

## **Gamlingay Division Councillors Report – South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council – June July 2020**

The Gamlingay Division comprises the Parishes of Abington Pigotts, Arrington, Barrington, Croydon, Gamlingay, Guilden Morden, Litlington, Hatley, Orwell, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Steeple Morden, Tadlow & Wimpole. This report is /for all Division Parish Councils but please be aware that it will include items that may have little or no relevance to your particular Parish. Apologies in advance!

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 County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley on 01767 651982 or [skindersley@hotmail.com](mailto:skindersley@hotmail.com) or write to the Manor Barn, East Hatley, SG19 3JA District Councillor Bridget Smith (Gamlingay Ward, SCDC) is on 01767 650510 or [bridget@glockling.com](mailto:bridget@glockling.com) – twitter and District Councillor Aidan van de Weyer (Barrington, Orwell, the Eversdens & Wimpole SCDC Ward) can be called on 01223 870 869 or email him [aidan@mishmush.com](mailto:aidan@mishmush.com) You can also follow your councillors on Twitter: @Cllrbridget, @SebKindersley @aidanvdew

### **Track & Trace**

Track and Trace is now underway. There are 10,000 track and tracers available and because there are nowhere near this many positive tests per day at the moment many of them are just sitting waiting for a call. The argument is that it is best to have capacity in the system than not.

### **Shop Local**

We are promoting a South Cambs 'Shop Local' campaign. For many of us it is the local shops staying open, doing deliveries and stocking different things that has made life bearable for the past three months. We have relied on local shops during the lock down and it is now imperative that as lockdown eases that we repay what the shops have done for us by continuing to shop local whenever we can. As always, it is a case of 'use it or lose it' and if we do not have local retailers should this situation ever recur, we will find it even more difficult to cope. A really positive aspect of lockdown is the enormous efforts of all our volunteers and coordinators who are really pushing themselves to the limits to keep all our vulnerable residents safe. As the impact of job losses, reduced income and loneliness and isolation really start to hit, their efforts have unfailingly increased to meet the escalating demand. Thank you so much.

### **Zoos – They are Open!**

There are two Zoos in South Cambs – at Shepreth and Linton and everyone is relieved that you can now visit them albeit with rigorous social distancing in place. Zoos have really struggled during this time as they have not been able to furlough staff or else who would feed the animals? So if you fancy a lovely trip out please do consider a visit to one or both of them.

### **Construction Hours on Building Sites**

Government has instructed local authorities to take a pragmatic approach to allowing house developers to work for longer hours than in their existing planning permissions. This is with a view to kick starting house building which has suffered considerably during lockdown. We are seeing some of the big builders starting with a much reduced workforce on sites and this is the argument for

allowing them to work for longer hours. Parish Councils will be consulted and it is not a forgone conclusion that extended operating hours will be allowed everywhere but it is hoped that were it will not cause serious local issues.

## **New Housing**

Very exciting that we have seen new council house handovers in villages such as Gt Abington over the lockdown period and the Housing New Build department continue to work very closely with the tenancy team and patch officer for Housing to ensure that stringent health and safety practices are in place to ensure that the vital role of providing much-needed affordable homes can continue safely and efficiently during these uncertain times.

## **Greater Cambridge Local Plan**

Thank you to the thousands of people who took part in a recent consultation on the future of Greater Cambridge - the consultation 'reached more residents than ever'. Initial feedback from the Consultation identified some key areas to be explored during the development of the Local Plan:

For new housing there is support for densification of existing urban areas, along with development along public transport corridors. Views on development around villages were polarised and on green belt development, it appears there is some support for locations which are sustainable in transport terms, to reduce car travel from locations further away.

Infrastructure – which can refer to road and cycle networks, education and health provision, and more – was the theme that attracted the most interest, by a substantial margin, with transport being the most commented on topic. Provision of homes was key and then climate change, which prompted a wide range of views – from those who felt it was a high priority, to those who felt that other issues should take precedence.

Many responses said that continuing economic growth was important, although many also raised questions around whether growth was desirable. Some stated that wellbeing was a priority over growth, while others expressed the view that economic growth was the means to raise quality of life.

The first key milestone for public participation in the plan in summer 2021, when members of the public will be asked to input into the proposed approach. This will be the 'Preferred Options' stage, which sets out specifics such as proposed levels of development for jobs and homes; sites allocated for development; and the preferred approach for key policy topics such as climate change targets, affordable housing thresholds, and approach to development in villages.

## **Milton County Park**

South Cambs has given up to £50k towards Milton Country to ensure residents can keep enjoying the green spaces and paths. The grant will include a £25,000 payment now and the option of the second half from September. It is being made available to the Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust charity, which runs the 95-acre Park on South Cambridgeshire District Council's behalf.

