MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Melbourn Parish Council
Melbourn Community Hub
30 High Street
Melbourn
Cambridgeshire
SG8 6DZ

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This year has been a year of continued restrictions which has had a serious impact on all of us once again. However, during the year we have seen the resumption of physical meetings as opposed to the Zoom alternative. It has been good to get back to some semblance of normality here. Our office team have continued to work diligently responding to all manner of challenges. We have remained on target with regard to our financial goals and are well positioned for the forthcoming year. We have received another positive report from our internal auditor, which in large part is due to the hard work and diligence of our Clerk and Financial Officer.

As mentioned in my last year report we had just commenced the Moor play parks working party. I am now pleased to announce that following a public consultation we have completed the design phase and have appointed a contractor from the companies who tendered for the work. The public consultation was very successful with a lot of feedback from residents regarding the design options. We are looking forward to seeing the new rejuvenated play area this summer, the exact timing of the opening will depend on the contractor, but we are confident the park will be available for our young residents in a few months time. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to our Assistant Clerk who has worked tirelessly on this project managing every phase to date. I would also like to thank the residents who joined Councillors on the working party and were a very large contributing factor in ensuring a successful project. We have now just started a new project, we are looking at the possibility of installing either a skate ramp or pump track. We have set up a working party and residents have joined Councillors on this initiative, so watch this space.

I would like to give mention to Steph Trayhurn, who took over the Time Bank role last year. We have seen this program grow into real asset for our village bringing people together through a number of initiatives. We have also seen Steve Pitman join our wardens team. You will see Keith Rudge and Steve around the village ensuring that things run smoothly.

The futures working party which comprises of our County Councillor Susan van de Ven, District Councillor J Hales, Parish Councillors and residents has been very active during this year. As a result we have been successful in acquiring an MVAS camera (speed awareness unit) which you will have seen being rotated around the village. We have received very positive feedback from residents and we are seeing a reduction of speeding vehicles into the village, the job is not done yet but this is a good start. We are in the process of acquiring a second unit which should arrive soon. We are also looking at other measures to reduce the speed of motorists. We have been successful in applying for a LHI grant this will mean that improvements to road safety will commence at the New Road entrance to the village. This is a Local Highways Initiative grant where they will undertake to introduce road calming measures. The timing will be dependent on their schedule of works.

Finally I would like to ask residents who want to get involved and help make a difference, we do still have some vacancies on the Parish Council, so please get in touch. The Parish office can assist residents who wish to apply. We look forward to hearing from you.

Graham Clark

Chair

Working Party Name / Title	Finance and Good Governance Committee
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	No members of public on committee. No members of public have attended meetings this year
Meeting dates to present	21 June 2021 20 September 2021 20 December 2021 21 March 2022
Overview / Report of what Working Party has been doing to date	Reviewing value for money in PC spending. Reviewing income streams (allotments, Littlehands, pavilion, match fees). Reviewing PC annual budget and recommending precept to full council. Regular review of PC policies and recommendations to Council for approval Reviewing effectiveness of internal controls of PC Review effectiveness of internal audit Asset register and consideration of Asset Management Reserve - ongoing Publishing statutory information Checking quarterly VAT refund
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Continue to review activities of the PC to ensure good governance. Review of asset management reserve and formulating policy for

Prepared byCllr Ian Cowley, Chair F&GG	
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Working Party Name / Title	Futures Working Party
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	The working party comprises of four parish Councillors Four members of the public one District Councillor and one County Councillor.
Meeting dates to present	This working party meets approximately every 2 months, but more meetings can and will be held when there are necessary agenda items that need dealing with.
Overview / Report of what Working Party has been doing to date	Since the reinstatement of this working party we have been actively reviewing safety in the village. This has resulted in the group working on speeding as a key issue. We have through the Parish Council acquired an MVAS camera unit, which has four site locations around the village. The unit is moved on a regular basis. We have seen some success with reduced speeding, we have also received positive feedback from the public. We currently collect data from the unit and will be passing the records to the appropriate authorities with a recommendation to introduce speed checks within the village limits.
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	We will be working very closely with the Greenways initiative, the theme being to reduce speeding in the village and promote safer ways to travel around the village, walking and cycling.

Prepared byGraham Clark	Prepared by	oyGraham Clark	k		
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Working Party Name / Title	HR Panel
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	No members of public 3 Councillors (Max 5)
Meeting dates to present	The HR Panel has continued to meet and liaise on at least a monthly basis and more frequently when responding to recruitment and appraisal/performance management duties. Zoom meetings have been used to facilitate regular HR Panel contact, however we were able to carry out this year's staff appraisal and performance review meetings in person.
Overview / Report of what the HR Panel has been doing to date	In line with our Terms of Reference, the HR Panel and Clerk have identified additional Service Providers necessary to meet the needs of the Parish. (Litter Pickers and 'Supply' Handy People). As well as the HR Panel's Terms of Reference, the following policies have all been reviewed and agreed by Council: 1. General Employment Policy 2. Health & Safety Policy 3. Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk 4. Appraisal Policy 5. Capability Policy 6. Persistent, Vexatious or Abusive Complaints 7. Salary Review Policy
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	To recruit at least one more member of the HR Panel With reference to MPC published policy review schedule, the HR Panels priorities moving forward are to review the following policies: 1. Whistleblowing Policy – June 2022 2. Disciplinary Policy & Procedure

Prepared by: Sally Ann Hart – Chair HR Panel

Working Party Name / Title	
	Melbourn Parish Council Maintenance Committee 2021 - 2022
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given) Meeting dates to present	Yes. Up to five Members of the public. Also both Village Wardens and contractors to MPC 17-Jun-21, 22-Jul-21, 19-Aug-21, 23-Sep-21, 21-Oct-21, 18-Nov-21, 20-Jan-22, 24-Feb-22, 24-Mar-22, 21-Apr-22 Next scheduled meeting 19-May-22
Overview / Report of what the Committee has been doing to date	With the exception of December 2021 the committee has met every month since the last Annual Parish Meeting. Some of the earlier meetings have been successfully conducted 'virtually' due to Covid regulations. All meetings cover a regular schedule of discussion and decision making under the following general headings: • Financial review of maintenance-related spend • Conservation • Allotments • Governance • Pavilion and Littlehands • General Village Maintenance Two major new projects continued to be progressed, these being: • Financing and Rebuilding of the Stockbridge Meadows Boardwalk • Upgrade Financing, Planning and Installation of existing play park facilities at The Moor that has been managed through an independent working party that includes members of the public. Both these projects made significant advances during the subject year with tendering currently in progress for the Boardwalk and Council approval for work to commence at the Moor play park. The Maintenance budget again ended the year comfortably within plan.

Any future proposals of what they are going to do

In addition to routine management of village maintenance, the following matters are planned:

- 1.The two projects mentioned above will hopefully be progressed to completion.
- 2. The boardwalk project may require securing some external grant funding. This is also planned as part of the committee activities and is dependent on the outcome of the present tendering process.
- 3. Members of the Committee will assist with the verification of the Asset Register and input to future Asset Reserve planning
- 4. The Committee will continue to look for opportunities to engage with the public on conservation and other matters under its purview.
- 5. The Committee will investigate the cost and feasibility of providing better drainage to the sports fields on both New and Old recs to improve the standard and extend the season scope for football in particular.

Prepared byJohn Travis (Chair, Maintenance Committee)

Annual Report: Melbourn Area Youth Development (MAYD) 2021/2022

Meetings of the Joint Committee 2021/2022

The MAYD Joint Committee has continued to meet regularly. Covid restrictions have presented logistical difficulties. Meetings were held on 25th March 2021, 15th June 2021, 2nd August 2021 (informal inquorate meeting), 26th January 2022 and 16th March 2022. The next meeting is provisionally scheduled for 25th May 2022.

Joint Committee: Members

Melbourn Parish Council Meldreth Parish Council Shepreth Parish Council Foxton Parish Council

Sponsors Attending

County Cllr. van de Ven
District Cllr Hales
District Cllr Stanier (N Herts)
Amanda Sylvester (Youth and Community Co-ordinator for South Cambs.)

Youth Work Delivery

Groundwork East (Diana Hedley)

MAYD Update and the impact of COVID 19

The reporting year has again been a difficult period for MAYD. This was due to the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic with the associated rules and controls on face-to-face working. Groundwork East, the partner providing the youth-work programme, has itself suffered significant staff losses. There has been a slowing of momentum due to inability to plan and execute youth delivery effectively due to Covid safety constraints.

The first six months of 2021 were affected by lockdown. Groundwork successfully delivered art-based sessions virtually during the first months with very good attendance levels from young people. Unfortunately a planned follow up in May 2021 in the form of a 'half term special' session had to be abandoned due to poor take up. A further proposal from Groundwork to deliver sessions during the summer holidays was considered by the Joint Committee but reluctantly declined. Groundwork reported that session take up throughout their operating area had been very low, probably due to general public concerns about the pandemic.

