and their profits. So far £1,005,000 has been spent and this money has gone to 63 South Cambs businesses from a vast range of sectors with grants ranging in size from £2,500.00 to £50,000.00. If you have a business with potential to grow, contact the council's business support team for advice and support to apply for your share of the remaining £378,610.00

Greater Cambridge Local Plan – First Proposals

The preferred options have now been through the committee processes of both Cambridge City and South Cambs councils. The month of September was busy indeed. Officers are now making the final changes that were suggested through the processes and given the green light by SCDC Cabinet last week Friday. We are still working toward starting the public consultation on 1st November 2021. So I suggest that PCs in the ward put an item on the agenda for both November and December meetings, with the first being to agree on if to respond or not and how, and the second to approve the response for submission by the deadline of Monday 13th December 2021. If you meet less regularly, do use a process that suits your calendar.

OxCam Arc

Reminder that the consultation closes **11:45pm on 12 October 2021**. You can read the full details and take part <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-vision-for-the-oxford-cambridge-arc>.

I have written an explanatory note on my blog at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/consultation-on-vision-for-oxford-cambridge-arc/>. I encourage everyone to take the time to send in comments on this consultation.

GO GREEN: Go one step greener and make your green pledge today!

In the run up to COP26 at the end of October, we're asking residents to go one step greener and think about how they can make a difference and limit global warming. It might be using less heating or turning the thermostat down by a couple of degrees, utilising public transport more often or, if you are really feeling bold, investing in an electric/hybrid car. It may be a small change, but together we can make a big difference. Did you know that by turning your heating down by 1°C it can reduce bills by £60 and save 310kg of carbon emissions a year? Imagine the saving if a whole street did that!

To get involved, save the my/our pledge template download from <https://bit.ly/Cop26Pledge> add your personal pledge and upload it to your social media to let your followers know of the change you are making to ensure our planet is a greener and more sustainable place to live. When you post, add the hashtags #COP26 #TogetherForOurPlanet

Electric Bin Lorries

South Cambs is moving forward with its commitment to be Zero Carbon with the purchase of two (2) more electric bin lorries. These vehicles are expensive but the savings that are made on fuel together with the environmental benefits means that they pay for themselves in a relatively short period of time.

Civil Enforcement of parking in South Cambridgeshire

Proposals to draw-up plans to improve the way illegal parking is tackled have moved a step closer.

Introducing civil parking enforcement in South Cambridgeshire would see responsibilities for tackling illegal parking shift from Cambridgeshire Police to the County Council. This would mean drivers parking illegally and inconsiderately, such as on double yellow lines or too close to a junction or a school, could be fined by Civil Enforcement Officers. This arrangement is common in most other parts of the country and will be considered for South Cambridgeshire by the District Council's Cabinet as the County Council's plans progress.

A decision made at Cambridgeshire County Council's Highways and Transport Committee will see the County Council prepare an application to the Secretary of State for a Special Enforcement Area, via the Department for Transport, to introduce civil parking enforcement in South Cambridgeshire, as well as the districts of Huntingdonshire and Fenland.

In South Cambridgeshire, the work to draw-up these plans will be funded by the Greater Cambridge Partnership and a formal update on this funding arrangement will follow later this year. A consultation process would be part of the developing plans, allowing residents and businesses to have their say. All civil parking enforcement schemes need to generate enough income to pay for themselves, which will inform how the scheme is developed for South Cambridgeshire.

Rehoming Afghan Refugees

I reported last month that South Cambs Council has agreed to support three Afghan families by providing homes for them in the district. We have now been able to find five more homes so we can support more families. They will relocate to the UK through the Afghan Locally Employed Support (LES) scheme.

Health and Wellbeing

The Action for Happiness theme for October is **Optimistic October**. The calendar is at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/october> This month's actions are encouraging us to **set some goals**. Make goals achievable and ensure that you have a few short term as well as longer term, more ambitious goals so you can see how the progress you make. Are you sharing this calendar?

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 stay safe. The maxim **Hands – Face – Space - Fresh Air** is still very much the rule. The nights are drawing in now, and clocks go back on 31 October 2021.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
6 October 2021

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