

Melbourn Parish Council, October 2024

Melbourn Practical Solutions Group

The PSG met on October 16 and heard a compelling update from the Meridien Primary Care Network on children's mental health work from within the PCN. We also had a detailed update from the Melbourn Child and Family Centre, which is expanding some of its offers. Facebook and Instagram are the platforms most used for sharing information.

We discussed the urgent need to work more closely with, and to support, our local schools and will take forward some practical ideas.

Volunteering opportunity – Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Stations

A reminder that the Community Rail Partnership offers regular volunteering at our three village stations, for young people (Duke of Edinburgh scheme, Scouts, etc)

Electric scooters as Christmas presents? Please be aware

Please be aware, as it may not be common knowledge, that while privately purchased e-scooters can be used on private property, they are not legal to use on the 'public highway' – our roads and pavements. The exception, which makes things confusing, is the County Council run an E-scooter rental scheme in Cambridge city.

We do get a fair share of complaints and concerns about e-scooters, mainly because of concerns about the safety of riders and those who may come into contact with them.

We're aware that Cambs Police will be doing a publicity campaign about this issue as Christmas approaches.

Path upgrade, Meldreth Station-Melbourn

Work has been going well, with just a couple of hitches involving unanticipated underground works. Hopefully by the time you read this we will be celebrating its completion.

Setting up and monitoring the temporary diversion has brought greater awareness of everyday safety concerns for people who use the Station Road bridge by bike or on foot, and we are in touch with the Greater Cambridge Partnership about prospects for modest improvements.

Melbourn Greenway – looking ahead

Susan attended the PC briefing with the GCP and will help with comms, to keep residents informed of how the Melbourn Greenway is taking shape.

Station Road Meldreth under A10 overpass:

It's good to note that thus far during very wet weather this autumn, pooling of rainwater along the main thoroughfare to Medreth has not been as problematic as previously. The County Flood team met with the local farmer in September for a look at ownership of key drainage ditches, so that they might be tended to. Our thanks to all concerned for enabling genuine improvements.

Rights of Way support

Our new Rights of Way Officer is Oliver Ayto, whose job includes maintenance of footpaths and bridleways. Work is prioritized according to public safety, clear daily use access, and convenience.

Part of the Ashwell Stret connecting Kneesworth and Melbourn has urgently needed repairs to huge potholes for access to residences and businesses and this should be addressed soon.

Green Infrastructure Team: who cuts which verges?

The new County 'Green Infrastructure Team' is working across all parishes to clarify any ambiguity relating to County versus Parish responsibilities on grass cutting, and improving the 'Maps' function on the County Council website (home page, top) - which provides public access to detailed maps which help to identify public property ownership and responsibilities. Thanks to questions from residents about specific locations which have helped prompt getting things clarified.

20MPH schemes – nearby villages

In this year's round, 91 scheme were submitted for consideration. Limited funding meant that only eight schemes could be approved for this coming year.

Adult Social Care Front Door telephone number:

Any questions, including if you're not sure what to ask! Please ring Cambridgeshire County Council on 0345 0455202

Care Microenterprise Directory

Cambridgeshire County Council has been supporting small new care businesses to take root. Services tend to be less costly than those provided by big care agencies. The directory is growing - please take look if you or someone you know might benefit: [The Care Micro-Enterprise directory \(CME\) | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

The same website has information on how to set up a care microenterprise – including people new to caring professions.

South Cambridgeshire District Council housing adaptations

Funds are available to carry out adaptations for residents of South Cambs whether they are homeowners, private renters or live in social or council homes. This means that people are able to remain living independently in their own homes for longer. Bids for the funds can be made on line: Search South Cambs Disabled Facilities Grants.

Mobile Warden Schemes

A total of £345,000 has been pledged to [Mobile Warden Schemes](#) in South Cambridgeshire for the next three years to help more elderly people stay living in their own homes for longer. The District Council has traditionally had an annual budget of £21,000 to support schemes but invested around £300,000 to try and increase the coverage of the service in South Cambridgeshire communities by supporting new schemes to develop.

Technology Enabled Care

A flat which uses everyday technology to help people become more independent at home was recently launched in Godmanchester to showcase ways in which new and existing technology can be used to help prevent, delay and reduce the need for formal community or acute care.

The equipment available ranges from simple pill reminders to sophisticated detectors, sensors, smart devices and trackers. To arrange a viewing, please contact our TEC team, either by phone, on 01480 378 160, or email: TECS@cambridgeshire.gov.uk (pre-arranged viewings only).

