

Melbourn Parish Council June 2020 – District and County Councillors report

Test and Trace responsibility delegated to Local Authorities

We are being urged to support a new NHS Test and Trace programme which will aim to track every case of Covid-19 in our communities. Cambs County Council as local public health authority has been given responsibility for managing testing and tracing in schools, care homes, work places and other settings where outbreaks are especially susceptible. The council's brief is to develop that system by the end of June, at which point more information will be available. While additional funding has been promised, capacity issues are complicated. For now, everyone is being asked to follow this three-step plan:

- Step 1 - If you have one or more of the symptoms of Covid-19 – a fever, a new continuous cough or a loss of taste or smell – you and the people you live with must immediately self-isolate.
- Step 2 – You then must book a test on the NHS coronavirus website and if you don't have internet access dial 119. Do not leave home for any other reason. If you test positive, you will then be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service within 24 hours.
- Step 3 – If you do test positive, NHS Test and Trace will help you establish who you have been in contact with and might have infected. This could be members of your own household already isolating or someone you have been within 2 metres of for more than 15 minutes. You will also be given clinical advice and support for dealing with the virus. NHS Test and Trace will then contact those contacts anonymously. If you are one of those contacts, you will be advised to isolate for 14 days, even if you don't have symptoms or feel perfectly well. If you developed symptoms, you would be required to get a test.

New national government policy on local authority planning enforcement, including extending hours on building construction sites, is set out here.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2020-05-13/HCWS234/>

HGV traffic policy review

Thank you to the parish council for feedback on Susan's appeal for views on a prospective County Council review of current HCV traffic policy and advisory map.

Greater Cambridge Partnership: Gateway Review and June decisions

The GCP has successfully passed its government 'Gateway Review', meaning that a next tranche of funding (£400 million) has been allocated for the next phase of the GCP's work on infrastructure development – including housing, skills and transport. Details here.

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/news/government-review-success-2020>

The Foxton Travel Hub and Melbourn Greenway schemes go to the Greater Cambridge Partnership Exec Board June 25.

The report recommends the Southern Option for the Foxton Travel Hub.

The Melbourn Greenway report proposes a number of measures for Melbourn, funding of the Melbourn to Royston pedestrian cycle path and a detailed design stage for the proposed bridge, the construction of which would be contingent on agreement with Hertfordshire.

Reports are here:

https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1299/Committee/36/Default.aspx

Community Rail Partnership:

The CRP has published a 'Local Stations Improvement Plan' which contains an updated audit of our stations, and recommendations for strategic improvements. This has been circulated to the parish council.

The CRP has now received formal accreditation status by the Dept for Transport, making it eligible for a new range of funding.

Rail Services

Adapted rail services in the Covid-19 outbreak has moved from a 'Sunday schedule' to a 'Saturday schedule' - remaining hourly for the time-being. Please always check before you travel. The Meldreth Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership website links to live services and also to government advice and guidance on 'essential travel'. <http://meldrethsheprethfoxtonrail.org.uk/>

Bus Services

We're advised always to check with the operator before planning trip by bus, as many services remain curtailed.

The 128 service continues to operate on a normal schedule in Melbourn, Meldreth, Whaddon and Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth. However, new practice due to Covid protections includes: hand sanitizer provided for use by passengers when boarding; exact change only accepted for fare-paying passengers; only 9-10 passengers per vehicle permitted. A number of seats must be marked off for no occupancy.

For up-to-date timetable information on the Stagecoach Busway A service, connecting Royston to Melbourn, Shepreth, Foxton, points in Cambridge and north to St Ives, please see here.

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/help-and-contact/national/covid-timetables-and-services>

Bins

South Cambs District Council has promised to collect our green bins at least monthly in the phased return to normal service. If possible they will collect every other week, so we are asked to put our green bins out fortnightly and they'll do their best. Please do check the SCDC live updates on next bin collections. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/bins/>

Recycling Centres

The County Council writes: "When the sites re-opened on Monday 11 May, the decision was taken to delay access to permit holders due to concerns over the time it would take them to unload these larger capacity vehicles, affecting levels of traffic and the ability to adhere to strict Covid-19 social distancing measures on each site.

Following the weekly review of the service we are satisfied that, while the sites have been busy, there is enough capacity to gradually extend their use to permit holders. Access will initially be only allowed for permit holders that pre-book visits via an online booking system that went live on Monday 1 June. The first visits for vehicles requiring permits will take place from Wednesday 3 June.

Link to online booking system and instructions:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/booking-system-for-e-permit-holders>

The online booking system for permit holders is a temporary measure and will allow us to stagger access for these vehicles at each site throughout the day, helping to limit queues and ensuring continued access to everyone who needs to make an essential visit to their local HRC. We have contacted all residents that hold permits by direct mail to inform them of these arrangements so they can book a slot at an HRC to use one of their 12 permitted visits.

