

District and County Councillor's Report - March 2021

A1307 Update

The process of upgrading the road continues, the next physical upgrade will be the installation of average speed cameras between the Suffolk border and Linton, this will take place in April.

There has also been progress on the much-needed pedestrian crossing at Hildersham. A revised design seems to have support from the local landowner so, all being good, this will be implemented in this phase.

The local liaison forum meetings are still occurring, they are public so please do register to attend the forthcoming ones.

Vaccines

The vaccination process is moving forward at a good pace. The NHS are asking for people within certain age groups that haven't had their first jab yet to book one directly via the NHS website. The age groups they are asking to come forward are constantly changing, so please check if unsure - <https://www.nhs.uk/book-a-coronavirus-vaccination/do-you-have-an-nhs-number>

Local Elections

The government have announced that local elections will take place in May this year. There will be 3 votes to cast: The County Council, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and the Police & Crime Commissioner.

Local Authority Covid Support

At time of writing, we are still in national lock-down, with restrictions as laid out by government, which can be seen here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

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

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>

Budgets

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

Both the County and District councils have now agreed their budgets for this municipal year, which include council tax levels. The County Council have agreed a 3.99% rise which equates to £3.38 per month on band D properties. The District Council have agreed a £5 per year rise.

Social Workers

The County Council has launched a campaign to recruit more social workers in 2021. If you know anybody that might be interested in this rewarding work can get more information here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/jobs-and-careers/we-love-social-workers>

Census

This year marks the next Census, which will take place on March 21st. The County Council has a liaison team helping with the roll out and completion of this process.

Climate and Environment fortnight

Having started on Monday 22 February, the Council will be marking Climate and Environment fortnight 2021 with a series of free online webinars featuring guest speakers, activities and information to help people think about how to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and in turn help tackle climate change.

The remaining topics covered will be: Greening your older home, tips and inspiration - Tuesday 2 March; Shrinking your carbon footprint webinar - Wednesday 3rd March; Food for our Future workshop - Thursday 4 March. For more details see <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-change/climate-and-environment-fortnight-2021-events/>