

CALDECOTE PARISH COUNCIL

(South Cambridgeshire District)

MINUTES

**A meeting of this Council was held in the Sports Pavilion, Caldecote
On Thursday 7th October 2021.**

Members of the public are reminded that copies of reports and supporting documentation for agenda items can be obtained from the Parish Council website, <http://caldecote.gov.uk> or upon request to the Parish Clerk.

Present: Cllr Polly Field (PF, Chairman), Cllr John Barker (JB), Cllr and District Cllr Tumi Hawkins (TH), Cllr Jack Lang (JL)

In Attendance: Alan Melton (Parish Clerk), Katy Reeves (Deputy Clerk). There were two members of the public present.

- 1. Public open forum** – A resident reported that the pavements outside the school are showing signs of heaving, presenting a trip hazard. It was advised that this should be reported to the County Council.

An update on flooding-related issues on the Linden Homes building site was provided. It was noted that some of the drainage that should now be in place on the Phase I site does not appear to have been completed and there have been issues with runoff. Residents plan to report this to the Planning Office. Regarding plans for the Phase II site, the resident and the LLFA have objected on the basis that there is insufficient detail provided in the drainage plans. Information is required on whether the pipes and attenuation pond that will already be in place are large enough to cope with the extra housing, whether the ditches will drain in the correct direction and what the drainage timetable will be. These objections have been sent to Mr Sexton, the Principal Planner.

Clarification was sought on the Parish Council's response to the plans for the Phase II Linden site as those showing on the planning portal do not match the statements made in the minutes of the June 2021 Parish Council meeting. The Clerk and Chairman will write to Mr Sexton to ensure that this is corrected.

- 2. Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Nicola Pritchard (NP), Cllr Claire Robinson (CR) and County Cllr Michael Atkins.
- 3. Members' declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests** – There were no declarations of interests.
- 4. Chairman's Announcements** – There were no announcements.
- 5. Minutes of the last Meeting** – The minutes of the Council meeting held on 2nd September 2021 were approved as a correct record and duly signed by Cllr P Field.
- 6. Actions**

- **Vacancies** – The Clerk reported that the deadline for residents to call a by-election has now passed and no election was called. The Council will now advertise for candidates for co-option. The Clerk reported that one application has already been received.
- **Dog Bins** – The Clerk reported that there is one bin that remains to be installed.
- **Free Trees** – The Clerk reported that the Parish Council have been offered a further six free trees.

*Parish Clerk: Alan Melton, 20 St. Martins Road, Chatteris, Cambs PE16 6JF
Email: parishclerk@caldecote.gov.uk*

- **Letter from Anthony Browne MP** – The Clerk reported on an email sent to the Chairman from Anthony Browne MP concerning a community champion recognition scheme and noted that he has not received any nominations. Cllr Hawkins requested that a list of correspondence received by the Council be added to the agenda for future meetings.

7. **Report from District Councillor and County Councillor**

District Cllr T Hawkins provided a monthly report. Key points included:

- An update on COVID-19, noting that case numbers are rising rapidly, the majority of which are in the 0-17yrs age group. It is recommended that everyone continues to take appropriate precautions.
- Information on a local campaign to be kind when contacting GP practices, which continue to face growing pressure.
- Information on the official end of the shielding programme and the support that is now available for those classified as clinically extremely vulnerable.
- Information on the District Council's contribution to Black History Month 2021, including several online events.
- Notification of a Christmas Market to take place in Cambourne on Sunday 5th December 2021.
- Proposals to introduce civil parking enforcement in South Cambridgeshire.
- News that five more homes have been identified in South Cambridgeshire to house Afghan refugee families.
- The consultation for the Local Plan will begin in November 2021 and it is recommended that this is added to the agenda for the November and December 2021 Parish Council meetings.

8. **Cambridge Club/ Strawberries and Cream** – It was noted that there had been some parking problems on West Drive associated with these events and that next year the no parking area should be expanded.

9. **Consultation – Local Plan** – This will be considered at the November 2021 meeting

10. **Consultation on Local Plan – sign off** – This will be considered at the December 2021 meeting

11. **Planning Applications**

• **20/04702/OUT**. Erection of 2 Dwellings – Drainage Strategy. At Land at the back of 4&6 East Drive, Highfields, Caldecote. No response required.

• **21/04007/S73**: S73 variation of condition 4 (Occupation) of outline planning permission (S2045/04/O) Agricultural Dwelling. At Orchard Farm, Main Street, Caldecote.

No agreement was reached, therefore no response will be made. Cllr T Hawkins abstained from the vote.

• **21/04144/HFUL**: Single Storey Rear Extension. At 47 Clare Drive, Highfields, Caldecote

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to the application. Cllr T Hawkins abstained from the vote.

