

County Councillor report - Sawston & Shelford Division

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September 2021

Covid-19

Vaccinations

Information about walk-in vaccination clinics is available at www.thevaccinators.co.uk

Alternatively, appointments can be booked online at www.nhs.uk

Testing

Mobile rapid testing vehicles continue to visit sites across the county, offering on-the-spot lateral flow tests as well as test kits to take away and complete at home. You can also order kits to use at home. More information at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting

CO2 monitors for schools

The government has committed to install CO2 monitors in all schools to ensure the appropriate level of ventilation in classrooms to prevent spread of infection. We hope all schools will have the monitors in place during the Autumn.

Highways

County Broadband works

There have been a lot of County Broadband (a private company not affiliated to the County Council!) works around our villages throughout summer and autumn. All works are posted ahead of time on one.network website. Please make sure you [contact](#) County Broadband if your experience with their scheduling and work is below your expectation.

Real time roadworks information trial success

A couple of months ago council officers and contractors set up a WhatsApp Group among themselves. The contractors posted information and pictures to the group at the beginning and end of each day. They also reported if they changed sites during the day.

Information Services officers used the information to update the Council website once a day. The Communications team and the Council's Integrated Highways Management Centre posted the information on the relevant Twitter feeds. Real time closure information was fed through to satnavs via the one.network web platform. And the Council's Contact Centre used the WhatsApp information to provide up to date information in response to customer enquiries.

Officers managing the works could track the contractor more accurately, ask more informed questions, and respond better to enquiries. The contractors felt this was a success and are keen to adopt the new system when they carry out works in Cambridgeshire. Their Micro Asphalt team want to use it for their autumn programme which will start in September. The Integrated Highways Management Centre was happy as it could deal with enquiries much more quickly, though there were some issues with roadworks permits. Staff are also putting out information on Instagram. Information Services staff were pleased, as they could update the website each day. They could do this more quickly and provide more accurate information. The Contact Centre felt it was particularly helpful for highlighting weather delays, and informing enquirers about these.

From a staff point of view the trial was a huge success, and will improve the information the Council provides about these works. The autumn Micro Asphalt program begins in September, and staff will use this method again. Meanwhile the Council will look to provide links for parishes and councillors so that they can access the information and advise residents how to do so.

The new Joint Administration of Cambridgeshire County Council, and its Highways Chair Cllr Peter McDonald, are keen to improve the use of IT to manage the council's highways.

Civil parking enforcement

The County Council is proposing to apply to the Department of Transport for a Designation Order for the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement in Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and South Cambridgeshire.

Meanwhile the Government is proposing to finally implement Part 6 of the Road Traffic Act 2004. This gives power to local councils, rather than the police, to enforce moving traffic offences—not speeding, but offences such as breaching weight limits.

Community Flood Action survey

As part of its Community Flood Action Programme, Cambridgeshire County Council is updating its riparian guidance document to make it more useful for those living next to a watercourse. A riparian owner is anyone who owns a property where there is a watercourse within or adjacent to the boundaries of their property. A watercourse includes a river, stream or ditch. A riparian owner is also responsible for watercourses or culverted watercourses passing through their land.

As this document is aimed at residents and landowners, the Council wishes to seek their views and get a better understanding of their awareness of riparian issues. The Council has therefore prepared a short survey (five questions—link below) for residents and landowners to complete. The Council plans to keep [the survey](#) open until Thursday 30 September but this can be extended if necessary. In addition, the Council would be grateful for any photographs of watercourses that residents may have, to include in the guidance document. If anyone would like to submit photos, please email them to CFAP@cambridgeshire.gov.uk and include the name they would like to be credited as.

Decentralisation of services

One of the new Joint Administration's major commitments is to decentralise council services, making decisions closer to communities. This might include:

- Joint decision making—the County Council working closely with the District or City Council, Town or Parish Councils, local voluntary, community and faith groups, and communities to identify priorities and agree how best to deliver to them.
- Service relocation—County Council services physically located within the heart of communities where there is an evidenced need, with opportunities for co-location between council departments and with partner agencies.
- Delegation of funding, service delivery, and/or decision making—a community or local organisation being given formal delegation to deliver a service or to make decisions relating to county council services.

A progress report will be made to the December meeting of the Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee. The Council aims to support and enable partners to deliver services or make joint decisions, rather than adding pressure and cost to those organisations. This will be an important principle to establish before firm decisions can be made, and reflects some of the early feedback received from District and City Councils.

Foster carers

Cambridgeshire County Council needs more foster carers. Fostering means caring for one or more children or young people in your own home when they are unable to live with their family.

Foster carers provide a safe and secure home for children and young people of all ages, and come from a wide range of ages, cultures and backgrounds.

Becoming a foster carer normally takes four to six months. The Council offers

- a generous mileage allowance, a setting-up fee for furniture and equipment, two weeks additional basic maintenance payments for holidays, birthdays allowance, a festivities allowance, and an initial clothing and school uniform allowance.
- round-the-clock 'out of hours' support should you need reassurance.
- a dedicated social worker to provide regular supervision and support.

Foster carers could earn up to £44,720 plus benefits for looking after two children aged eleven or over, subject to experience, training, and assessment.

There are lots of different types of fostering available for the right people and their families. Applicants will need enthusiasm and commitment to support the needs of children and young people in care, as well as a spare bedroom—and be over 21 years of age. The Council urgently needs foster carers for teenagers, sibling groups, and children with disabilities.

For more information

- visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering
- call 0800 052 0078 or
- text FOSTERING to 60777

Library Survey

Let us know what your local library means to you

Cambridgeshire Libraries is looking for feedback from residents on why they value their local library service as part of its plans for Libraries Week 2021.

Libraries Week, which runs from Monday 4 October to Sunday 10 October, celebrates the nation's much-loved libraries and the central role that they play in their community as a driver for inclusion, sustainability, social mobility and community cohesion.

Planning is still underway for the county's Libraries Week celebrations, but to feed into this residents are being asked to complete a short survey or pop into their local library and write down a few words about why they value library staff, services, books and buildings.

To take part in the survey, go to <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/6HSTQX/>

For a full list of libraries and opening times, go to <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/visit-a-library>

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