The Joint Committee took a decision at the June meeting to request Groundwork East carry out paid-for survey research with schools and parents in order to develop fact-based ideas on the best ways to proceed. An informal (inquorate meeting) was held with Groundwork East in August to agree the detailed scope of the survey. This would cover the MVC and King James Academy in Royston, preferably via school assemblies, focussing on years 7 to 9 but also to include years 10 and 11. Online surveys would be conducted using Parent

Mail. It was noted that it would not be possible to complete the report until at least October 2021. In fact the report did not appear until the New Year and no further youth services delivery was possible during 2021.

In January 2022 Groundwork delivered the results of the research. The report had been delayed due to the many Covid-related obstacles. Video consultation had been used extensively rather than face-to-face sessions. The research indicated that a workshop approach would be successful, themed for sports, cooking and similar activities particularly in the summer. A gaming café had been identified as something that would be really attractive in winter and steps should be taken to determine what practical support was required for this.

A further meeting took place in March 2022 at which the shape of the future MAYD programme was mapped out. The Joint Committee resolved to approve the plan for Pavilion-based summer sessions lasting between April and July. It was further agreed to encourage reporting and liaison between Groundwork East and the County Youth Forum. The future programme will be designed to increasingly address mental health and mental wellness of young people. This is recognised as crucially important as the impact of the pandemic becomes clearer.

Steps were also agreed to develop a basis for a trial Gaming Café, this being a strongly preferred option coming from the research.

Summary and future Plans: After a second year of extraordinary difficulty, there are reasons to be optimistic that MAYD is again able to positively re-connect with young people. There is a real opportunity for MAYD to help address the social and personal challenges young people face following recent unprecedented upheavals to school and family life. Groundwork East has successfully recruited new staff and researched and updated their forward plans. There is good reason to believe there is again an excellent youth services platform for participating councils to share.

Finance

North Herts DC have consented to their continued grant support subject to the successful commencement of MAYD after Covid. A North Herts District Councillor is attending meetings. The financial position of MAYD remains strong due to retention of past contributions and the effective suspension of MAYD activities for the best part of two years.

Budgeting for 2022/23 will need to be revisited soon with the contributing parish councils but it is likely that further funding during 2022 is unnecessary.

Cllr John Travis, Melbourn Parish Council Chair, MAYD Joint Committee

Date: April 2022

Melbourn Play Parks Working Party report to Annual Parish Council Meeting:

Working Party Name	
	Melbourn Play Parks Working Party
Members of public and	
how many	Up to 5 Councillors : Cllrs Cowley (Chair), Travis (Vice Chair), Hart and Kilmurray.
	3 Members of the public
Meeting dates to present	8 April 2021 – Inaugural meeting 11 June 2021 16 September 2021 9 December 2021
	7 February 2022 7 March 2022
	5 April 2022
	Next meeting to be arranged when needed
Overview of what Working	
Party has been doing to date	The Parish Council is in receipt of developer funds (s106) for refurbishing The Moor play park.
	To begin, the working party put together a list of items to replace existing items in play park and a list of items that required refurbishment, such as the rocking horse. Based on this list a tender document was put together by the Working Party and sent out to companies.
	5 tender responses were received and the Working Party used the evaluation criteria to identify the 3 designs to go to the public consultation stage.
	The public consultation ran from Friday 11th February until Tuesday 1st March, to seek public opinion about the 3 designs.167 public responses were received from both adults and children.
	The working party used these responses to identify the preferred design and made amendments to the design based on the public's comments.
	Full council has approved the tender from HAGS and the work has been ordered. We await a start date for the refit and will publicise this when the information is available.

Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Release a statement of thanks to the public for their participation in the public consultation
	Place the order for the works
	Inform public of start date for the works and the period of closure of the park
	 Plan an opening event to unveil the new play park.

Prepared by ...Sophie Marriage, Assistant to the Parish Clerk

Title	MPC Planning Committee
Members of public and how	None
many	
Meeting dates to present	Monthly – 2 nd Monday of the month
Overview / Report of what Working Party has been doing to date	The Planning Committee look at all planning applications – which includes tree works – within the bounds of the Parish and, occasionally, larger developments just over the border. in 2021/22, the cttee looked at 81 planning applications and 22 tree works applications. Of the 81 planning applications, we supported 61 and objected to 10 with 10 that had already been
	determined by the date of the meeting or were for discharge of a technical condition that Members did not feel that they had the detailed knowledge with which to make a decision.
	Cttee received 23 notifications of decision from SCDC (the planning authority) of which all bar 2 were in agreement with Cttee's decision. Of the two, Cttee supported one application with several comments regarding protection of hedgerows and trees that SCDC refused on the grounds that there was insufficient information about protecting the same. The other deviation was where Cttee objected on the grounds of overdevelopment and SCDC disagreed.
	In addition to the work on planning applications, Cttee has also been overseeing the process of open space transfers from the various developments across the village and also found some "spare" land at Greengage Rise that Council is now in the process of purchasing from the developer for the cost of £1 plus conveyancing fees.
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Continue doing the same work.

Prepared by Steve Kilmurray, Chair of MPC Planning committee

Working Party Name / Title	Skate Park Working Party
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	The working party is comprised 3 Parish Councillors the Parish Clerk and 2 members of the public
Meeting dates to present	As the working party has only started recently there have only been 2 meetings. Future meetings will be agreed once we have investigated a number of logistical issues as detailed below.
Overview / Report of what Working Party has been doing to date	The working party has commenced with discussions surrounding the type of facility we require. Be it a skate park (different materials are being discussed) or a pump track. Following this discussion we have started to look at possible sites to erect the facility. We have identified 3 possible sites This is proving difficult as we are limited to suitable sites. The next steps are to contact a number of suppliers to review what our options are.
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Following this analysis regarding what is available and costings we will then contact County to request the possible use of some of their land. This is because one of the best locations to site the unit would be on County unused playing field land. We will then look at available funding and what options we have with regard to obtaining matched funding.

Prep	ared by	Graham	Clark	, 					
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Melbourn Timebank Highlights since March 2021



- Total hours exchanged 6718 up by almost 250% from 2704
- Individual Membership has grown from 63 to 102, 160% increase
- Organisation membership has increased by 100% to 16 from 8

Activities introduced to respond to member demand to combat loneliness and isolation;

<u>Weekly</u>

- Coffee Morning
- Dog Café
- Well- Being Walks

Monthly

- Games Nights
- Arts & Crafts Group
- Book/Reading Group
- Solo Sunday Lunches
- Seed/Produce group formed and growing nicely ⁽²⁾
- WhatsApp groups introduced for comms and support
- Individual exchanges taking place organically, lifts offered, help with mobile phone use, shopping, gardening and befriending
- Youth organisations offered DofE volunteering opportunities

Mission to continue to work to 'join the dots' in our community

TRIGGS CHARITY

ANNUAL REPORT

As there was still some restrictions and concerns from vulnerable Trustees no grants were made during 2021. Some of our Trustees are not computer literate so it was not really possible to have zoom meetings either.

So, it was decided grant business would be suspended till Covid allowed meetings to resume. This of course has now happened and recently we have had an annual general meeting – re-elected Trustees and given grants to some schools in 2022.

The charity still returned their accounts on time submitted to the Charity Commission as in all years and funds have benefitted from interest gained from the capital invested.

Gillian Morland Secretary and Treasurer of the Trigg Trust

Annual Report of Martins Charity 2021

The opening balance on 1st April 2017 - £21.55

The closing balance on 31st March 2018 - £21.55

The Clerk 5 May 2022

FRANCIS JOHN CLEAR ALMSHOUSES

Annual Report to Melbourn Parish Council 2022

This is my FORTY SIXTH Annual Report from the Trustees of the Almshouses to the Parish Council. When do I get a long service medal ?!!

Due to the Covid Pandemic we have had to rely on telephone conferences and emails in order to continue our management of the property, although we did manage to have two meetings last year, one in July and one in December. Our long history of good maintenance and modernization has stood us in good stead during this time, as we have only had minor repairs to deal with.

All four of our Licensees are contacted by our Chairman on a fairly regular basis although there is no element of 'care' built into their terms of occupation. We repainted all the windowsills as we had noticed they were deteriorating and had to have some work done on shower units and radiators – the usual run of small repairs. We repaired the concrete pathway where subsidence was causing a possible trip hazard. The Boilers were serviced and the carbon monoxide alarms replaced as they were on the point of going out of date. One of the units had a new occupant and we had to do some cleaning up of the interior before the new Licensee came in.

