

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

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

### **County Council**

At the County Council elections on May 7<sup>th</sup> there was a political change in the make-up of the council. The Conservatives, who ran the administration, lost some of their seats, predominantly in South Cambridgeshire, meaning that they no longer have a majority on the council. The council is now in 'no overall control' meaning that no one party has enough councillors to run the authority on its own. At time of writing no agreements between party's have been struck but it shan't be long before they are. Watch this space as things will move quickly.

The make-up of the council is now as follows:

Conservatives - 28

Liberal Democrats - 20

Labour - 9

Independents - 4

### **Combined Authority**

Against all the odds, the Labour candidate, Nik Johnson, won the election to become the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. It's fair to say the result came as a surprise, so we don't know any of his policies yet, but this is an opportunity for us to push for large projects that we haven't been able to achieve up until now.

### **Police & Crime Commissioner**

The Conservative candidate won the election to become the new Police and Crime Commissioner.

### **A1307 Update**

The process of upgrading the road continues, as you may well have seen, the installation of average speed cameras between Linton and Cardinals Green has commenced. The next scheme to be implemented will be the signalised crossing at Hildersham.

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

### **Covid**

At time of writing there are only 22 people in hospital with Covid in Cambridgeshire with 3 in Addenbrookes. This is a huge improvement and will of course allow our hospitals to get back to treating people with other conditions, many of which are now very urgent.

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

The supply of the Astra Zenica, Moderna and Pfizer vaccines over May and June are limited but should increase significantly mid-June, hopefully in time for many of us to be ready for the summer holidays!

Over 90% of the over-75s have received both their jabs and over 51% of the over 50s.

We have seen some increase in transmission in South Cambs and Cambridge City and there is still a possibility of further rise as lock down restrictions lessen. South Cambs is currently at the national average rate of about 25 cases per 100,000 people.

The District Council still have a 'Covid Co-Ordinator' available to anyone that is in need of support - [Vicky.hoover@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Vicky.hoover@scambs.gov.uk)

### **Bus Capacity Issues**

Many people, across the Linton division, have raised the issue of capacity of buses during peak periods. Now that schools and workplaces have reopened, it has meant a higher volume of bus users during morning and afternoon rush hours. Given that bus operators are obliged to social distance their passengers, it has meant that buses are only operating at 50% capacity. This has caused some issues with people not being able to ride, especially if they're getting on 'down the line' when the bus is already full. Stagecoach have been made aware and some good news, they are suspending the Milton P&R service from May 10<sup>th</sup> to put more buses onto priority routes, which includes the 13 in our area, so things should be getting better, if still not perfect.

### **Business Grants**

The Business Support team at SCDC have now given out over £11million in grants to 4834 businesses in the district, since November last year. These grants can be the difference between life and death for some businesses. The latest available grant is the Business Restart Grant - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/financial-support-for-business/restart-grants/>

If you, or you know someone, that is struggling to access grant money, get in touch with Geoff or Henry.

### **Winter Support Grant**

Residents can now access schemes which can be used for those in need of urgent food or fuel. The vouchers are worth up to £49 for a family or £29 for an individual. The scheme is funded by the department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). If you know anyone that would benefit from this, please contact the district council on [duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk) - there is a simple form to complete.

### **Contact Information**

District Council - Geoff Harvey - [geoff.harvey@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.harvey@gmail.com)

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

County Council – Henry Batchelor – [henrybatchelor89@gmail.com](mailto:henrybatchelor89@gmail.com)