

## **Melbourn Parish Council 20 Oct 2020 – District and County Councillor Report**

### **Covid-19 and recalibration of District and County Hubs**

As is well known through the media and public information websites, there has been a concerning rise in cases in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. The District and County Councils are poised to support community Covid support groups should the need arise; meanwhile everyone is being asked to help disseminate public health advice on hand hygiene, social distancing and staying home as much as possible, plus guarding against complacency.

Once again, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Public Health Intelligence detailed updates on Covid-19 cases and settings are here:

[https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/coronavirus\\_cambridgeshire/cambridgeshire-and-peterborough-public-health-covid-19-reports/](https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/coronavirus_cambridgeshire/cambridgeshire-and-peterborough-public-health-covid-19-reports/)

### **Council finances**

We will have more to report in the near future on the impact of Covid on district and county council finances, ahead of the 2021-22 budget setting.

### **South Cambridgeshire Hall – SCDC offices**

Having just re-opened South Cambs Hall it has now been closed again as part of our efforts to do all we can to minimise the spread of Coronavirus locally. We feel this is the right and responsible thing to do following the latest Government announcements. Residents and businesses have been able to carry out the vast majority of transactions without visiting and for the small number of tasks that have required people to visit in-person, such as pension verification, we have made arrangements to continue delivering them in a safe way. Please check the website for further details.

### **Melbourn and Bassingbourn Oil Club – household heating oil**

The Melbourn and Bassingbourn Division Oil Club, working with local oil supplier Agricole Oil, exists to help householders access the best available prices.

There is no joining fee and no obligation to make more than one order – please simply contact Jeremy Cole at Agricole Oil if you'd like to know more about how things work or how to make an order: [Jeremy@agricole.co.uk](mailto:Jeremy@agricole.co.uk), tel [01954 719452](tel:01954719452).

Every year, Agricole Oil gives us a rebate which is based on the volume of orders made, and the Oil Club in turn donates this to a community group. Last year the rebate went to Royston and District Community Transport.

### **Difficulties with Water bills?**

Cambridge Water is offering help for people struggling to pay their water bills because of COVID-19. Please contact Cambridge Water via the website, by Facebook or Twitter or give call 0800 587 7701. More information can be found online at <https://www.cambridge-water.co.uk/covid-help>. Tailored support including the Assure social tariff (for customers whose household income is less than £16,380 a year); the Assure Covid-19 tariff, which is available for a 12-week period for customers whose household income has been impacted by the Coronavirus outbreak and is temporarily less than £16,380 a year; as well as a number of other plans.

### **Melbourn One-way Streets?**

Apologies as feedback from Highways is still being chased.

### **Community Rail Partnership News:**

#### **Rail User Group meeting November 18**

A virtual meeting will be hosted on Zoom for rail user group and any interested residents, to hear about the current state of play around rail services.

#### **Turning the tubs around for winter on the station platforms**

In spite of the pandemic, local volunteers have been continuing to work behind the scenes to ensure our station garden remains cheerful and well-tended, for which many thanks. Do please get in touch if you'd like to help out in any way – all according to Covid protocols of course.

#### **Amazon locker at Meldreth Station**

Amazon lockers are being rolled out at a number of railway stations, and one has been offered for Meldreth. This would serve as a collection point for Amazon packages. The Community Rail Partnership had only 24 hours notice and felt on balance that it would be a useful additional public amenity to the station environment. It will be installed on the hard standing where currently there are four poorly positioned cycle racks; we've asked for the racks to be re-sited elsewhere in the station car park area – details to be worked out. As you may have seen, a brand new 16-unit covered cycle park facility was installed in the car park just before lockdown.