Our dedicated team of tradesmen continue to respond swiftly to any callouts regarding electricity, heating etc. and we recognize how fortunate we are in having such good service from them. We were very sad recently to lose one of our staunchest supporters – Carl Pavey died suddenly and two of our Trustees attended his funeral. He will be sadly missed

The only recommendation made in the Quinquennial report still outstanding is the dry lining of the porches in 55, 59 and 61 and this may well be done this summer. Our financial situation is comfortable and our Licensees are very happy in their accommodation and look after their properties and gardens well.

Brenda Meliniotis continues to be our Chairman and the Board of Trustees remains the same - Arthur Alderton, Val Barrett, Peter Chilvers, Hilary Docwra, myself, and Eric Johnston continues to do the rather thankless task of perusing the information and instructions which come from the National Association of Almshouses and deciding which pieces apply to us. With only four units we are, of course, very small beer compared with many Almshouse complexes. By the time you read this we will have had our first Trustees Meeting of the year.

We are pleased that the Parish Council continue to store our archives and trust that they will remain in safe keeping.

I am sure that you will agree that the Almshouses are as ever a credit to the village. This is my report in the 97th year since the Almshouses were built – the centenary looms!

Mavis Howard,

April, 2022

Report to the Parish Council from the Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme

This has been a challenging, but successful year for the scheme. The Trustees are very grateful to the Parish Council for their continued support. The service provided to the clients of the scheme by the wardens is outstanding. They visit each client twice a week and contact them for a further three days by phone. Wardens have helped clients to access vaccinations and other health and well-being support. They collect shopping, medical supplies, arrange doctor's appointments and respond to other requests or concerns raised.

We currently have 50 clients in total, of whom just under 70 percent are women. The average age of the vast majority of our clients has risen and now sits at just short of 90 years old. There are a tiny number whose age is lower, with one mobility impaired client in their early forties. The clients have a variety of physical or sensory issues and a number are living with dementia.

To meet the continued demand, the service is now supported by 6 wardens, having recruited a new warden during 2021. We are considering appointing a 7th warden subject to future funding and forecast demand. Specialist training is provided for the wardens funded by the scheme to equip them to support clients, particularly those living with dementia. Newer wardens received this during 2021.

The key elements that changed things in 2021 was the vaccination programme and relaxation of restrictions which brought more 'normality' to life for many clients who were able to go out again or have more visitors. Unfortunately for several clients, the long period of remaining at home has seen a decline in mobility and confidence.

The reopening of Lunch Club at The Hub has been a very positive thing for the MMWS clients who are able to attend. We are very grateful to the Hub Committee for its continued support and to those in the Hub who provide assistance during the meals.

Prior to the pandemic a notable additional feature of the scheme was the organisation of two or three trips out for lunch. These are supported by the Royston Community Bus scheme and local volunteer drivers. These have usually taken place at the Cambridge Motel or local Garden Centres. After 2 years of being unable to organise these activities for clients due to Covid risks, we are delighted to report that MMWS has a summer outing to the Motel booked, and we hope to continue this as a regular element of the scheme's provision. As an alternative to the Christmas trip, Wardens provided each client with a Christmas Hamper of food and treats as a surprise. This was very gratefully received by the clients.

A regular magazine featuring client articles and stories, photos, jokes, quizzes, word searches, news and health tips has been created and published by the head warden

and this has proved popular and helpful in keeping clients connected in particular over the last year or so. MMWS would like to thank the Parish clerk for the service provided to produce the copies.

As the scheme develops, we intend to ensure that we can provide for any growth in the number of of clients and that we have a sufficient number of wardens available to support them. We hope to be able to provide the specialist training they need for this. Of course, all of this is subject to continued funding for this important service!

Colin Conner (Chair of the Trustees) May 2022



Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue

Unit 2, Mount Pleasant Industrial Estate, Pymoor, Ely, CB6 2DY www.camsar.org | charity 1118622 registered in England & Wales

12th April 2022

Report from Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue following donation from Melbourn Parish Council

Melbourn Parish Council were kind enough to support Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue (CamSAR) in April 2021 with a very generous donation of £500 for the purchase of an Intel Next Unit of Computing (NUC).

Any call out to Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue is an emergency as life is in danger. As with all Lowland Rescue teams CamSAR increasingly rely upon technology to search more efficiently. Our call outs can be anywhere in the county thus we rely on our vehicles to house all the equipment we need in order to conduct the search. The technology that we use to plan the search, organise the team, download and track team movement and live stream drone video footage, needs to be of sufficient capacity and capable of working at speed within the confines of our Incident Command vehicle. The Next Unit of Computing provides all of this functionality and increases the efficiency of our searches and, by definition, the likelihood of us being successful in finding the vulnerable missing person alive and well.

Due to an extended period of sickness absence, our IT Lead has only recently returned to CamSAR so the purchase of the Intel NUC will be made very soon.

We continue to be extremely fortunate and thankful for all the support that the Parish and Town Councils across Cambridgeshire give us, particularly given the current economic climate, so we thank all the Councillors once again for their generous donation.

Gilly Bamber, Fundraising Lead & Anne Ninham, Administrative support and Fundraiser





ST GEORGES ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

The Allotment Association was awarded community benefit funding in the sum of £290 to f	und a
skip to be used by all plot holders to assist with plot clearances over the spring season.	



14th April 2022

Melbourn Parish Council The Hub Melbourn

Confirmation of Grant Expenditure

Melbourn Dynamos FC made a successful application to the Parish in 2021 and was awarded £11,990.60p.

I can confirm that except for the Mental Health First Aid courses [please see below for explanation] this has all been spent in line with the grant themes as follows:

Description	Amount
1.Mental Health First Aid Courses	£1,700.00
2. Coaching Courses	£690.00
3. Kit and Equipment	£7,300.60
4. Coaching Manual	£2,300.00
Total	£11,990.60

The major benefits of this grant have been:

- Allowing the Club to financially support an increasing number of families. Out of 290 players (all within the U7-U17 age groups) 30 local families have been financially supported this season;
- The Club has been able to finance extended use of the new Astro turf facility meaning that all players have benefited from weekday evening training sessions and being able to play competitive weekend fixtures;
- Being able to purchase the necessary and appropriate kit; and,
- Support our coaches by delivering the Coaching Manual.

With regards to the MHFA Courses this is now being planned to take place before the start of next season. Due to the Covid restrictions in place at the time the course was intended to be delivered would have meant that it could only be delivered virtually. This method of delivery is not suited to the course so it was decided that it would be rearranged when all Covid restrictions were lifted.

Yours faithfully,

Blake Carrington Chair Melbourn Dynamos FC

1st Orwell Scouts

The trailer has been purchased as planned and was first used in anger at the recent Cub Section camp as shown in the photos below. The gala tent purchase was delayed as availability of suitable tents has been limited by pubs/venues buying them to provide outside / socially distanced seating areas in response to Covid. Our Quartermaster is in the process of ordering the gala tent now that stock appears to be available and I will update the council on this once purchased.

Thank you again for your continued support of the Scout section, we greatly appreciate it.







MELBOURN PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA

We applied for and received a grant for £2.2k from the Melbourn Parish Council to cover the cost of the Melbourn Primary School PTFA's Fireworks Extravaganza, which returned to Melbourn Primary School on Saturday 6 November 2021 after a few years at Melbourn Village College.

The grant enabled us to put on a fantastic display by Skyburst - The Firework Company and set to music, lasting 18 minutes. It was really well attended and received, with us getting lots of positive feedback. It increased our fundraising profits following a couple of really difficult years due to Covid, in which we were unable to hold our usual events such as the Summer Fayre, quiz night, school discos, school movie nights, etc.

The event generated a massive £11,540 turnover and £7,335 profit, all of which is available to donate to the school for much needed resources for the children.

We advertised in The Listing and put a banner up at Tesco in Royston, as well as boards around the village. We sold tickets in the playground but the vast majority were bought online through www.pta-events.co.uk/melbournprimaryschool.

Demand for the event was significantly higher than we anticipated, such that we had to stop selling tickets a few days before the day, which made it a ticket only event, something we have never had to do before. We believe that the main reasons for the high demand was that we were only one of two local displays that night due to many events being cancelled due to concerns over Covid (which we assessed and concluded - being an exclusively outdoor event - was ok), and the weather forecast was really good.

On behalf of the Melbourn Primary School PTFA, I would like to once again thank the Melbourn Parish Council for considering our 2021 fireworks night grant applications, and for awarding us the money to help make it the success it was.

What happened in 2021

We resumed our Memory Cafes in May 2021, with one/two per month, due to care homes still being under covid restrictions. However, we did manage a Garden Party at Margaret House Care Home in August.

The Memory Cafes were initially held in various 'pop up' locations, owing to The Hub remaining closed for lockdown and renovations. We returned to The Hub in October, but sadly realised the space was not conducive to the numbers and dedicated space required going forward.

