

Melbourn Parish Council Aug 2, 2021 – District and County Councillors' Report

Little Lane: We have been working very closely with residents and Highways to refresh signage and get the messaging right for incoming traffic to make drivers aware of the 6ft-width restriction, to protect themselves and properties owners who's sustained costly property damage on account of excessively wide vehicles making their way down a lane that narrows as it goes along. New signage expected soon.

Orchard Road between Maple Way and Water Lane: We've sought assistance from Highways with regard to raising awareness of the stretch of Orchard Road without a pavement, and the path coming into that stretch from Ash Grove. Signage to warn drivers of children crossing the road is now on the Highways list and we hope that will be with us soon.

Drains: The Highways team has been back to investigate the system between the High St car park and the Cross. Work in progress.

Train services: semi-fasts to and from London, and half-hourly Saturday services: GTR are running a consultation on changes to the timetable in May 2022. The consultation is open until 5th August 2021. The highlights of the proposed timetable are:

- 6 semi-fast services from the village stations in the morning peak from 06:05 to 08:37. These services would take around 57 mins from Foxton to Kings Cross, 54 mins from Shepreth and 51 mins from Meldreth.
- 5 semi-fast services from Kings Cross to the village stations in the evening peak from 16.54 to 18.54. These services would take around 52 mins to Meldreth from Kings Cross, 55 mins to Shepreth and 58 mins to Foxton
- All day half hourly services on a Saturday

(The current hourly service on Sunday will remain as is.)

The Rail User Group and Community Rail Partnership have campaigned since the timetable change of May 2018 for these semi-fast services and half hourly weekend services, and we have been told that all feedback is useful to GTR to present a case to the DfT, so it would be great if our rail users could respond to the consultation in favour of the changes. You could also add that you support a half hourly service on Sundays if that would be useful to you.

Provide your feedback to gtr.timetableconsultation@gtrailway.com with the subject May 2022. For more information, you can visit the [Thameslink](#) website or download the [Consultation Booklet](#).

A10 Cycle Awareness Ride October 3: The A10 Awareness Ride will make a comeback on Sunday October 3rd, leaving Trumpington Park and Ride at 10:30AM bound for Melbourn. The ride will stick to the A10 cycle path and help familiarize cyclists of all ages with the current route and Melbourn Greenway plans to improve it. Road and Foxton level crossing junctions will be supervised by marshals, and we hope to conclude at Phillimore Garden Centre's front lawn with refreshments. If you can help volunteer as a marshal or in any other way, please get in touch. More information to come, and all subject to Covid of course. Any questions, please contact contacta10cycle@gmail.com.

Thakeham and South West Cambridge Action Group:

More helicopters: The SWCAG group has had confirmation that the late July helicopters over the villages were commissioned by Thakeham as part of its surveillance work.

Still no submission to Call for Sites: Nothing yet from Thakeham.

The OxCam Arc consultation has begun and runs for 12 weeks. This national growth scheme was brought in by central government following the 2019 General Election and conceptualizes population and economic growth in the 'arc' between Oxford and Cambridge. SWCAG's approach is that the most effective response will be one that engages in an informed and constructive way – let's make sure we do all we can to help ensure things are done in the best way possible. SCWAG is currently seeking advice from local experts who have offered to support SWCAG's aspirations to stop the Thakeham development on the grounds that it sits apart from principles of responsible, sustainable and strategic new population planning as established and implemented over decades by the Local Planning Authority.

You can read the recent announcement in full [on the Gov.uk website](#). The full consultation documents are also [available to view](#).

Possible disruption to green bin collections

From SCDC: Last week, [we gave advance warning](#) that fortnightly green bin collections could be disrupted in the weeks ahead due to the pandemic causing staff shortages – though collections remain as scheduled for now. If any changes to the schedule are needed the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service will let residents, parish councils and residents' associations know, and keep people up to date via the two councils' websites and social media channels.

New Washable Nappy Discount Scheme

Nappy and sanitary waste makes up nearly 10% of what we send to landfill from the black bins, and households with children in disposable nappies will know that they fill up their black bin very quickly. To encourage parents to switch to washable nappies, even for just one nappy change a day, the Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) partnership has teamed up with suppliers to offer a 10 to 15% discount off the cost of washable nappies, washable wipes, and reusable period products. The scheme is open to residents across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, who can apply through their own council's website. [South Cambridgeshire residents can apply now](#).

Growth Fund

[New Growth Fund](#), using Government funding, is designed to support South Cambridgeshire based businesses' growth and expansion plans. These could be start-ups looking to scale and grow quickly, or established companies which can clearly demonstrate ambitious growth plans. Businesses from any sector can apply, including sole traders and partnerships, for one-off grants of £1,000 to £50,000. The scheme will end when all funds have been allocated. [Find out more details and apply now](#).