12. Financial Reports –

- **Summary of receipts and payments.** A report on the on current budget vs. expenditure dated 1st October 2021 was received and approved.
- **Bank Reconciliation.** The bank reconciliation dated 25th September 2021 was received and **approved**. The Clerk noted that he recently attended a presentation from a company that provides investment strategies for Parish Councils and will be looking further into this.
- **Accounts for payment.** The schedule of payments (attached) was received. It was **RESOLVED** that the payment of bills be approved, except for the following invoices:
 - Invoice from CGM for grass cutting cricket outfield, strimming, litter picking, blowing paths clear – 3 visits in July (£90), as grass cutting is included in the contract with CGM and litter picking is not a service that CGM have been asked to undertake for the council.
 - Invoice from CGM for 1/8 grounds maintenance contract (£1822.32), owing to ongoing issues with work not being completed.
 - A late-arriving invoice from CGM (not shown on the schedule of payments) for grass cutting cricket outfield in August 2021 (£120), as grass cutting is included in the contract with CGM.

The Chairman requested that information be sought on when the payments for the Community phone would end, as the scheme is no longer running.

- **Budget 2022/2023.** The Clerk presented an early draft version of the 2022/2023 budget and asked members to look at it and consider items that should be added/ altered for the next meeting.
- **Closure of Annual Accounts.** The Clerk reported that the External Auditors report has been received and the information in sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR found to be in accordance with proper practices, with the following exceptions: that the Council should have answered 'No' to Section 1, Assertion 4 (that the authority made proper provision during the year 2020/21 for the exercise of public rights), to Section 1, Assertion 7 (that the authority took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit) and to Section 1, Assertion 1 (because the authority failed to approve the AGAR in time to publish it before 1 July 2021, the date required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015).

The auditor further noted that the period for exercise of public rights in the current financial year (2021/22) was less than 30 consecutive working days and the notice regarding the period for the exercise of public rights was not published at least one day before the start of the period. The Council must therefore answer 'No' to Section 1, Assertion 4 in the AGAR for 2021/22 and ensure that it makes proper provision of public rights during 2022/23.

- **Banking mandates.** It was agreed that the Clerk will arrange for additional signatories to be added to the Unity Trust bank account.

13. **Leisure and Amenities report –** Cllr P Field reported that there is broken fencing on Strympole Way that needs to be removed or replaced. The fencing around the play area at Furlong Way will be replaced after the completion of Phase II of the upgrade works.

14. **Play Equipment – Stage 2 – Authorize next steps.** It was agreed that an updated quote will be sought for the provision of the next stage of the play equipment for the play

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area at Furlong Way. Cllr P Field noted that additional equipment will be needed, as the seesaw now needs to be decommissioned.

15. **Social Media Policy** – The Deputy Clerk reported that she has drawn up a draft communications and social media policy for consideration by the Council. It was agreed that this will be re-circulated and discussed at a future meeting.
16. **Councillor Training** – It was agreed that a list of upcoming Councillor training events will be circulated.
17. **Correspondence** – The Clerk reported that problems with the urinals at the Pavilion have been reported and that their replacement has been arranged.

The Clerk reported that the memorial bench for John Newby has been ordered.

18. **Councillor Reports–**

Cllr T Hawkins noted that she was disappointed that no representatives of Caldecote Parish Council were able to attend the recent Parish Council Planning Meeting organised by SCDC. The Chairman noted that it is difficult to find volunteers without a full complement of Councillors.

19. **Dates and times of the next meeting** – Thursday 7th November 2021

The Meeting Closed at 8.25 pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS: to consider and approve the schedule of payments. * = cost incurred as a result of vandalism.

Key to Frequency (Freq) codes:

O = 'one-off' or intermittent regular payment with no set frequency.

T = Termly (usually associated with youth club payments which get invoiced on a termly basis) **A** = Annually. **M** = Monthly. **Q** = Quarterly. $\frac{1}{2}$ = Half-Yearly.

Payments made since last meeting that require Council approval

Payment date	Voucher #	Amount	To	For	Budget Code	Freq
08/9/21	107	92.64	BT	Pavilion broadband	38	M
15/9/21	108	10.00	Nicola Pritchard	Community support phone	34	M
16/9/21	109	94.32	British Gas	Pavilion electricity	36	M
21/9/21	110	44.45	E-On	Cabin electricity	45	M
28/09/21	111	350.74	HMRC	PAYE Sep 2021	33	M
28/09/21	112-114	1460.18	Staff salaries	Salaries Sep 2021	27,28,29	M
28/09/21	115	200.00	Royal British Legion Ind.	Unknown Tommy remembrance statue	8?	O
28/09/21	117	17.48	P Field	Cleaning supplies	44	O
30/9/21	116	18.00	Unity Trust	Bank charges	67	Q
?/10/21	?	2,531.67	Came & Co	Insurance renewal	65	A

New payments yet to be made requiring Council approval

Amount	To	For	Budget Code	Freq
19.50	Katy Reeves	Expenses Sep 21	6	M
242.25	Alan Melton	Expenses Sep 21	5	M
90.00	CGM	Grass cutting cricket outfield, strimming, litter picking, blowing paths clear – 3 visits in July	53	O
1822.32	CGM	1/8 grounds maintenance	54	O

		contract (Sep 21)		
1470.49	Glasdon	Bins	54	O
500.00	Hardwick and Caldecote Cricket Club	Cricket pitch preparation August 2021	61	O
200.00	Hardwick and Caldecote Cricket Club	Cricket pitch preparation Sep 2021	61	O
480.00	PKF Littlejohn	External audit	66	A
645.29	Fenland Leisure	Play equipment maintenance and repairs – Grayway Close	49	O

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.

