

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 16 February 2022 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mr Barnes - unwell, Ms Newland - unavailable, Cllr Williams - domestic issue.

Present: Mrs Slator, Mr Wenman, Mr Wheeler, Mr Brown, Cllr Kindersley (arrived later), three members of the public and the Clerk.

Declarations of Interest: None received.

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Community Reports: None received.

Village Map: The map has been received and was perused by Councillors. One of the Tree Wardens was present and was pleased with the result. She has taken the map with her.

Housing Needs: This is still being investigated, but nothing further has been reported to Council.

Speedwatch: Cllr Williams arranged a meeting for the evening of 10th February, at which the Police and Crime Commissioner was present. The Clerk attended the meeting, along with other representatives of local parishes and a resumé of the meeting is below:-

Speeding Forum meeting February 2022

Present:-

Cllr Heather Williams, Darryl Preston - Police and Crime Commissioner, representatives from Guilden Morden, Steeple Morden, Tadlow, Croydon, Arrington, Orwell and a lady who rides horses and is fed up with inconsiderate motorists.

Discussion:-

After introductions parishes spoke of their speeding concerns. Some of the parishes have well-established Speedwatch groups and others are just starting. Both Croydon and Tadlow are concerned about the B1042 and Arrington about the A1198. Evidence that speeding takes place is needed in order to erect either a mobile speed sign (tripod type) or a Motor Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS), so a Speed Watch group needs to be formed, active and collecting data.

One gentleman stated that the more people who are involved, the less onerous the task will be. He has 14 volunteers, 2 of whom are co-ordinators. The co-ordinators take it in turns (monthly) to organise the sites and volunteers and he said this works well. He found that being "jolly" (waving at motorists) helped to cut any abuse. His parish obtained volunteers by word of mouth and a little "gentle persuasion". Another gentleman said that the group in his parish eventually all stopped volunteering, as they had received so much abuse. The worst speeds recorded through villages in 30 mph limits were 80 mph and 105mph.

The parishes with MVAS said that they did help to slow traffic down, mostly. Arrington stated that many foreign lorries could not be reported because their registration numbers are not on either the DVLA or APNR records. There is also a problem with speeding tractors, which can go up to 40 mph.

Several parishes complained that the camera vans only ever parked in the "wrong" places. Cllr Williams explained that this is because of the Health and Safety Risk involved if a vehicle had to be pulled over. There has to be a suitable area available to do this safely. The top of Tadlow High Street would be difficult to monitor, and the representative reported that there is a problem there.

The Police and Crime Commissioner told the meeting about the Neighbourhood Policing Unit, which goes out to educate and enforce speeding motorists. Unfortunately, there are just not enough police officers to be everywhere but a Community Safety Team may be able to come and monitor speeding. The P & CC does not have any say on where this team goes but may be able to suggest locations. He also told the meeting that drugs are one of the worst problems for dangerous driving and speeding. The Police do not refer to accidents any more, but to collisions. An accident is an unfortunate incident that happens unexpectedly and unintentionally, typically resulting in damage or injury. Most of the collisions the police attend are not accidental, but by a fault with the driver. He is going to send contact details for the lady at Cambs Police who can assist the Speed Watch initiative. As Croydon has not managed to obtain enough volunteers to start a group, one of the gentlemen there has offered to send through some information which might be useful in a recruitment campaign.

Cllr Williams did suggest that it might be possible to swop volunteers between villages. No decision was reached on this. After a little further discussion among those attending the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Since the meeting, the Clerk has been out in touch with the gentleman who offered an "inspirational paragraph" to help with recruitment, and the horse riding lady has offered to help in any way she can. **Clopton Sign:** As nothing further has been heard, the Clerk was instructed to make contact with the parishioner who offered to make a new sign and discover how the replacement sign was progressing.