Link to e-permit scheme information and online application form:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centre-e-permit-scheme>

We will continue to review the service on a weekly basis and make amendments where necessary.”

Innovate and Cultivate Grant Funding

Cambridgeshire County Council is pleased to announce that the next deadline for Innovate & Cultivate Fund applications is 1st August 2020. One-to-one pre-application advice will be offered on 16th and 25th June.

The aim of the fund is to support initiatives that strengthen our communities and reduce pressure on County Council services, thereby giving a return on investment. Council services that are inviting applications are adult social care and children’s services. The fund is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. Please note that projects serving Peterborough residents are not eligible.

There are two funding streams: a ‘Cultivate’ fund for smaller projects that build community support networks and an ‘Innovate’ fund for bigger, bolder and more innovative initiatives.

Upcoming application deadlines:

- 1st August 2020 - Cultivate grants (£2,000 - £19,000) and Innovate grants (£19,001 - £50,000)
- 1st November 2020 – Cultivate grants only (£2,000 - £19,000) – subject to change

Pre-application advice:

We encourage organisations to talk through project ideas before submitting an application. Bookings are now open for one-to-one telephone advice appointments on Tuesday 16th June and Thursday 25th June between 9:30am-1:30pm. These 15-minute appointments must be pre-booked and are available on a first come first served basis. Please [book here](#).

Applications and further information about fund priorities and criteria may be found on the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) [website](#). CCF can answer questions about applying for the fund info@cambscf.org.uk.

Next Local Plan news

The Issues and Options Consultation report was published on Friday (22 May) and sets out that the consultation ‘reached more residents than ever’. The report marks the start of a lengthy process to

develop the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan – the first joint Local Plan between Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councils.

Once finalised, the Local Plan will set out where in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire development is allowed to happen – where homes, business space, community facilities, shops and leisure facilities can be built and where green spaces can be protected or created.

From the circa 7,000 comments received, which the councils are still in the process of analysing, the [Initial Feedback from the Consultation](#) identified some key areas to be explored during the development of the Local Plan:

- On **where to build**, it appears there is support for densification of existing urban areas, along with development along public transport corridors. Views on development around villages were polarised and, on green belt development, it appears there is some support for locations which are sustainable in transport terms, to reduce car travel from locations further away
- Most people agree that the right **seven themes** have been identified for the Plan, but there was a range of views about which themes should take priority
- **Infrastructure** – which can refer to road and cycle networks, education and health provision, and more – was the theme that attracted the most interest, by a substantial margin, with transport being the most commented on topic
- The second most popular theme was **homes**, followed by **climate change**, which prompted a wide range of views – from those who felt it was a high priority, to those who felt that other issues should take precedence
- Many responses said that continuing **economic growth** was important, although many also raised questions around whether growth was desirable. Some stated that wellbeing was a priority over growth, while others expressed the view that economic growth was the means to raise quality of life.

The report also sets out a proposed timeline for the next stages of the Local Plan process: “Preferred Options” for where development might take place will not be published until the summer next year.

More help for local businesses

Over £1.25m in grant funding has been released to help hundreds of small South Cambridgeshire businesses – who have not been eligible for Coronavirus support so far – to secure jobs and recover.

Eligible businesses such as charities, market traders, B&Bs and those in shared offices or flexible workspaces are invited to apply as soon as possible to the District Council for the new funding, and no later than midnight on 22 June.

The one-off payments under the Government’s discretionary grants scheme range from £2,500 for small firms, £10,000 for charities and up to £10,000 for other businesses connected to the retail, hospitality and leisure industry. Firms that have already benefitted from previous Government grants do not qualify.

The Council has set up a special team to assess applications and distribute funding fairly and efficiently to eligible businesses that need support as the lockdown eases. This includes:

- Small businesses in shared offices or other flexible workspaces with a minimum rent of £250 per month
- Regular market traders who are based in the same physical location with fixed building costs and registered with the Council’s Environmental Health / Licensing Service
- B&Bs that pay Council Tax and are registered with the Council’s Environmental Health Service

- Charities that pay business rates to the Council and would meet the criteria to receive Small Business Rates Relief if they were an equivalent sized business.

These businesses will be notified of the Council's decision as soon as possible.

The Council has introduced a fifth category for businesses not included in the above, which form part of the supply chain for the retail, hospitality and leisure industry and can demonstrate they have lost a minimum of 75% of their annual income as a result of COVID-19. With funding limited, the over-riding factor for grant determination will be the number of people employed. These businesses will be advised of any decisions after 22 June.

Among the qualifying criteria, businesses must have been trading on 11 March 2020, have a turnover of no more than £10.2m and employ less than 50 people.

Susan, Jose and Philippa