The park has a combination of woodland, water and grassy meadow habitats which are carefully managed to support and enhance diversity and the natural environment. Throughout the year there is an abundance of wildlife to see and enjoy. However, in March, the main sources of income – the

car park and café – were closed to help with social distancing requirements. The Park's chargeable sports and activity programme also stopped. These are now re-starting so please do visit!

### **New Walking & Cycling Routes**

As the nation gets ready for a return to a 'new normal' due to Covid-19, the Government has advised members of the public to walk and cycle wherever possible, rather than relying on cars and public transport. Working closely with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, SCDC and CCC have spent time preparing for both permanent and temporary measures – some of which could be put in place within the next two weeks.

These measures aim to make walking and cycling a default option, by making it as easy as possible to make short trips. We have been working with organisations such as Camcycle and Sustrans. Currently the focus is on schemes in Cambridge and Peterborough but further funding has been promised and Parish Councils are being encouraged to submit their schemes for consideration.

### **New Police Station in Cambridge**

The recent public consultation agrees that Parkside Central is no longer fit for purpose – not enough cells for a start – and so the Police will now look to build a new main station for Cambridge in Miton – while maintaining a presence in the city centre. More consultation in July.

### **Community Chest Grants**

Very pleased to see a £1,000 grant for the Reading Room in Croydon. Are you involved with a community building or group? South Cambs makes many small grants to support community projects so please get in touch – recent funding awarded include for replacement tables, outdoor benches, kitchen fit out, rare bird conservation, mowers – the decision is based on the case made.

### **National Highways & Transport Survey**

Cambridgeshire County Council participates in the National Highways and Transport Public Satisfaction survey. This survey asks residents for their views on Cambridgeshire's highways and transport services – from the condition of roads and footpaths to the quality of cycling facilities. A randomly selected sample of 3900 of Cambridgeshire residents will receive survey forms from mid June. More at: [www.nhtnetwork.org](http://www.nhtnetwork.org)

### **Connecting Cambridgeshire**

Sadly Hatley Village Hall was not included in the short list for WiFi provision because of technical issues. However officers are working to see if they can access central government funding as part of the Local Full Fibre Networks programme. This would enable them to do an independent procurement to get a fibre service installed in village halls.

### **Low flying Helicopters**

Residents in some villages were alarmed by late nights low flights by Apache helicopters in June. Enquiries were made and the Apache helicopters operating from Wattisham Airfield, Suffolk had been authorised to operate in the general and wider area. The rules say low flying should be

conducted at the highest separation criteria, (consistent with any operational or training requirements) and should normally be no lower than 250 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) for fixed wing aircraft and 100 feet AGL for rotary wing aircraft. Due to their unique role military helicopters may operate down to ground level in some circumstances.

The MOD accept that flying at night can be particularly disturbing and for that reason they aim to complete it as early as possible. During the summer months some of the essential training activity will commence later, in order to reach the necessary level of darkness to achieve maximum benefit from the training. There are no uninhabited areas of the UK large enough to cater for essential training needs. It is therefore MOD policy, that in principle, the whole of the UK is open to low flying by military aircraft in order to spread the activity as widely and equitably as possible.

Further information about military low flying can be found on the following website:  
[www.gov.uk/military-low-flying](http://www.gov.uk/military-low-flying)

### **Concessionary Bus Passes**

At the start of the lockdown the County Council worked with bus companies to allow concessionary bus passes to be used before 9.30am. By relaxing the time limits people were able to access supermarkets and the reserved shopping slots being offered to elderly residents at the time. However, the introduction of national social distancing measures has since resulted in a reduction in capacity on public transport. To ensure that there is sufficient public transport capacity for key workers bus operators will no longer accept concessionary passes before 9.30am.

### **Waste Incinerator at Waterbeach**

You might recall an application to the County Council for a waste incinerator at Waterbeach was refused by the Council and then appealed. The Secretary of State has agreed with the appointed Inspector that the appeal be dismissed because of the adverse impact on the landscape and the Ancient Scheduled Monument at Denny Abbey (aka the Farmland Museum). The Inspector did not find any adverse reasons related to health or pollution impacts.

### **Noise at Green End Gamlingay**

Having received a number of complaints about noise emanating from the Green End Industrial site Bridget contacted the firm running the timber roof truss factory and they immediately instigated measures to try to alleviate the problem. As far as we know this has been reasonably successful but please do let us know if there is an ongoing problem.

Your Councillors are here to help you. Please do feel free to contact us with comments, questions, problems or complaints. We hope we can help but if we can't we are likely to know someone who can! \*\*\*\*\*