Communities Offer Road Show

The community roadshow is looking to highlight how the Communities team works collaboratively with parish/town councils and community groups, to meet local ambitions and develop resilient and responsive communities. The roadshow will cover 3 topic areas - Vibrant Communities (including cost-of-living support, community safety and health and wellbeing), Community Action (including grants, climate and environment projects) and Growth. The talks will also involve guest speakers who have developed projects locally with the support of the Communities Team and an opportunity for a Q&A.

November 20, 6:30-8:30PM, Melbourn Hub. To attend, you must complete the sign-up sheet through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/melbourn-community-roadshow-tickets-1030026957357?aff=oddtcreator>

Support when struggling to make ends meet:

Please do contact the SCDC Welfare and Benefits Team (01954 713000) or Citizens Advice (see below) if you need help accessing financial support to which you may be entitled. It is estimated that 25% of benefits go unclaimed.

'If you are struggling to pay your energy bills or can't afford to heat your home' please contact the Energy Partnership: support@applyforleap.org.uk, Tel 0800 0607567

Some energy suppliers provide support to the wider population. Citizens Advice provide the necessary reference letter. North Herts Citizens Advice:

- 0800 1448848 or 01462 689801
- Royston Town Hall, Monday and Wednesday, 9.30am – 12pm. Appointments: 01462 689801
- Melbourn Hub: Wednesdays 9.30am - 11.30am. Appointments: 07469 517912.

School place appeal panel volunteers

Volunteers are urgently needed to hear appeals when children are not offered a place at their preferred school. All parents or carers have the right to make an appeal to an independent appeal panel if their child is not offered a place at their preferred school. The role of the panel is to decide whether a child who has been refused a place by Cambridgeshire County Council should be given a place.

While appeals are held throughout the year, the peak months are between April and July. The appeals are arranged either for half a day or a full day, and hearings are currently held online using Microsoft Teams. Anyone interested in applying or who would like an informal chat about the role should contact clare.cronk@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Improving the High Street Grant

SCDC has recently launched the new £200,000 [Improving the High Street grant](#) scheme to support projects that boost the heart of communities across the district. Grants of between £5,000 - £20,000 per project are available to local businesses, community groups and Parish Councils. The scheme aims to improve the look of local high streets, promote rejuvenation, encourage residents to shop locally and attract more local businesses to the area.

Royal Mail deliveries

We're aware that postal deliveries have been somewhat sporadic in parts of the village. Thanks to those who written to us to make us aware that they have outlined their concerns to customer.service@royalmail.com and to our MP, Pippa Heylings.

How Council Tax works – new video

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has recently published [a video answering common questions on Council Tax](#). This includes information on how properties are banded and what evidence is needed in a band challenge. If you have any questions, please contact voamediaenquiries@voa.gov.uk

District Council Local Climate Action Fair 2024

Thanks to the success of its inaugural Local Climate Action Fair last year SCDC will be holding its second on Tuesday November 19 from 11-3pm in The Hub at Cambourne. It will be followed by a pop-up evening event from 5.30-8pm. All are welcome to come along to share ideas and hear how we can all do our bit to help make South Cambs net zero by 2050. You can read more about it in our [web story](#). To reserve a space please complete our [RSVP](#).

County Council Climate change progress report and carbon footprint

For Cambridgeshire as a whole, in 2022—the most recent available data—total greenhouse gas emissions were 6.45 million tonnes CO₂e, a 3% fall from 2021. Transport (27 per cent) remains the highest emitting sector in the county, followed by land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) (23 per cent), agriculture (15 per cent) and domestic energy use (13 per cent). The risk of not reaching the Council's carbon targets has reduced but remains considerable. Delivery of these targets relies on collaborating with our partner organisations.

Advance Warning: Foxton Level Crossing closure

Network Rail will be doing engineering work at Foxton level crossing from 25 December -1 January. The level crossing will be completely closed to vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

Our Community Rail Partnership raised concerns that this will be problematic for cyclists using the A10 path for commuting purposes, especially to the Addenbrooke's site, during this period when train services will not be running either. Unfortunately, no tweaks were proposed by Network Rail, so cycle commuters please be aware. A free shuttle bus will take pedestrians round to the other side; that journey will be 15 minutes.

Mill Road Bridge Cambridge

A bit far off geographically, but may be important for some. The Highways and Transport committee voted to approve a modal filter on Mill Road bridge, so it will be closed to all motor vehicles, except buses, pedestrians, cyclists, emergency services, taxis and blue badge holders' registered vehicles. Work on the bus gate is expected to be completed in December and will be enforced by Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras (ANPR).