We organised virtual walks and a quiz, via zoom, a wonderful afternoon walk and lunch at Madingley Hall. In addition to this we attended 3 of the Stepping out with Carers Walks: Wimpole, Audley, Hatfield House.

We were fortunate to be able to hold a Virtual Dementia Experience for the Personal Carers in our group, which was very well received, offering valuable education.

We held a very successful Clothes Sale in November, which raised more than £1200. Any clothes not sold on the day were donated to the Arthur Rank hospice.

Covid restrictions, halted our cafes from December through to February, where once we again we supported our members with Activity Packs and WhatsApp chats.

We are now holding monthly memory cafes and hope to resume our connection with the local care homes soon, to give our members several opportunities to socialise each month

We have seen an increase in communication from the Social Prescribers/Navigators employed by the local surgeries: Meridian and Granta, leading to new members from the local area.

As a voluntary group we appear to be filling a much-needed gap in social care for South Cambridgeshire.

Going forward in 2022

Our plans for 2022 are

- 1. To encourage Melbourn to become a Dementia Friendly Village.
- 2. Hold Memory Cafes on a Saturday afternoon. The wish list is to have two per month for carers and their loved ones to attend. Saturdays have proved popular with families because this is when they are able to have 'social time' with their loved ones 'living with dementia' and the Memory cafes offer stimulation for those 'living with dementia' and respite for their families/personal carers.
 - Week 1: Dementia Café at Meldreth Village Hall
 - Week 3: Dementia Café at a local care home.
- 3. Introduce Carer's Café: A regular support meeting for a limited number of personal carers.
- 4. Walking with Carers events Cambridge Botanical Gardens
- 5. Hold a series of Dementia training events. I.e. Informative events i.e., funding care, preparing for the future in your home etc etc
- 6. Organise a coach trip Day at the Seaside The Hut @ Felixstowe, Sunday 20th August 2022.

Funding – what do we need/ what is available.

Monies needed for

Dementia Cafes, additional events, subscriptions, training and equipment

Where we will apply

Parish Council grants, (Melbourn/Meldreth) Tesco, Melbourn Coop

Fundraising events

- Local Businesses Letter to ask them to sponsor a Dementia Cafe.
- Dance'athon (Vicky)
- Ladder Climb (Fire Service) much later in the year

How to create local awareness of our group

- Dr's Surgery Social Prescribers/Navigators
- Dementia Support & Awareness (encouraging Melbourn to a Dementia Friendly Village)
- Advertising: Listing, Meldreth Matters, Melbourn magazine,
- Other organisations: MMWS, Timebank produce an introductory leaflet.
- Parish Council welcome packs
- AGE UK, Hertwise, Alzheimer's UK, Dementia UK, Memory Clinics

Training resources

Forget me not Training – Chris Elsley

- Dementia training for the carers in the group
- Advice and support for carers when in crisis

Training2care - Colchester

- Virtual Dementia Experience
- Dementia Dictionary

To: Melbourn Parish Council (MPC)

From: Melbourn Community Library (MCL)

Date: 12 May 2022

Subject: Grant for Voluntary Organisations received from MPC

The monies received, £600.00, have been used for the purchase of:-

Equipment, materials and books for use during regular Story Time sessions for children under five years of age. The sessions are held on Friday mornings at The Hub.

New books for adults, young adults, early readers and hardback books for very young children.

Through the provision of up-to-date resources, some of which tie-in with specific monthly themes, the aim of increasing footfall and encouraging young readers to visit the library is being realised as regularly collected data shows.

Other monies held by the library are drawn on to ensure the the resources MCL offer reflect the interest and needs of library customers, Hub Visitors, the local and wider communities.

A full listing of resources purchased is available on request.



Melbourn statistics (data below taken from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022)

Melbourn Residents: appointment data					
Number of appointments delivered	249				
Number of cases seen	53				
Number of clients seen	103				

Most common presenting issues for Melbourn Residents						
Presenting issue	No. of cases with presenting issue					
Communication Problems	42					
COVID-19 Pandemic	22					
Sexual Problems	18					
Children	15					
Financial Problems	12					
Mental / Physical Illness	11					
Family Conflict	10					
Trust	10					
Work Issues	8					
Domestic Violence	7					
Self-Esteem	6					
Separation/divorce	6					
Affair	5					
Past Relationships	3					
Anger Management	2					
Fertility Issues	2					
Jealousy	2					
Cross Cultural Issues	1					
Difficulty forming Relationship	1					
Housing Issues	1					
Substance Abuse	1					

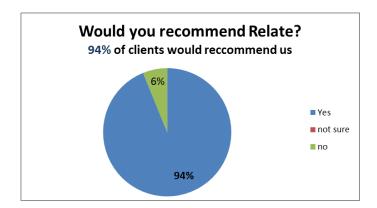
Client Feedback

"Our counsellor was very quick to identify the causes of our communication issues and provided constructive advice to help us work through them together. I would recommend this service to anyone who feels they could benefit from relationship counselling."

"I am now happier, more confident, more in control and able to cope with my problems. I would not have been able to deal with these alone without the support of Relate Cambridge and am extremely grateful."

"Talking to skilled Relate counsellors was the right thing for us and our marriage is stronger than ever."

"I am feeling much more positive about our relationship in adopting a child and building a family together. Thank you Relate Cambridge"



RIVER MEL RESTORATION GROUP

Report for Melbourn Parish Council – Grant fund expenditure from November 2021 on Stockbridge Meadows.

Yellow rattle seed was sown on the wildflower meadow in Stockbridge Meadows in December 2021, the optimum time for sowing of these seeds. Yellow rattle flowers weakens the grass so making it easier for other wildflowers to grow and seed.

The tools have been purchased and will be used regularly during the spring and summer as the adzes are used to cut back the reeds and the ragwort removers assist in containing its growth.

Both actions will improve habitat for wildlife and subsequently the visitors' experience.

Les and Maureen Brierley.

1st Melbourn Rainbows. Itemised list.

	Grant request		Grant request Actual cost		tual cost	t up/down	
Play parachute 5m, 16 handles	£	54.06	£	59.01	-£	4.95	
Laminator A3 and supply of pouches	£	53.14	£	54.06	-£	0.92	
Cross cut paper shredder	£	29.99	£	28.66	£	1.33	
Children's safety scissors	£	19.00	£	19.00	£	-	
Volunteers uniform	£	251.00	£	226.95	£	24.05	
Hi-viz vests	£	26.25	£	26.25	£	-	
A4 Clipboards	£	29.98	£	29.98	£	-	
Badge maker & components	£	330.30	£	314.70	£	15.60	
Girlguiding activity cards	£	26.95	£	26.95	£	-	
Clipboard folder			£	13.99			
TOTAL	£	820.67	£	799.55			

Melbourn Parish Council grant 2021

Melbourn Saturdays FC

Please see list of what we asked for:

Item	Co	st	Supplier
Training wear/ warm up tops	£ 2	2,250.00	MG Sportswear
First aid kits x2	£	114.00	Net World Sports
Cold packs x 20	£	69.00	Net World Sports
Water bottles in carrier x2	£	70.00	Net World Sports
Mitre ball sack x2	£	26.00	Pro Direct Soccer
Training balls x 30	£	300.00	Pro Direct Soccer
Line marker with paint	£	354.00	Net World Sports
Total	£3	3,183.00	

Currently, the only items we have not yet bought is the line marker and the training kit. We have ringfenced the money for this and will be buying this new kit as the new season starts. Initially we had supplier issues with getting all the kit and as time dragged on, we figured it would be best to wait until the end of the season so that we weren't buying kit for players that might change clubs in the close season.

We have bought additional training bibs and more footballs than stated so we have spent most of the rest of the money on that. We will be looking into buying a line marker in the near future also.

I hope this helps. I would like to point out that without this money, the club would have really struggled. Fundraising has been difficult throughout the pandemic and I would like to thank the members of the council for agreeing for us to receive this money. This is the first season for a while that Melbourn have had a reserve team and there are a lot of additional costs associated with this so the money has been a real help.

Report from Melbourn Squash Club

Ladies Coaching

So far this year we have held 2 coaching sessions for ladies in February and April. On both occasions 7 ladies joined the session which was run by Ali Loke, a local professional squash coach.

The coaching helped members practise forehand and backhand shots. The coach also instructed players about new or corrective techniques to practise and how to improve their games.

Ali also provided useful advice on racquets and trainers.

Feedback from members has been very positive.

Junior coaching

All junior coaching now takes place on Wednesday afternoons. After school the number of school children now taking part in the coaching is on average 12 as of April 2022. This attendance has steadily increased in recent months.

The club junior coaching sessions take place after the coaching for the school children. Again, we have seen a steady increase in numbers and typically 5-6 juniors take part in the coaching. We now have 9 juniors who are members of the squash club.

We are encouraged by the steady increase in interest from both the school children and junior club members.

