

# SOUTH CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

NOVEMBER 2020

CLLRS CLARE DELDERFIELD & BRIAN MILNES

A reminder that information about South Cambs response to coronavirus can be found on the regularly updated coronavirus pages on the SCDC website: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

## COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Parish Councils request to adjust the boundary to incorporate both new development on Babraham Road will be considered by the Civic Affairs committee on 16 Nov 2020

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Following the MPs vote to not extend Free School Meals in the middle of a pandemic to vulnerable children, the District Council agreed to match fund the County Council if they were willing to fund the scheme over the Christmas break.

As it now transpires, the Marcus Rashford campaign has again proved effective, as the Government has changed its mind and agreed to fund the scheme.

## POLICE CUTS

Police cuts have been announced by Cambridgeshire's Police Chief Constable.

Changes have to be made in a bid to save £1.7m next year. Chief Constable Nick Dean said the force will receive a proportion of the 20,000 extra police officers promised by the government but Cambridgeshire "also needs to make considerable cost savings to avoid using financial reserves".

Public facing proposed changes include:

- Reduction of PCSOs from 80 to 40 but with the guarantee of at least one in "every single neighbourhood".
- Removal of the community safety team, resulting in the reduction of six community safety officer posts across the force
- Closure of nine enquiry offices, Including Sawston, with the promise of an appointment-based service in each area to enable the public to speak with an officer.

We can share the following update from Sergeant Emma Hilson:

"Dear Residents, I am conscious a number of you have made contact regarding Wednesday's press release detailing the proposed changes to Neighbourhoods Policing across Cambridgeshire in the coming months.

Many of you are asking “Why?” or “What about our communities?”.... Which is completely understandable.

It will be tempting to pick up the phone to your local officer to question them about these very difficult decisions. I would like to make a small plea, if I may, that you spare a thought for the individual themselves before you pose these questions to them. Not only are they dealing with all of the emotive matters that naturally come with the role, they are now considering the personal impact of Wednesday’s news. If you have direct questions that you wish to ask then please contact myself or one of the other Neighbourhoods supervisors, and we will answer your query or direct you to the Neighbourhoods change team accordingly.

Please be reassured that nothing has changed for our communities since this news broke on Wednesday. On Thursday the team did as they always do after a tough set of circumstances... they talked it through, brushed themselves off, put their hats back on got back out into your communities. They are still out there policing our area in the same way that they did last week, last month and last year, with the same level of commitment to you all as they have always had.

There will be transition period in the future as we manage the staffing changes across the area. However, in the meantime please help us to support your communities. We cannot police without your help. In order to tackle the issues that are causing you the most concern we still need information direct from you via our main reporting channels 101 or [www.Cambs.police.uk/report](http://www.Cambs.police.uk/report) There are many local initiatives run and supported by Cambridgeshire police that help us keep your communities safer places to be... Speedwatch, safer places schemes, neighbourhood watch to name but a few. Please don’t be afraid to ask about these schemes.

Finally, as a team we have been overwhelmed with the support from the local communities particularly during the pandemic. From us to you - Thank you for your continued encouragement."

Emma

Sergeant 0964 Emma Hilson

South Cambridgeshire Neighbourhoods Policing Team

#### CAMPAIGNING ON FLY-TIPPING AND TAXI LICENSING

The District Council continues to prosecute fly-tipping, which is a scourge. We have issued a number of cases with fixed penalty notices, which is a lot quicker and cost effective than taking the matter to court.

It is very easy for residents with rubbish to remove to check that an operator has a valid waste carrier licence on the Environment Agency site, or has a scrap metals certificate from the District Council.

We have also successfully recently prosecuted a Private Hire operator after he had been reported operating after being disqualified, following an incident with a cyclist.

#### COVID BUSINESS SUPPORT

South Cambs are preparing for the Local Restriction Support Grants and Discretionary Grants and the Business Support Team is working closely with the Business Rates and Policy teams to deliver and administer these. However, we are waiting on further detail from Central Government on both

schemes, and we cannot process anything until we have this. We are already updating web (<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/>) and we sent out the business newsletter today with the latest info for business. We will keep everything up to date over coming days and weeks. Please direct business grant queries to our open for business inbox at [openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk)

We have already had a flurry of calls and emails from very anxious businesses asking for further financial support and/or clarification on whether they need to shut down and what they are eligible for.

#### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

In communities, we have five patch leads, including one from Housing and one from Benefits. Again, this was a lesson we learnt from last time, so we have those skills in the team supporting community groups. This already means we can link up better with benefits to ensure we are filling all the gaps for immediate support whilst applications for grants can be processed.

The best news this time is we have our network of community groups in place. They are willing and able to support people and we have been able to work with them to provide small upfront grants. This will mean local communities can step in and help with emergency food supplies. The aim of this is to be more responsive and effective. We had an amazing SCDC food bank last time, but this is something groups can now take on as they have the structures in place. For any queries to the team, please use: [duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk)

#### GREEN ELECTRIC WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLE

Bin collections in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City are going state-of-the-art green as the two Councils covering the area take delivery of their very first all-electric bin lorry.

Now out around the streets on bin collection days, the lorry is the first all-electric addition to the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service – a partnership between South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Councils. The Dennis Eagle 'eCollect' is now part of the Shared Waste Service's fleet and being used to collect residents' recycling.

The Council's first electric bin lorry. Its green livery contains trees, buildings with solar panels, the sun, wind turbines and other similar icons.

Here's the vehicle on one of its first collection routes in Sawston – suitably enough the Green Bin Lorry collecting on The Green Road!



This marks the start of a drive to replace all the waste service's collection lorries with electric or hydrogen vehicles as their existing trucks come to the end of their working lives.

The Shared Waste Service is one of the first waste collection services nationally to invest in green vehicles which have zero emissions and contribute to better air quality when out on the road.

The new fully electric Dennis Eagle 'eCollect' has five specially designed battery packs storing 300kWh of energy and capable of supplying 200kW of power to electric motors, making it substantially quieter than existing bin collection vehicles. Fully loaded it will weigh around 26 tonnes and will typically take around seven to eight hours to recharge, easily completing a full day of collection rounds and returning to the depot with charge remaining in the battery.

The new vehicle has cost around £400,000 and while this is more than a traditional diesel bin collection lorry, the Councils expect the whole-life cost to be at the very least the same – if not less – than a diesel vehicle due to reduced servicing, fuel and general running costs.

Note – Green Bin collections will carry on as usual during Lockdown

#### MANAGING HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRES

Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) will remain open in line with the guidance updated last month. The key principle of this guidance is to protect human health while maintaining safe systems of working.

This non-statutory guidance is to help local authorities keep HWRCs open throughout COVID restrictions. It sets out issues for local authorities to consider to support the operation of HWRCs in line with public health requirements. This guidance might be amended from time to time to align with other government guidance on coronavirus.

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-to-local-authorities-on-prioritising-waste-collections/managing-household-waste-and-recycling-centres-hwrCs-in-england-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic>

#### MESSAGE TO THE HOUSING INDUSTRY ON CONTINUING TO WORK SAFELY

The Housing Secretary, Executive Chairman of the Home Builders Federation and Chief Executive of the Federation of Master Builders have written to the housing industry to make clear that house building – and its supply chains that support it – should continue working securely.

The Government is clear that work can continue if this is done in line with public health guidance.

Correspondence: <https://bit.ly/3kUsPfn>

#### COUNCILLOR UPDATES

#### 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](mailto:cllr.delderfield@scambs.gov.uk) or Brian Milnes [cllr.milnes@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.milnes@scambs.gov.uk)