

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

### **Local Plan Consultation**

Following the publication, by the District Council, of the preferred sites for development, there is now a public consultation on these proposals that is live and runs until December 16<sup>th</sup>. The proposals are to concentrate all major development into existing and forthcoming larger settlements, such as Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne etc and leave the villages as they are, as villages. The documents can be accessed and commented upon here - <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan> - if people are broadly in favour of the principle of keeping major development in the existing settlements, please do comment and say so.

### **Greater Cambridge Partnership Transport Consultation**

The Greater Cambridge Partnership are currently consulting on proposals for greener travel in and around the city of Cambridge. The proposals can be seen and commented upon here - <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2021> - interestingly, for those villages off the A1307, there is a proposal for a new, more regular, bus service that serves the smaller more rural villages. It's worth supporting this proposal if this affects your parish.

### **Covid**

With the news that there is a new strain of the Covid virus, we are hearing that as of November 30<sup>th</sup>, everyone will be required to wear a face covering when using all public transport and, in all shops, again. At time of writing we don't know if there will be any support from local authorities, as there has been since the pandemic began, but should there be, we will be reporting this in the area.

There are several walk-in clinics around the county where booster jabs can be had, on the day. Warning though, queues have been notoriously long so far, so expect a wait. Details here - <https://www.thevaccinators.co.uk/>

### **Household Support Fund**

There is a support fund available from the County Council that is aimed at supporting families with a below average income, through the more difficult winter months. There is a fair amount of money in the pot at the moment and the fund will remain open until March 2022. Eligibility criteria and application form can be found here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund>

### **Sunnica Solar Farm Application**

Just over the border in Burwell, East Cambridgeshire, a planning application for an enormous solar farm has been submitted by a company called Sunnica. Due to the scale of the proposal the application will be decided by the Secretary of State. The County Council is working with Suffolk County Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and West Suffolk District Council to formulate a joint response.

Councillors Geoff Harvey and Henry Batchelor

### **Afghan Refugees - Update**

The three families being housed by the District Council have arrived and are settling in well. The Council has three more houses available and are waiting for the government agency to make the allocation of the refugees to them. It is good that we have been able to help in this way. The support being given is truly life changing and making a real difference.

### **Christmas Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

For children who claim free school meals due to low income, there is a new free holiday scheme to primary and secondary school children. As usual, there are various eligibility criteria, which can all be found here - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/holiday-activities-and-food-programme> - but it's a good new scheme, being facilitated by the County Council in conjunction with other bodies, to help support those families that might find Christmas tougher than others this year.

### **Christmas**

It hasn't been a straightforward year for anybody, so we hope that everyone has a relaxing Christmas and New Year and we look forward to working with you all again in 2022.

### **Contact Information**

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

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