We use the Melbourn Parish Council community grant of £1560 as follows. £360 covers the cost of 6 ladies coaching sessions at £60 each. £1200 pays for the junior coach based on a monthly retainer of £100.

Roger Woodfield Melbourn Squash Club Chairman

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire

(incorporated as Home-Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire)

Unit 6 Valley Farm, Station Road, Meldreth, Royston, Herts, SG8 6JP www.hsrsc.org.uk • Email: admin@hsrsc.org.uk • Tel: 01763 262262



Melbourn Parish Council Community Grant Report

Prepared for: Melbourn Parish Council

Date: 13 May 2022

As a result of your generous funding in December 2021, in we have been able to provide **home-visiting support** to two fragile families living in Melbourn. These families had been struggling with issues, including:

- Moving into a new area with little or no family/peer support
- Poor mental health for parents including anxiety, depression and other diagnosed mental health conditions
- Poor mental health for children
- Parental anxiety about going out of the house with the children
- Children with attachment issues
- Children with low confidence
- Parents with low self esteem
- Parents with concerns about their parenting skills
- Difficulties managing children's behaviour
- Difficulties prioritising time for each child.

The Community Grant enabled our highly-trained volunteers to meet with the families for 2-3 hours every week, providing bespoke practical and emotional support, based on the above identified issues, support which is non-judgemental, confidential and free. As a result:

- Parents have the confidence to take their children out
- Families have better understanding and access to other services in the local community
- Families have Improved support networks
- Children have become more confident when engaging with people outside of the family
- Parents have become more confident in managing their children's behaviour
- Family relationships have improved, with parents sharing time for each child
- Children are more prepared for starting school
- Parents have reported improved self-esteem.

Prepared by: Amanda Hourmand, Fundraiser

amanda@hsrsc.org.uk

We are emailing you to thank you for the money from this grant.

We have spent the money on two bags (one for each of our rooms) of resources to help the children learn all about oral care as it is now a statutory part of the EYFS.

Please find attached a photo of the bags and their contents.



South Cambridgeshire District Council Annual Report 2022

The Melbourn Ward includes Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth and Whaddon.

<u>Composition:</u> The council is comprised of 45 members: Lib Dems (30), Conservatives (12), Labour (2). A long-standing Independent member recently joined the Conservative, leaving no Independents.

Green To Our Core

In 2018 when the LibDems took control, "Green to our core" was set as a major objective and led the council to create and adopt the Doubling Nature and Zero Carbon Strategies. This has led to a number of actions including (1) Greening South Cambridgeshire Hall - an energy-efficient retrofit of the Council office building (2) Acquiring a fully electric bin lorry in 2020, one of the first councils in the UK to do so, with two more lorries arriving soon (3) Upgrading 1,800 street lights with low energy bulbs (4) "Three Free Trees" scheme in 2020 saw 54 parishes in the district plant a total of 162 trees and the "Six Free Trees" scheme in 2021 saw a further 227 trees planted (5) Zero Carbon Communities Grant launched in 2019, allocating £314,415 so far to 51 different community groups to support carbon reduction projects (6) Carbon Reduction Planning Strategies introduced in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, which proposes all new homes be net zero, locate new homes close to transport corridors to reduce carbon footprints (7) £1.5 million invested to make SCDC Council houses energy efficient.

SCDC has now been recognised for all this by receiving a **Silver Award in Green Public Service category** at the 2022 annual Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise (iESE) Public Sector Transformation Awards on 9th March 2022. This award recognises, rewards and promotes environmental best practice across the public sector in the UK.

Adoption of Biodiversity SPD

The Council has created and formally adopted the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The SPD will help support the Council's Doubling Nature Strategy and ensure that every new development plays its part in increasing biodiversity in our area into the future.

Planning Policy & Delivery and Building Control

Five-Year Housing Land Supply 2022-2027

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service published on 1st April the latest situation with the Five-Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS). The published figure is <u>6.5 years</u> for the period 2022 to 2027. This means that this important policy position is improving under this administration and is protecting our villages from unsustainable developments.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), first published in 2012, requires each Local Authority to routinely monitor and record its pipeline of housing land, to maintain at least a five-year supply of deliverable sites. When councils are unable to demonstrate such a pipeline, the NPPF's "presumption in favour of sustainable development" applies, which renders the housing policies in their local plan out of date, making them more vulnerable to speculative applications. This is what happened from 2012 to 2018 when the previous Conservative administration did not have a 5YHLS, and the district ended up with speculative applications resulting in 4000 homes achieving permission.

Parish Councils Planning Meetings/Trainings

In recognition of the importance of local community knowledge, SCDC has arranged planning training sessions for Parish Councils and quarterly Area Team Meetings to update and discuss important issues with Parish Councils who are statutory consultees in the Planning process.

Emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan

The Planning Policy team are continuing the task of evaluating all the feedback and comments received during the First Proposals consultation. The Greater Cambridge area is the area of South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City combined, and both Councils now work together on creating policies across the area.

The First Proposals is the proposed planning policy and strategy for the joint area. The emerging local plan identifies the need across the area up to 2041, and includes what is already in the pipeline in the current adopted local plans (created for up to 2031, adopted under previous administrations) to go towards meeting those needs.

The existing new settlements are Northstowe, Waterbeach, Cambourne West, Bourn Airfield, Eddington, Darwin Green, Marleigh, North of Cherry Hinton, Trumpington Meadows. These and other sites with permission already provide 76% of the identified need up to 2041.

The emerging plan is proposing new 11,596 homes, some on existing settlements of Northstowe and Waterbeach. New proposed settlements at North East Cambridge and Cambridge East are earmarked for most of the new homes. Cambourne is included because of the East West Rail proposal – it can only be finalised when EWR route is finalised. Only 384 are in villages – all larger villages near good transport links including Melbourn, Duxford, Oakington and Great Shelford. The focus on keeping South Cambs rural and protecting the character of villages.

In the Melbourn Ward, Thakeham's 25K home new town proposals have been a major concern. The developer has not submitted any proposals to the Local Plan Call for Sites, and the emerging Local Plan contains no sites in the Thakeham area of aspiration. Please see the annual report from the South West Cambridge Action Group.

3C Building Control - Gold Award

3CBC is the Shared Building Control Service of South Cambs, Cambs City and Huntingdonshire DC. The iESE Gold Award this year recognised 3CBC as an organisation that has harnessed potential, delivering elevated performance, creating efficiencies, and delivering outstanding customer service with improved value to their residents. Above all, this organisation has shown its ability to adapt a virus-fuelled environment and achieve fantastic results in doing so.

Council Finance and Business Support

Council Tax

At the February Full Council meeting, SCDC approved its budget and set its Council Tax charge from April 2022. The SCDC element is one of five and is still one of the lowest Council Tax charges in the country. It was raised by 10 pence a week or £5 a year for a Band D property to enable the Council to continue to transform council services and deliver £230,000 of savings every year. The Council tax is not sufficient to run the services, which is why it has to find additional sources of income. SCDC has made £5million per year from investments and saved £200,000 per year. It is one of a few councils in the country to have set a balanced budget for the coming financial year with a small surplus going into reserves to off-set possibly deficits in the future.

Audited Accounts

Since taking over administration, LibDems have been modernising the council on many fronts. Following a complex transfer of the council's asset register South Camb's external auditors EY have now signed off the accounts for the year 2018/19. The Council and the auditors have also agreed a schedule for completion of the audit of the 2019/20 accounts within 20 weeks.

The auditors and council staff have worked incredibly hard to get this set of accounts signed off. The asset register had held back accounts audits and highlighted by Auditors historically from 2016. This also held up the 2017/18 accounts audit which finally got signed off in 2020. The transfer of the asset register from spread sheets to a database threw up a number of historic issues to be resolved, but we now have a robust modern system in place that is fit for the future.

It is also very welcome that a timeline for making swift progress on the audit of the following set of accounts for 2019/20 has been agreed. At this rate, we will be back on track by this time next year. It is important that the audit process is undertaken with complete thoroughness even though that has resulted in a longer timescale than we had hoped for. As expected, the audit opinion is unqualified.

Covid Business Support Grants

South Cambridgeshire District Council is now welcoming applications for its discretionary COVID19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF). The Government funding is to provide additional business rates relief to support rate-paying businesses affected by the pandemic between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021. It is for businesses which weren't eligible for previous support linked to business rates, who can prove they have been adversely affected by the pandemic and have been unable to adequately adapt to that impact. Apply at https://www.scambs.gov.uk/additional-financial-supportfor-south-cambridgeshire-businesses-impacted-by-covid-1/

SCDC is one of the third of UK councils that is up to date in helping businesses as it has given out £43.9 million in government Covid grants.

