

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Report to Haslingfield Parish Council November 2020

Covid 19

The council will soon be working with other councils to operate a local system of test and trace. Details are still being worked up but it should go 'live' later this month and Environmental Health officers will be working within a rota with officers from the other authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The decision by the government not to extend free school meals outside of term to eligible children has prompted a number of initiatives in the district, both raising money and donating meals. In case the government's position on this remain unchanged, SCDC is in talks with the County Council and other District Councils with a view to providing more support for hungry children during the Christmas break.

During the lockdown earlier in the year, people were less inclined to contact their GP with non-Covid matters and hospitals prepared for the expected rise in Covid patients by emptying their wards to make space. A side-effect of this has been a rise in the number of people needing treatment now for acute illnesses. Local hospitals report that, as a result, they are nearly at capacity treating patients who are too ill to be discharged as well as having to treat a rising number of severe cases of Covid-19. Since they will be unable to empty their wards as they did in the spring, if Covid case numbers rise significantly as expected. This has been a major driver for the second lockdown.

Small grants of £100 to £400 are still available for parish councils and community groups to help with their day-to-day volunteer activities. Top-up grants of larger sums are also available in the case of short-term hardship on a case-by-case basis.

The council is also preparing for the Local Restriction Support Grants and Discretionary Grants and the Business Support Team is working closely with the Business Rates and Policy teams to deliver and administer these. They are, however, waiting on further detail from Central Government on both schemes, and won't be able to process anything until that is published. The latest information on the grants will be available here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/>

J11 Travel Hub / Park and Ride

We understand that this may be heard by Cambridgeshire County Council Planning Committee at their December meeting (scheduled for 17th), though this has not been confirmed. Highways England have confirmed that they are satisfied with the modelling and that the impact on the M11 and junction will be acceptable. There could, however, be implications for the application from the court of appeal ruling earlier this year on the 3rd runway at Heathrow (the 3rd runway was rejected in this ruling due to a failure to take account of government climate targets) and it will be interesting to see if the committee consider this.

Cambridge South Station Consultation

Just to confirm that the consultation is now live: <https://cambridgesouthconsultation.com/>

Cambridge South East Transport Scheme

Another consultation that we missed flagging last month, this time on the detailed design of the route and mitigation measures for the landscape and the environment for the Cambridge South East Transport scheme. The scheme will connect the city, the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and the proposed Cambridge South station with communities to the south east including Great Shelford, Stapleford and Sawston with onwards journeys to Haverhill. It will also provide links to the Granta Park and Babraham Research Campus sites.

The consultation is open until 14th December: www.greatercambridge.org.uk/CambridgeSET.

CPCA Climate Change Commission

And another consultation! The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Change Commission has launched a public survey on the most pressing issues of climate change and what action should be taken: <http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk-6985942.hs-sites.com/cpicc-have-your-say>

East West Rail

Another meeting with Anthony Browne and EWR representatives, this time for District and County Councillors, is scheduled for this week. We will of course pass on any new information.

Police cuts

We are very concerned about the impact of cuts to PCSOs in the county, as outlined in the Chief constable's recent statement. The reduction is from 80 PCSOs to 40 across the county, as part of a package to save £1.7 million in next year's budget. We are still waiting for more details of exactly how this will affect the villages in the ward.

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