Walk-in vaccine clinics in Cambourne

Three new dates have been confirmed for further walk-in Covid-19 vaccination clinics at The Hub in Cambourne (The Hub, High Street, Cambourne, CB23 6GW). This is to help make it easier for people to access their first and second doses:

- Outdoors (mobile van) on Tuesday 3 August, from 1pm to 7pm
- Outdoors (mobile van) on Tuesday 10 August, from 1pm to 7pm
- Indoors at the Hub on Saturday 9 October, from 10am to 4pm (at which anyone who had their first jab at one of the July/August walk-ins will be able to have their second jab).

There are plenty of other walk-in clinic dates and locations – visit [The Vaccinators website](#) for the latest information. Alternatively, it's really easy to book an appointment at a convenient time and location through the [national booking service](#).

or [Twitter](#), or visit the [press release online](#).

New County Council administration: taking stock and looking ahead

The new County Council administration has been taking stock of the council's financial position and ways of working, at a time of continuing increasing financial and demographic pressures as well as new variables around Covid legacy and recovery. In other words: less income and continuing need to 'make savings'; inflation; economic costs of Covid to the council; people getting older and/or with increasingly complex health needs; a highways network in 'managed decline'; as well as issues around member conduct and transparency (see next item). Our as a council job is provide the best possible services for our residents. We will be reporting in more detail in weeks to come. The next round of committee meetings is in September, and all meetings are live-streamed and accessible on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/CambsCountyCouncil/videos>

Conflict of interest guidance for County Council members to be strengthened

The County Council writes: "Changes to Cambridgeshire's conflicts of interest guidance for Members aim to improve transparency, build public confidence and ensure confidentiality where it's appropriate, the County Council's Constitution and Ethics Committee heard.

As part of the Council's responses to recommendations arising from the Manor Farm Audit, the Committee heard that training had taken place for all Members on the Members Code of Conduct, and approved the new guidance.

This will mean Members informing the Chief Executive in writing if they or their family are entering into a relationship with the council, such as receiving a complex social care service, entering into a dispute with the council or applying for a service which has an eligibility criteria – such as a tenancy.

As well as overseeing any decisions made in such instances, the Chief Executive, with the Monitoring officer and Head of Internal Audit will appoint a specific senior officer to oversee and support the relevant service to prevent delays and make sure the process is properly applied.

There will also be clear guidance about when a Member can and can't be identified.

This new guidance applies to all County Councillors, their immediate family, and when they are acting as a representative of another individual such as an executor.

It won't apply when Members are acting on behalf of a resident in their role as a councillor – unless they have a close personal relationship with them.

This guidance will now be recommended to Full Council as an appendix to the Members' Code of Conduct in the Council's Constitution to ensure the necessary level of visibility."

School Meal Vouchers: The Council has agreed to provide supermarket vouchers over the summer holidays for families entitled to free school meals. Up to £537K of council funds will be needed to make up the difference between Government funding and the cost of ensuring all eligible families have their needs met.

Apprenticeships Funding: Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed to transfer £273,000 of its apprenticeship levy fund to *K-10*, an organisation set up to support apprenticeships in the construction industry. *K-10* will work with award winning housebuilder Hill to find placements for the 21 apprentices in the county, allowing them to gain skills and qualifications in plumbing, electrical, carpentry, groundworks, dry-lining, bricklaying and painting.

As a levy paying employer, the council is able to transfer 25% of unused, annual levy funds to other employers that wish to utilise apprenticeships to train their staff. As the transfer of funds would support employment for Cambridgeshire residents on major construction projects with Hill, the funding transfer was approved. All of the apprenticeship positions are full time with the first year pay rate being £8.36 per hour. Apprentices will all be studying at colleges or training providers within the county for the duration of their apprenticeships.

K10 is recruiting now, so if you know of anyone aged 18 or above who may be interested in one of these fantastic opportunities, please encourage them to apply at www.k-10.co.uk/vacancies or send their CV directly to K10 at mahbub-uddin@k-10.co.uk.

Learning Disability Partnership – Employment Opportunities

The Cambridgeshire Learning Disability Partnership (LDP) brings together specialist health and social care services for people with a learning disability. The LDP is responsible for commissioning and providing these services on behalf of Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust and Cambridgeshire County Council. Some staff are employed by the County Council and some by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Trust, but they are all part of the LDP.

The roles we currently have available are:

- Nurses
- Lead Nurse for Adults with Learning Disabilities
- Senior Community Nurse
- Psychologists
- Principal Clinical/Counselling Psychologist
- Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist- Huntingdon
- Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist- March
- Occupational Therapists
- Specialist Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapists
- Physiotherapist
- Lead Physiotherapist

Please click here to go to our vacancy home page for further information and to apply.

<https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/latest-vacancies>

Settled status for EU citizens

The deadline for EU citizens to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme has now passed. However, the process is difficult, many long-term residents have not realised they need to apply (they were promised in 2016 that their right to remain would be automatic), and there are a large number of residents who have therefore not completed or even begun their applications and who are therefore at risk of losing homes, jobs, and basic rights such as healthcare. Efforts are being made to ensure the County Council continues to support these residents.