Business Support

Furthermore the business team has organized visits to 2000 businesses by our High Street Teams, and these businesses are also receiving the "Open for Business Newsletter". The Business Team have helped set up local markets, assisted 4 startups to find premises to operate from, and created the "On Your Doorstep" #shoplocal campaign that helps local shops to recover from Covid19. The council has also given £1.4 million to 102 businesses and start-ups to help them grow.

We have set up a Visit South Cambs website at https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk/. Please check it out to find out what you can do for leisure in the district and small businesses in the Ward that provide services to the leisure market to get themselves a spot on the website.

Health and Wellbeing

The Council is helping residents to deal with their wellbeing issues, especially over the last 2 years of Covid19. It has runs 'Wild Minds' schemes to support young people with mental health issues, and various support programmes for businesses during the pandemic including on mental health so that business owners could assist their employees keep well. Public health programme funding from Cambridgeshire County Council is channelled through districts to reach communities.

Better Connected Communities

The Council is urging residents and community groups to use a new personalised advice service which will identify free tools and funding to tackle local problems and create safer communities in South Cambridgeshire. Residents and community groups can complete a short online form outlining the initiative they want to set up or the problem they want to solve, and Council staff will offer tailored solutions. Check out what's available at https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-action

Housing and Affordable Homes

SCDC has exceeded the target set in the adopted Local Plan 2018. Of the homes delivered, 311 were 'Affordable Homes'. The council now has another 15 new energy efficient apartments delivered by its development partner Hill. The administration proposed in 2019/20 budget to double the number of new council houses being built by 2024.

Support for Homeless

SCDC has given Emmaus Cambridge, based in Landbeach, a one-off grant of £30,000 which will allow it to employ an additional support worker to continue supporting single homeless people that the Council refer to the charity. Emmaus have worked with SCDC for several years. The funding comes from the Council's Homeless Prevention Grant which district councils are allocated from the Government's Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The purpose of the Homelessness Prevention Grant is to give local authorities more assistance in managing homelessness pressures and supporting those who are at risk of homelessness and reduce rough sleeping. The Charity also has a shop giving work opportunities to those it is helping so they can rebuild their lives. https://www.scambs.gov.uk/housing-charity-receives-helping-hand-fromcouncil/

Support for people seeking refuge

South Cambs continues to support not just local people suffering homelessness, but also people who have come to the UK to seek refuge It has helped 3 Syrian and 8 Afghan families to find and settle into homes in this area. The support guidance for people seeking refuge from the war in Ukraine is on the webpage at https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/support-for-ukraine/

The Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, which asks people to offer space in their homes for those fleeing the war, has been launched (https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk). This will allow individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians to safety – including those with no family ties to the country. Phase One of the scheme will allow sponsors to invite an individual or family to stay with them in their home or in a separate property. There will be no impact on their benefits as a result of doing so – for example, they would not lose their single person council tax discount. The Government will also be providing a full support pack for families hosting arrivals and a welcome pack for all new arrivals. Anyone who is interested in participating is asked to offer accommodation for at least six months and will be eligible for a 'thank you' payment of £350 a month.

FAQs are available here on the Homes for Ukraine scheme - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homesfor-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions.

Residents, parish councils and solving local issues

We are always available to speak or meet with residents; most questions and concerns relate to planning, housing, benefits, environmental health or licensing issues. We attend parish council meetings whenever possible and collaborate with PCs to resolve local issues. We hold a weekly 'Zoom Cuppa' surgery and we collaborate with our County Councillors where a coordinated approach helps to solving a problem or concern. We find that each parish has good ideas or useful experience to share with the others.

District Councillors Sally Ann Hart and Jose Hales

Cambridgeshire County Council Annual Report 2022

The Melbourn and Bassingbourn Division comprises the Parishes of Bassingbourn, Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth and Whaddon.

Governance and the Joint Administration

Following the Elections in May 2021 the Council now comprises 61 Councillors made up by 28 Conservatives, 20 LibDems, 9 Labour and 4 Independent. The Joint Administration (JA) formed of Lib Dem/Labour/Independent members took control of the Council with a new Joint Administration Agreement which you can view at:

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/cambridgelibdems/pages/5179/attachments/original/1620 984611/County agreement 2021 FINAL.pdf?1620984611

The Chair is Cllr Stephen Ferguson (Ind) and Sebastian Kindersley (LD) is Vice Chair. I chair the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board and am Vice Chair of the Adults and Health Committee, which is chaired by Richard Howitt (Lab). I also sit on the Education Transport Appeals panel and am an active substitute member for Children and Young People, Communities, and Staffing and Appeals.

The County Council's move from Shire Hall in Cambridge to Alconbury took place in the autumn - but not for Full Council meetings, for which the 'Multi Function Room' at Alconbury is too small for meetings with COVID social distancing, and possibly even permanently. The Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2021 was held amid the war planes of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford and since then full council meetings have taken place at Burgess Hall leisure centre, St Ives.

The new Joint Administration has been taking stock of the Council it has inherited. We invited in a 'peer challenge' panel of expert councillors and council officers from the Local Government Association to look at the operation of the Council and advise on priorities. They did so, and came back in spring this year to update on how we were doing. We also convened an Independent Remuneration Panel, as we are required to do, to review Councillor allowances. Unlike the previous administration we agreed their recommendations unaltered.

The Council's Chief Executive retired during the year, and we appointed a new Chief Executive Stephen Moir who started in post in February 2022. Unlike his predecessor, Stephen will serve Cambridgeshire County Council only, not Peterborough too. This is part of a process of disentangling many of the joint staffing structures set up by the previous administration, so that we and they can focus on Cambridgeshire priorities.

Finance and Council Tax

The new Council inherited a budget gap of £22.2M for this year. We managed to balance the budget this time, but very significant financial challenges lie ahead. The budget gap we inherited was set to rise to £86M by 2027, and our 'peer challenge' team identified this as an issue 'of significant magnitude'.

The Council increased its portion of Council Tax in February, by 1.99% for general services, and 3% for adult social care. This was a difficult decision to take during the current cost of living crisis, but many people struggling most with increased bills and prices are those who are most likely to need council services, and likely to pay a lower council tax increase. The Council's budget for this year included a £14M 'Just Transition Fund' to tackle inequality, improve lives and care for the environment.

Whistle blowing: Farmgate

An issue dominating Cambridgeshire politics since the whistle was blown in 2018 is 'Farmgate' — the award to then County Council deputy leader Roger Hickford of the tenancy of a County Councilowned farm in Girton. The new Joint Administration took office committed to publishing the facts, and this has now happened. The subject was found by independent investigators to have broken the councillors' Code of Conduct in seven different ways, including bullying and improper use of position for personal advantage.

County Council Estate

The County Council's Farms estate extends to 33,000 acres - the biggest public sector rural estate in England and Wales. The new Joint Administration is keen to reposition this asset not just as a source of rental income (important though that is) but also as a major part of our environmental and climate ambitions.

The new Joint Administration commissioned an independent review of the Council's development company This Land. This found 'unusual' accounting practices and 'shortcomings [which] require immediate attention'. The review made a number of recommendations, most to be carried out within three months.

Adult Social Care and Health

One of the major changes the new administration made to the Council's committee system was to combine the former Adults Committee and Health Committee into a single committee, making the most of the close relationship between health provision and adult social care. The Committee has been working hard towards the introduction of the Government's Integrated Care System (ICS) across health and care providers. The Council welcomed a new Director of Public Health, Jyoti Atri. Susan's role chairing the Health and Wellbeing Board involves helping to formulate local authority and NHS joint working under the terms of the ICS.

The COVID pandemic has had a devastating effect in terms of loss of life, long-term health challenges, and the emotional impact on families. Workforce challenges in health and care are acute, as people are reassessing their careers and life choices. International recruitment has been adversely affected first by Brexit and then Covid. The Council has worked extensively with partner agencies to support the COVID effort, though with all precautions now removed in England case numbers have surged in recent months.

The Joint Administration has adopted a 'health in all policies' approach. We are investing in the development of 'Care Together' with Community Catalysts supporting local social care microenterprises as an alternative to large agency staff models and rolling out the Real Living Wage to social care workers. We have established increased support for unpaid carers and expanded the Direct Payment option to more people. We have invested further in the Enhanced Response Service as an alternative to reliance on an over-stretched A&E.

The Council has invested afresh in public health programmes, including more NHS health checks, and local grants for community wellbeing activities. It has also started to assess the impact of government reforms on our social care responsibilities, in which it's clear there will be very significant new responsibilities and costs without new funding. National Insurance rise funding will be prioritized for addressing hospital waiting lists arising from the pandemic.

Children's Services

A major focus of this committee during the year was to ensure funding of vouchers over school holidays for families eligible for free school meals. This happened throughout 2021/22 and is guaranteed throughout 2022/23. The Council has also worked with local providers on to establish the Holiday Activity & Food programme for the children of families on benefits related free school meals. The numbers of children in Cambridgeshire eligible for free school meals has continued to increase significantly across the county.

