

NEWS FROM YOUR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS CLARE DELDERFIELD AND BRIAN MILNES

SEPTEMBER 2020

YOU CAN FOLLOW YOUR COUNCILLORS ON FACEBOOK: BRIANANDCLARE4SAWSTON

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these - or indeed any other - matters, please do not hesitate to contact Clare Delderfield cllr.delderfield@scambs.gov.uk or Brian Milnes cllr.milnes@scambs.gov.uk

SOUTH CAMBS RE-OPENING TO PUBLIC

South Cambs Hall will be re-opening to public by appointment only starting on Tuesday 15th September 2020 between 10am-3pm on Tuesdays to Thursdays only. Please go to the website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/ways-to-contact-us/book-an-appointment/> to book an appointment. No walk-ins are allowed. Strict social distancing and hygiene procedures will be followed. Visitors will be required to wear face coverings and should take one with them. This is a limited opening which will be reviewed regularly.

LOCAL COVID TESTING SITE

The drive-through coronavirus testing facility at the Milton Park & Ride is still operational, though very busy. Some have reported difficulties in getting appointments there and have had to go further afield including Bedford. This has been raised with senior managers who will raise it with the NHS— perhaps we need another one in this area. Book an appointment on the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or by calling 119.

LOCAL SCDC SUPPORT

The South Cambs Coronavirus page <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/> is kept updated. Once again a big thank you to all the volunteers. The Council is encouraging communities not to completely scrap the support systems already in place but find a way to keep something in place. There is talk of a second wave, which though we hope will not happen, must bear in mind.

BUSINESS SUPPORT AND BUSINESSES REOPENING

The Business Support team has got into its stride and assisting businesses operating in the district to re-open and providing assistance to help them get through this difficult time. You can read more about the team here

<https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/business/the-new-team-helping-south-cambridgeshire-s-businesses-to-recover-9118631/>, and contact via scambs.gov.uk/business, email openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk or call 01954 713 465.

SHOP LOCAL -

It has been good to see the support for our local shops in Sawston and how they have adapted to become Covid safe. Please continue to buy from our local shops and encourage others to also support our local economy.

PLANNING

Officers continue to work under the new challenging lockdown regime to get planning decisions made in a timely manner.

GREATER CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

We are working toward having further discussions with local councillors and other stakeholders this Autumn 2020 about the findings of the Issues and Options consultation. We will also be releasing information on the sites that landowners submitted to the Council in the Call-for-Sites stage. Some are for housing, others for businesses, and others for green spaces. These are simply aspirational proposed sites from landowners and no work has yet been done to assess their suitability. The sites will go through further testing later in the process before they can be considered for selection.

SELF EMPLOYED SUPPORT

The government has announced that the self-employed can claim an additional payment from them. Info can be found on the government's website or we can assist via the District Council.

ZERO CARBON COMMUNITIES GRANT

Round 2 of the SCDC Zero Carbon Communities Grant is now open. This year the grant is focussing on three main themes – cycling, community buildings and tree planting & other nature-based initiatives. Applications are invited from parish councils and community

groups. The total available is £100,000 with individual grants of £1,000 - £15,000. The scheme opened on Wednesday 1st July and the application deadline is 5pm Wednesday 30th September.

ELECTORAL REGISTER

The District Council is doing its annual canvas to get the electoral register up to date. Please do encourage anyone that you know isn't registered to do so and follow the steps laid out in the letters that SCDC are sending out,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

There is some talk within government that they are leaning towards more 'unitary' authorities in the country, so fewer layers of local government and just one large authority that deals with everything. Cambridgeshire already has an incredibly complex picture in local government profile, much to the frustration of many. Any Local Government reorganisation costs money and takes time. Now seems exactly the wrong time to start a reorganisation, when it is so important to be providing local support during this pandemic and through the necessary recovery. This will be a constantly moving beast, so keep your ears to the ground. It will be interesting to see what happens following the resignation from Government today by Simon Clarke, Minister for Housing Communities and Local Government. We are yet to learn who will be replacing him.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these, or any other matters.

BRIAN MILNES AND CLARE DELDERFIELD

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS FOR SAWSTON