District Councillor Tumi

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](#) at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/equalityand-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](#))- 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@scambs.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-supportcommunities>

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.scambs.gov.uk/visitingsupportservice
- www.scambs.gov.uk/mobilewardenscheme

-
- www.scambs.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@Scambs.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-oxfordcambridge-arc>.

I have written an explanatory note on my blog at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/consultation-on-visionfor-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

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
Twitter:	@CouncillorTumi
Facebook	@itsCouncillorTumi
LinkedIn	TumiHawkins
Call me on:	07802 323269

County Councillor Report Cllr Michael Atkins, Hardwick Division September 2021

Summary

- Covid-19: significant rise in cases, vaccinations being offered in schools
- Local Plan First Proposals: 19 (out of 690) sites proposed, 1 in Hardwick Division
- Local climate leaders: nominations ahead of COP26
- LHI Bids: deadline extended to 14th October
- Afghan Refugees: three families to be settled in South Cambs.
- Active Travel: discussions ongoing over three local schemes □ Contact details

Covid-19

Following the return of schools, case numbers have risen rapidly to approximately 300 per 100,000 residents. Over 40% of new cases are in the 10-19 age range, and most schools are reporting some level of infection. However, cases have also started to rise again for over 40s, which is suspected to be children bringing the virus home from school.

Vaccinations of 12-15 year olds have commenced on school premises, and the aim is that most schools will be visited before half term.

Vaccination rates are comparably low in Cambridge city, so please continue to encourage friends and family to take up the vaccine if they have not already done so. This and the usual safety measures are very important to keeping pressure off our local hospitals.

Local Plan – First Proposals

The Local Plan, when adopted, will be a set of policies, approved sites and other documents detailing where major housing and business development will take place across Greater Cambridge from 2021 to 2041. We are currently mid-way through the development process, with adoption scheduled for 2024 or 2025.

The current pipeline of approved housing development is unlikely to fully meet the need for new houses, so in 2019 there was a Call for Sites, with over 690 new suggested sites put forward for development, including several in our villages. These have been evaluated, and The First Proposals have now been published, identifying 19 of those 690 new sites as suitable and sufficient to meet to our housing needs.

There are 37,000 houses already allocated to existing sites ('the pipeline'), and a further 2,500 houses are proposed for these sites through more rapid construction and/or increased density. The 19 new sites will roughly contribute: a further 4,000 houses in Cambridge; 3,000 on the edge of Cambridge; 2,000 in new settlements; and just under 400 in rural areas.

These sites have been proposed because they meet our housing needs whilst minimising the climate impacts of both the development and the ongoing living at those sites, which has led to a strong preference for urban and new-town sites with good public transport.

There is one new site proposed within Hardwick division, and one just outside our area:

- Highfields Caldecote: phase 2 of the “Linden” development to the east of Highfields Rd
- Dry Drayton/Highfields Caldecote: employment site on the north side of St Neots Rd

These sites do not have planning permission as we are still at First Proposal stage, and the Plan could be changed before being adopted in 2024/2025. It is however unlikely that the other sites in our area put forward in the Call for Sites will now be adopted into the Plan, but I will of course inform residents if this changes.

The First Proposals are currently being scrutinised by councillors from both South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City councils. After this, there will be a public consultation in November and December 2021. The consultation will be an important opportunity to parish councils and residents to feed into the plan and I hope many of you will take part. I appreciate this is a long and complex process, and I would be happy to speak to any parish council or resident with concerns.

Local Climate Leaders

Ahead of the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), Glasgow in November, the Council wishes to celebrate those individuals, businesses or community groups who've found meaningful ways to take positive environmental action, and so inspire others to help tackle the climate emergency. Please consider nominating any who fit this description, by emailing communications@cambridgeshire.gov.uk explaining why they deserve to be an ambassador for climate action in our area.

LHI bids

Parish Councils are invited to apply on an annual basis for funding for Local Highway Improvements, and the deadline for 2022/3 bids has just been extended to the 14th October. Many of our villages have been successful in receiving funding for safety measures to reduce car speeds, and I would be happy to discuss this with any local parish that is interested, and advise on the application if helpful.

Afghan Refugees

Thank you to local residents who have been in touch asking how they can support Afghan refugee families. The District and County Councils are working together to offer homes to 3 families escaping the terror in Afghanistan, using houses available through SCDC's private rental housing company. The County Council with specialist charities will make sure that these people have the access they need to support, education and health services so that they can start to rebuild their lives.

Active Travel

Discussions are ongoing over three proposed Active Travel schemes in our villages: a proposed bus gate and one-way system on St Neots Rd, Hardwick; one-way systems in Madingley; and a cycle lane over the M11/Barton Rd bridge. Although the consultation has now closed, I am still liaising with officers on this matter, so please let me know any comments you wish to be considered. Any schemes taken forward will be subject to individual consultation on the final design.

Contact Details

Councillors and residents are welcome to contact me on any issue which is concerning them:

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