The Council has carried out a high-profile drive to recruit more local foster carers and ensure more children and young people in care can remain within the county.

The national shortage of HGV and other drivers means the County Council has faced challenges in both home to school transport and school catering during the year, adding still more pressure for staff on top of Covid.

Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion

This new committee has been responsible for supporting communities through COVID, making provision for refugees from Afghanistan and now Ukraine, assisting EU citizens in obtaining settled status and voting rights, as well as a range of public services from libraries to mortuaries. COSMIC makes decisions about the Household Support Fund, which supports people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food, household energy or other essential items. An increasing number of families is struggling financially. It runs what was the Innovate & Cultivate Fund, now Cultivate Cambs, funding community support activities. It also drew up a Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy.

Environment & Green Investment Committee

This new committee is responsible for climate change and renewable energy, strategic planning, flood and water, biodiversity, waste, antiquities, and surprisingly digital infrastructure and broadband. The committee developed two important strategies this year – a revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, and an updated Climate Change & Environment Strategy which sets a new and more ambitious target for a net-zero carbon Cambridgeshire by 2045. We are also working on a Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund and Local Area Energy Planning. We invested an additional £109K over last winter to undertake urgent repairs to various biodiversity sites, as well as to begin a biodiversity audit of the Council's land to set a baseline for our commitment to increase biodiversity in Cambridgeshire.

The Council's high-profile scheme to get the community of Swaffham Prior off oil and onto a new renewable energy community heating system continues to progress well, with a £3.2M Government grant awarded. Other energy schemes include the installation of solar panels on Park & Ride sites, small-scale solar farms with private wire connections to commercial customers, and replacement of gas and oil boilers in schools and in the Council's own premises around the county. We have also run another round of Solar Together, the group buying scheme for homeowners wanting to invest in solar panels and battery storage.

Highways

The new Council is facing up to the policy of 'Managed Decline' of Cambridgeshire's highways network left by its outgoing administration. The legacy of a failure to invest for the long-term is

painfully evident in every community. Not least of these was the atrocious state of the county's 100,000 gullies, for which a lack of cyclical maintenance contributed to the flooding of winter 2020/21. These are now being mapped and cleared, including one which was in such a bad state a metal detector was required to actually find it. Surface treatments of various roads and pavements are being planned for the next two years. Recovery of the highways network will take time, particularly in an era when public finance is more challenged than ever.

The Council has established a new funding pot for local communities to bid into for 20MPH zones, to make these more widespread and easier to obtain. The Council has been focusing on Active Travel, with the aim of improving infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians. A new Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan is in progress.

Combined Authority

A new Mayor was elected in May 2021 which led to the scrapping of the CAM Metro and the '£100K homes' project. The Combined Authority's Climate Commission published its ambitious report; the Government announced there would be no more money for affordable housing and snubbed the Combined Authority's bus improvement plan. A new Chief Executive was also appointed, and the Combined Authority has decided to make its permanent home in offices in Huntingdon.

During the year, the Combined Authority's Climate Commission published its ambitious report; the Government announced there would be no more money for affordable housing and snubbed the Combined Authority's bus improvement plan.

Greater Cambridge Partnership

Traffic in Cambridge is set to grow by 30 per cent in the next ten years, and there is a serious lack of funding for public transport. Without this, many people who cannot drive, or cannot afford to buy, insure or fill up a car, are left with limited or no options for travel. The Greater Cambridge Partnership has been consulting for some time on ways to relieve traffic congestion in Cambridge and improve public transport from the wider area into the city. These consultations are still ongoing. One of the options on the table is some form of congestion charging to pay for better public transport.

Fire Authority

County Councillors chair and provide representation on the Fire Authority. A recent Government inspection of the service looked at three main areas – how effective it is, how efficient and how well colleagues are looked after – and found the Service continued to be rated Good; putting us among the best performing fire and rescue services in the UK.

Parishes

Locally I continue to attend Parish Council meetings as and when I can — they are an important place for opinions to be aired, information shared and problems solved. I work on a wide range of casework and coordinate several transport groups including the Cam Vale Bus Users Group, the A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign and the Meldreth Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership looking after the interests of small station services between Royston and Cambridge. I coordinate the Melbourn and Bassingbourn Practical Solutions Groups that seek to support young people in the community through the portal of the village colleges, and I am part of a team of local councillors

ensuring that Thakeham cannot proceed with its plan for a new town of 25k houses obliterating 9 local villages.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Parish Council on many different issues throughout the year. I always I welcome feedback, casework and the opportunity to serve residents of the parish as your County Councillor.

County Councillor Susan van de Ven

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership







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Cover photo credit: Simon Smith, Railscene Cambridge

Introduction by the Chair

'Try the Train!'

This year, our job as Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership (MSFCRP) has been to keep a strong focus on the future and sustainability of local rail services. We've rekindled community involvement in looking after our station environments and encouraged take-up of rail travel as society reshapes itself in the wake of the pandemic.



The foundation of a Community Rail Partnership (CRP) and the access to a wide range of networks has provided a good footing for rebuilding ridership and cultivating wider interest in sustainable, active travel. Some of these networks are new and have fostered new ideas. A strong relationship with our train operating company provides constant close attention to detail.

The effects of the pandemic on mental and physical health, and the importance of physical exercise and social contact, has underpinned new emphasis on active travel.

Big infrastructure projects continue to demand careful thought and attention and we have sought to make local voices heard and consider the long-term public interest.

We've been delighted to work in new ways with our closest secondary school, Melbourn Village College, as well as other schools further afield who've taken an interest in Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteering opportunities.

And we've taken an active role in the national network of CRPs promoting rail for tourism – all part of the picture in choosing to Try the Train! We were delighted to win an award for communications in the Countryside, Capital, Coast campaign, hosted by the Community Rail Network.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the passion and dedication of our Project Officer, Sarah Grove, whose role is supported by a multitude of partners, reflecting widespread commitment to the future of active sustainable rail travel for our local communities.

Susan van de Ven

Chair, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership

Providing a Voice for the Community

This year we have continued to make local voices heard during important infrastructure consultations that will affect our local area and rail users. We have energetically engaged with our train operating company through several changes to the timetable.

Timetable Issues

Throughout the ups and downs of the pandemic we have liaised closely with Govia Thameslink Railway, ensuring that the timetable supports our key workers, commuters and school travellers. At times, special stop orders were put in place for our villages, and we have continued our campaign for a half-hourly service. This was returned in December, only to be dropped again due to the emergence of the Omicron Coronavirus variant, however we have great hopes to see it return in May 2022.

Foxton Travel Hub

In our response to the Travel Hub consultation in September 2021, we tried to strike a balance of considerations on what has been a contentious proposal for the local community. As one of the smallest stations between London and Cambridge, and one situated on a complex level crossing/road junction, the proportion, scale and physical siting of new car parking facilities at Foxton have been extremely challenging. At the same time, we recognize that investment in this small station is vital for the future of rail services here. We participated extensively in the Non-Motorised User Group, championing all aspects



of passenger accessibility, and raised concerns on platform capacity and safety for projected passenger growth ahead of the reduction to 200 car park spaces in the proposals of December 2021. Concerns remain about the safety of passengers who will be required to cross the A10 from the new car park. We expect a planning application to be made in Summer 2022.

East West Rail

In May 2021 we submitted our response to the consultation on the high-level route alignment proposed for the Bedford to Cambridge section of East West Rail. Whilst supportive of an Oxford-Cambridge rail link, our response highlighted the failures of the proposed route in serving the concentration of new population growth around north Cambridge; the severance of community connections in our Community Rail Partnership area villages; the problem of blight, noise and pollution; and limitations to accessibility to new line services from our existing stations.



Promoting Sustainable, Healthy and Accessible Travel

Our focus this year has been on improving the active travel links to our stations to encourage sustainable travel.

Encouraging Modal Shift

The MSFCRP are continuing to work on improvements on the path between Meldreth Station and Melbourn, which will be widened, rebuilt and lit as part of the Melbourn Greenways Project.

We are working with the South Cambs Community Safety Partnership, the District and County Council Communities Teams, Melbourn Science Park and Melbourn Village College on a project to improve the lighting, artwork and plant life at the A10 underpass between Meldreth Station and Melbourn – part of the off-road option for active travel in that direction.

Communication and Messages

As timetables and regulations have been constantly changing, we have kept in close contact with our rail users and local communities this year to promote safe travel messages through our website, Facebook group, email newsletter and Twitter. We have continued to hold our steering group and Rail User Group meetings online, resulting in good attendance from our rail industry colleagues.



Travel with confidence

Thank you for wearing a face covering if you can, as a courtesy to others



Bringing Communities Together, Supporting Diversity and Inclusion

Our station gardens continue to provide a fantastic opportunity for the local community to get involved in gardening projects, some because they simply can't wait to get their hands dirty, and others who live near the stations but have no garden space themselves. We were also very happy that even with restrictions in place, community events such as the Meldreth Christmas Tree festival were able to go ahead this year.

