

Councillors Geoff Harvey and Henry Batchelor

## **Councillor's Report - May 2020**

We hope that you and your families are all keeping safe at this difficult time. We know about all the good work going on in the villages to support the vulnerable and elderly. Well done everyone, keep up the good work.

### **South Cambridgeshire District Council**

Do please continue to work with the SCDC Patch Manager, Sarah Grove, who is coordinating the effort in our area. Her contact is:

[duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk) If emailing Sarah, please put 'Patch 1' into the subject line, so that it gets to her faster. Of course, we are both available to help wherever we can. Information is also available at - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

### **Cambridgeshire County Council**

The County Council has a 'hub' online where information regarding volunteers can be accessed -

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-coordination-hub-your-community-needs-you> - also a simple online search should find you the correct webpage. This is a hub for links to volunteer support as well as help/advice for businesses.

The County Council is also coordinating the assistance for those individuals who class as 'shielded' so required more support as they have health conditions which restrict their outside movements more seriously. If you think you know somebody who falls into this category, do let Henry know and he can make sure the County are aware of them.

### **Remote Working and Voting**

Both the County and District Councils have begun to hold committee meetings again, so large decisions at both authorities will be made again.

### **Planning**

The planning department at South Cambs continues to function with most applications being processed by officers in the usual way. More than 90% of planning applications are decided under delegation.

Parish Councils should continue to provide their comments in the usual way.

It has not been possible to hold Planning Committee meetings or to process applications that parish councils or local members have requested to go to committee.

There is a significant backlog of these application. We are soon to re-start the Planning Committee; the first remote meeting will be on Wednesday 13 May. The sole purpose of this meeting will be to agree the procedural protocols that will allow us to hold meetings remotely. The first proper meeting will be one or two weeks later when we will start processing planning applications again.

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Parish council and member requests for applications to go to committee cannot be processed until a change to the constitution take place to make the delegation process 'legal'. This should happen at the next Council meeting on 21 May. The plan is then to start working through the backlog from Friday 22 May.

Remote working committees is a new process for us all, no doubt there will be difficulties. So please bear with us as we do our best to get things right.

### **Community Capital Fund**

There is a new funding opportunity available at the County Council called the Community Capital Fund. There is significant funding available for community groups and parish councils to bid for as the total pot has £5,000,000 in.

The fund is mainly designed to assist with community engagement and involvement projects, please do take a look at the full set of criteria here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/communities-capital-fund> - do contact Henry directly for any additional support on this.

### **Green Bins**

The green bin collections are due to start again as of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May. To start with, it will be a reduced service however. People will be guaranteed one collection per month with the possibility of a second if there is capacity in the service. The message is put out your green bin on the usual green bin day. They will definitely be collected once and if they are collected twice in the month, this is a bonus.

The reason for the original suspension of the collections service was the reduced number of bin men and women due to the virus. Also, SCDC operate with fewer people in the cab, where it's usually 3 in the truck, we now operate with 2 to maintain social distancing.

### **Household Recycling Centres**

The County Council, who run the household recycling centre's in Cambridgeshire, have a plan in place to reopen the centres on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May. There will, of course, be restrictions in place to keep social distancing. Full detail can be found here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/re-opening-of-household-recycling-centres>

### **Business Relief Grants**

A plea to everyone that either runs a business or knows someone that does. Ask if they have applied for financial business relief from the District Council. If they qualify, there is a potential to apply for up to £25,000. More info can be found on the SCDC website, by emailing [businessgrants@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:businessgrants@scambs.gov.uk) or by contacting Geoff.