

Melbourn Parish Council District and County Councillors Report District and County Councillors report

Covid: Cambridgeshire 'Enhanced Response Area' status

Unfortunately, Covid rates in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been running so high that from early November we have been an 'Enhanced Response Area.' Local NHS and GP services are severely stretched, as many people will have experienced personally – both as patients and as employees – and schools across the county have been hard hit. This initiative by the Director of Public Health is both necessary and welcome.

Council meetings are being held virtually unless formal decision-making is required. The status runs at least through the first week in December and allows additional support for rolling out vaccinations, among other measures.

Housebound people who have not yet had their vaccine should be getting a letter about options this week. Local booster vaccine clinics have often been overwhelmed but additional capacity is being sought.

More information here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/.../enhanced-response...> (note link will be down until Monday due to website work)

Walk-in vaccination clinics at the Guildhall in Cambridge on 27 and 28 November:

Some booster clinics have been full – more information here:

<https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/get-vaccinated-ahead-of-the-festive-season/>

Household flooding

We're aware of four homes that have experienced repeated household flooding during recent extreme rainfall events. We have put all four in contact with the County Flood and Highways teams and are liaising with them on potential remedial action.

This is the basic information we are sharing in the first instance:

In order to obtain as much information as possible, regarding the internal property flooding element of this matter, the relevant residents could either complete the attached form, or report the matter to our team directly by the link here - [Flood reporting - Instructions and Data Protection - Self \(achieveservice.com\)](#)

The Flood and Water team work with other flood risk management partners (Internal Drainage Boards, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, Highways Authorities etc) to gather as much information as possible about how the flooding occurred so that we can then, liaising with you, identify how best to manage this type of flooding in future. This process can take several weeks after a flood, but we will keep you informed of progress. If you have further details about how the flooding occurred or any photos please do send them to us at floodandwater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

We have attached a guide about recovering from flooding that may be of assistance, along with the following links:

[National Flood Forum – A charity to help, support and represent people at risk of flooding.](#)

<http://www.knowyourfloodrisk.co.uk/>

<http://www.floodadvisoryservice.co.uk/>

Anglian Water

We had an excellent meeting with Anglian Water to discuss system capacity issues in our area. Key points arising:

- Anglian Water welcomes supporting parish councils with regard to planning applications with significant implications on drainage.
- Anglian Water is working to anticipate the effects of climate change and the projection of high frequency severe rainfall events.
- Extra help: Anglian Water's Priority Service Register is a free service that anyone can sign up to, should they need a little extra support of help. Customers can sign up on the Anglian Water website or through AW contact centres – it's all here:
<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/water-care/priority-services/>
- We have been provided with asset maps for the Melbourn area, for a better understanding of the system and its function.

The Unflushables - we figure this needs as much advertising as possible!

Every year, Anglian Water clears around 40,000 blockages from our sewers alone. 80% of these blockages are completely avoidable but cause the more pollutions in the environment than anything else.

In the kitchen:

- Used water is the only thing you should put down your sink.
- Used cooking oil should never be poured down the sink. Instead recycle it, compost at home or wait until it is cool, pour into a plastic bottle with a lid, and take to a Household Waste Recycling Centre for recycling.
- Use kitchen towel to absorb cooled liquid fat from cooking pans and trays
- Leftovers, peelings and food scraps should never go down the sink. Use a sink strainer to stop them going down the plughole and empty into the bin or food waste bin. Peelings can be composted at home.

In the bathroom:

- The three 'Ps' (pee, poo and toilet paper) are the only things that should go down the loo.
- A bin is the best place for all your unflushable waste. Put one by the loo, so nobody's tempted to flush rubbish.
- Put wipes, cotton wool, floss and cotton buds in the bin
- Use bags or toilet paper to discreetly dispose of sanitary products waste – again, in the bin
- Sink strainers are good at catching hair that could otherwise block the plughole in your shower or bath.

Half-hourly rail service to resume at our village stations

Following considerable lobbying efforts by our Community Rail Partnership, and a genuinely listening ear on the part of Govia Thameslink Railways, it's good to report that half-hourly train services will be restored for Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Stations from December 12. It will be important to see ridership figures rise.

Rail User Group November 30

The RUG meets virtually on Nov 30 – all welcome; please contact railusergroup.com for the link.

Foxton Travel Hub

Following further public consultation the Foxton Travel Hub design plan has seen significant alterations, with the size of the car park reduced from 500 to 200 spaces. The plan retains a passenger lift and footbridge, and adds a village bus service. It's important to note how very challenging it is to secure investment in a lift at a small station. This goes to the GCP Board for decision on December 9.

Making Connections - consultation on bus network for the wide area

This is a really important consultation – I will bring more information to the meeting.

<https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2021>

Melbourn Practical Solutions Group

The Melbourn PSG will be meeting online in early December, having had to cancel a meeting this month due to Covid. We will be meeting Melbourn Village College student leaders and looking at possible community projects which young people would like to see happening in Melbourn.

A10 Underpass

We'd like to thank Melbourn Science Park contractor SDC for offering and organising to cut vegetation way back at the A10 underpass. We're working together with the police and district and county councils on ideas for improving the underpass environment, and should be seeing an action plan coming up. We'll also be engaging the PSG on this project.

Thakeham

We are organizing another session for parish council representatives with the director of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, for further insights onto the Local Plan process and implications for Thakeham's vision of South West Cambridge new town.

South Cambs Local Plan First Proposals consultation

Please remember to respond to the consultation before December 13! Do please comment on any positives, not just negatives.

District Council budget preparation

Unison has highlight South Cambs District Council as one of ten councils nationally that is in a position to have to make no cuts.

<https://councilcuts.unison.org.uk/data-visualisation/p/14>

County Council Finances

Progress is being made towards closing a projected £19.5m gap in Cambridgeshire County Council's budget for next year – despite growing levels of need leading to uncertainty. The Council is calling on Government to provide a more realistic and robust financial settlement for the county as it continues to take a central role in managing the current effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The five-year plan – agreed by Full Council in February this year – saw a balanced budget in the current year achieved by using some one-off funding, but at the beginning of the year had estimated an initial gap for 2022/3 of £22.5m, with further gaps to fill in succeeding years. The council is identifying further ways to close the gap through savings, generating income and updating estimates of need based on new population figures.

The council is predicting long term increases and changes in the pattern of demand for its services, linked to the economic after-effects of the pandemic – and additional cost are still being incurred as the council takes a central role fighting COVID-19, coordinating the public sector response, managing a complex public health situation and the impact on vulnerable people and children’s education. 80% of the council’s budget expenditure is spent on social care. The government’s health and social care reforms are likely to place significant additional pressures on the council’s budget.

Besides the pandemic, the other major risks and uncertainties in setting budgets for 2022-27 include the potential for national policy changes, such as reform of social care funding, the need for a multi-year funding settlement from government, the availability and sustainability of supply chains and resources, and changing patterns of demand for our services that has been a longer-term trend.

Reminder - Covid support available

- The Government has extended the financial payments available to help people self-isolate, until the end of next March. These payments support people who will lose income as a result of having to self-isolate and will struggle to pay their bills or buy food and essentials.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronaviruscovid-19-support-to-self-isolate>
- A Household Support Fund (originally the Winter Support Grant) is now up and running - more information here:
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>