May 2021 - Shepreth Memorial Garden

The memorial garden at Shepreth had become choked over the years with weeds and brambles. A day-long working party in May 2021 cleared the way for new pollinator friendly wildflower and shrub planting.

March 2022 - Meldreth

In March 2022 14 members of the Meldreth Veg Club came to Meldreth Station for a morning of clearing and planting of areas around the station car park. We filled a 12 yard skip, very kindly donated by County Council's waste contractor Amey, removing old, dead shrubs and cutting back encroaching ivy, and putting in lovely new perennials donated by volunteers.



Before and after at Shepreth Memorial Garden



Duke of Edinburgh Award Volunteering

We've been delighted to welcome back Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers to our station gardening. These young people come from a variety of secondary schools and make a critical difference to station platform gardens, through reliable help with watering tubs through hot summer months.

Meldreth Christmas Tree Festival

We were delighted to be able to participate in the return of the Meldreth Christmas Tree Festival this year. Over 30 local organisations are invited to decorate a tree, and this year ours was strung with timetables, tickets and train ornaments.



Supporting Social and Economic Development

We have worked hard this year to improve our online presence to promote our villages as destinations for tourists and locals, highlighting visitor attractions and walks.

Countryside, Capital, Coast wins award

We were delighted that our Countryside, Capital, Coast campaign – promoting destinations along the Thameslink Line - was awarded 2nd place in the Best Communications Category at the Community Rail Network awards in December. We learned so much by working with the other CRPs involved.

New "Discover" sections of the website

We updated our website with new "Discover" sections for each of our stations, including places to eat, points of interest and famous residents – did you know that Jonnie Peacock, the Paralympian Sprinter and Strictly Come Dancing Contestant, grew up in Shepreth?

Alltrails Collaboration

We contributed local station walks to the collaboration between GTR and the outdoor walking and hiking app AllTrails. Posters with QR codes were installed at Thameslink stations, so that visitors could scan the code to reveal nearby walks. Our walks also feature on the AllTrails app so that potential visitors can see what walks are available in areas they are considering visiting.





Strengthening the Partnership

The Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership feels ever more embedded in the community as a force for good as we have worked with new partners this year. Our efforts have been rewarded by reaccreditation with the Department for Transport.

New Partners

The MSFCRP has worked with a number of new partners this year. These include:

- CRPs along the Thameslink Line, working together to create the Countryside, Capital and Coast guide.
- The Community Safety Partnership, Melbourn Practical Solutions Group, and Think Communities Team at Cambridgeshire County Council on the Melbourn Greenways and Meldreth Underpass Projects.
- Melbourn Timebank, where our CRP Officer has been supporting weekly Well-Being Walks from the Melbourn Community Hub to encourage active lifestyles, tackle loneliness and improve mental health in the community.

Reaccreditation

The Community Rail Network, on behalf of the Department for Transport, reaccredited the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership in 2021.

"Accreditation is formal recognition by the DfT that a community rail partnership (CRP) operates to a high standard and that its objectives and activities are supported by Government."



Financial Report and Funding

MSFCRP is extremely grateful for the continued funding support from Govia Thameslink Railway and South Cambridgeshire District Council. It is also thankful for continued funding from Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Parish Councils.

Accounts for 2021-22

Income

Core Funding £16,400

Grants £2,121

Brought forward from 2020-21 £13,787

Total Income £32,308

Expenditure

Partnership Officer £14,660

Operational Expenses £55

Administration Expenses £847

Total Expenditure £15,562

Balance at 31 March 2022 £16,746





Who we are

Our Community Rail Partnership aims to develop links with schools and local businesses associated with our local rail services, and to enhance sustainable transport links in the wider area.

Contact us







Our Partners



















South West Cambridge Action Group Annual Report 2022

SWCAG has held regular meetings with parish council representatives of directly impacted villages, in order to keep abreast of planning issues, with the South Cambs District Council Director of Planning.

The Greater Cambridge (Cambridge City and South Cambs) Local Plan First Proposals include no sites in the area identified by Thakeham's ambition for a new South West Cambridge new town. Rather, Local Plan proposals are centred around existing transport infrastructure and designed for close proximity between home and employment opportunities. Mostly proposals falls along the A428 and A14 corridors.

Thakeham's 25K homes proposal is more than double what has been calculated as the optimum number of new homes for Greater Cambridge (11K).

Thakeham has made no submission to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

It appears that central government aspirations for the OxCam Arc have lost momentum, possibly affecting prospects for Thakeham.

However, SWCAG have continued to watch the Electoral Commission website where another donation from Thakeham to the Conservative Party was logged in late 2022, bringing the total to well over £700,000.

Updates and presentations have been circulated to parish councils and members of the public, and updates distributed to parish newsletters and magazines.

Cllrs Susan van de Ven, Sebastian Kindersley, Peter McDonald, Jose Hales and Aidan Van de Weyer, representing parishes in Thakeham's identified new town area.

A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign 2021-22: Annual Report for parish councils S van de Ven, Chair

Campaign meetings have continued to be held on-line. Agendas & minutes: A10corridorcycle.com

Melbourn Greenway

Progress has been slow primarily as a large new team has been recruited to deliver this and eleven other Greenway schemes across Greater Cambridge. The Melbourn Greenway team is now in place and design work is now underway in advance of a public consultation in the autumn. Contact has been re-established with Herts CC for the Royston element of the Melbourn Greenway.

The key new elements of the scheme include a path/bridge link between Melbourn-Royston, a link across the western side of Harston, a route over the M11 in conjunction with the South West Cambridge Park and Ride, and adaptations through Foxton and Melbourn High Streets, in principle with 20MPH speed limits (subject to public consultation), and junctions in the current network.

Accidents

Two cycle-vehicle collisions have been reported to the campaign at the BP station in Harston. Thankfully serious injuries were avoided though in both cases the cyclist came off their bike. Remedial work is clearly needed and CCC Highways is considering options. Concerns have also been raised with CCC Highways about the Cherry Park Melbourn junction.

Meanwhile Highways asks that ALL accidents however minor be reported to the Police, in order to create a public record that will be brought to the attention of Highways.

Path maintenance

Working parties – Thanks to members of the campaign working in Harston and Melbourn for spending regular lunch hours helping to keep vegetation cut back along the path.

Another round of vegetation cut back was carried out by Herts and Cambs Grounds Maintenance from the remaining AstraZeneca grant.

Strong reporting on the Cambs Report a Fault website resulted in additional Highways vegetation maintenance.

Following a proposal by the campaign for a sustainable funding arrangement for maintenance, CCC is supporting exploration of commuted sums arrangements for all the Greenways schemes.

Annual Awareness Ride

A very well attended Awareness Ride took place in October 2021, from Trumpington Park and Ride to Phillimore Garden Centre. An especially large proportion of the group was comprised of children. Teas were provided by volunteers on the front lawn at Phillimore.

The campaign has decided to hold its 22022 annual ride in the autumn, in advance of the Greenway consultation, in order to raise awareness for an optimum consultation response. This year we will hold both cycle and walking groups to highlight the multi-function nature of the network.

Participation in Greater Cambridge Partnership meetings

Questions from Herts and Cambs councillors and a Meldreth Primary School pupil were lodged with the GCP highlighting the urgency of delivering the Melbourn Greenway, and addressing remedial action needed at junctions.

Award made at the Annual Parish Meeting

16 May 2022

Community Award

Melbourn Parish Council

District of South Cambridgeshire

John and Julie Woolley

In recognition of their efforts as they collect litter on their daily walks around the village.

Thank you!

Cllr Graham Clark
Chair, Melbourn Parish Council

Award made at the Annual Parish Meeting 16 May 2022

Community Award

Melbourn Parish Council

District of South Cambridgeshire

Davina Biswell

Community Support for Dementia

'In recognition of her tireless work to support people affected by dementia in the community ... Davina is an inspiration!'

Thank you!

Cllr Graham Clark
Chair, Melbourn Parish Council

Award made at the Annual Parish Meeting 16 May 2022

Community Award

Melbourn Parish Council

District of South Cambridgeshire

Emma Windred & Nicola Dunklin

"... always generous with their time ... collecting litter and encouraging others to help to keep the village looking so tidy"

Thank you!

Cllr Graham Clark
Chair, Melbourn Parish Council

Award made at the Annual Parish Meeting 16 May 2022

Community Award

Melbourn Parish Council

District of South Cambridgeshire

Maureen and Les Brierley River Mel Restoration Group

".. for their tireless conservation work on the River Mel ... and coordinating volunteers groups to support their efforts"

Thank you!

Cllr Graham Clark
Chair, Melbourn Parish Council