

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

## **District and County Councillor's Report - January 2021**

### **Happy New Year**

Happy new year from your local councillors, Henry and Geoff. With a prolonged episode of lockdown and social restrictions looking to carry on well into 2021, if either of us can be of assistance at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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### **Local Authority Covid Support**

At time of writing, we are about to enter the New Year in 'Tier 4', which has its own set of restrictions as laid out by government, which can be seen here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home>

This will of course have some impact on people and local business. There is a small support grant for business that is forced to close due to Covid, available from the District Council - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/businessgrant>

There is also financial support for 'wet pubs' from the District Council, this is to support pubs, and other businesses, whose income is more than 50% from drinks alone - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/financial-support-for-south-cambridgeshire-s-pubs-now-available/>

Also available from SCDC is a 'Covid Co-Ordinator' who can assist with most things Covid related, including advice and directing to these various grants. Her name is Vicky Hoover - [Vicky.hoover@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Vicky.hoover@scambs.gov.uk)

There is also support available from the County Council, via their 'Hub' which can be contacted through their website - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-coordination-hub-your-community-needs-you>

### **Local Directory**

South Cambs have set up a local business directory to help promote local business during this time of difficulty, which looks set to continue. Businesses can register themselves on the website and be seen publicly - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/local-business-directory>

### **Local Plan**

The joint Local Plan, being drawn up between South Cambs and the City councils, is still moving forward. The latest update is that the findings from the consultation last year have now been collated and published. The councils will take this information on board whilst formulating their preferred options, which will likely be published next autumn. If you'd like to see any of the documents, including the proposed locations of developments, you can see all the information here - <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/document-library/>

### **Resurfacing**

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As previously reported, the County Council are resurfacing some roads in our area, this is due to occur in the first few months of the year.

### **Vaccine Transport Volunteers**

The County Council are looking for volunteers to help transport elderly people, who aren't able to drive, to their Covid vaccination appointments. If you can assist please register here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/appeal-for-volunteers-to-transport-people-to-vaccination-appointments>

### **Uttlesford and West Suffolk Local Plans**

Some of you may remember that last year Uttlesford District Council (directly to the south of us, North Essex) submitted plans to a government inspector to allocate 5,000 houses near Gt Chesterford as part of their Local Plan. The inspector told them to go away and start again, which they are now doing and are asking for public engagement in this process. Uttlesford still need to allocate these houses somewhere and there is still a risk of them trying to do so on/near to the South Cambridgeshire border, which will directly affect our infrastructure etc etc.

West Suffolk are also going through the same process and need to allocate more housing somewhere in their area, with the likeliest locations being Haverhill and Newmarket.

Geoff and Henry will keep you as up to date as possible from the local authority angle but do keep your ears to the ground!

### **A1307 Update**

There isn't an update from last month's report, which was - The upgrades, managed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), to the A1307 continue with the next steps being installation of average speed cameras between Haverhill and Linton, a new roundabout at the end of Bartlow Road in Linton and remodelling of the Dean Road junction. The signalised pedestrian crossing at Hildersham is attempting to move ahead but are having difficulty securing the land required. The GCP are trying all avenues, including compulsory purchase, which will increase the project time as this isn't a quick process.

### **Sunnica Solar Farm Consultation**

Not strictly in our area, or District for that matter, but there are proposals for an enormous solar farm based in East Cambridgeshire, across 4 sites. The company is currently consulting on these proposals and anybody can comment here - <https://sunnica.co.uk/proposals/>