District Councillor Williams report , verbal when giving her apologies to Council:-

Green Bins: Although collections have restarted it is by no means certain that they will continue, as there are staffing problems and lorry breakdowns. If your bin is not collected, do not try to report it but take it in and put it out again on the next scheduled collection day.

Budget: Cllr Williams said that a budget meeting was due and she intends to send her written report following that meeting. The belated audit, which was due to be concluded and signed off at a meeting on 4th February has been deferred until 28th February.

Licensing Hearing: There is a committee meeting shortly, but Cllr Williams has not been informed that she needs to attend. As far as she knows, the committee is still to make a site visit.

Written report for the Mordens Ward from District Cllr Williams

2018/19 Accounts Audit: An extra Audit and Corporate Governance committee meeting is being called for the 4th March due to further delays in the completion of the 2019 accounts audit. While assurances had been made that the audit would be completed by the end of February, it has become clear that this will not be the case and so the extra meeting has been called to understand why the District Council finds themselves facing further delays.

Addendum - 4 March 2022

The extra meeting re the audit of accounts has been pulled. There have been further delays but the committee's request to hold a meeting to discuss these has been refused and so we will have to wait until the end of the month for a public meeting on the matter. I am conscious that at the time of writing my report a meeting was planned for today, and therefore thought it best to update parish councillors of the developments.

2022/2023 Budget: There are many things to welcome in the South Cambs District Council budget such as money towards environmental improvements. I supported money towards building more council houses, something I believe we desperately need more of. However, other areas I could not support, primarily the increase of Council Tax and increased external borrowing for the purpose of commercial investment.

With the current cost of living problems, I could not support increasing the council tax to the maximum legally allowed which is £5 for a Band D property (a £50 difference to the council tax paid four years ago). The budget included spending £200,000 on recarpeting the council building and £70,000 on redecoration which I thought could wait and would cover the majority of the money an increase would raise this year (£327,000 is the amount generated from this year's council tax increase). It was also revealed through the course of the meeting that over £500,000 has been used to pay staff to leave the council over the past four years via Early retirement settlements, gardening leaves and redundancies, if this was avoided then significant savings could be made. The District Council will also be putting up council tenants' rents by the legal maximum of 4.1%, which I did not support.

The council's budget is reliant on the investment strategy. We can see that the only real need for the council to borrow and get into debt is to make commercial investments, like buying offices to rent out. The district Council has had to scale back on its investment plans due to government changing the rules, local authorities are no longer allowed to borrow money from government purely for yield, but there must be additional benefits for communities. Below is a table that shows the authorised borrowing limits:

Councils' looking to bring in money from investments is not a principle that I disagree with entirely, but I don't believe we should be borrowing nearly £150m to do so in uncertain times especially when this risk

	2020/2021 Limit £000	2021/2022 Limit £000	2022/2023 Limit £000	2023/2024 Limit £000
Authorised limit – borrowing	433,693	479,142	359,908	394,468
Authorised limit – other long term liabilities	-	-	-	-
Authorised limit – total external debt	433,693	479,142	359,908	394,468
Operational boundary – borrowing	428,693	474,142	354,908	389,468
Operational boundary – other long term liabilities	-	-	-	-
Operational boundary – total external debt	428,693	474,142	354,908	389,468

could burden residents with further tax. I had proposed for an additional planning enforcement officer, many have felt for a long time now that the planning enforcement department needs additional resources, unfortunately this was voted against but we have been told that there is a review taking place as to how the department runs. I hope that once this review has taken place, more officers will be recruited.

There has been a significant increase in the planning budget, a department that saw a large cut of nearly a million pounds two years ago this means a net increase over the two years of around £2m. Many have pushed for more money for the planning department at every budget meeting so in the first instance were pleased to see this. However, some of this increase covers yet another review of the planning department and in many parts of the planning budget were words such as “an increase in recharges/overheads for 22-23” or “Estimate to 2022-23 is mainly attributable to higher Recharge/Overhead costs being attributed to the service”, which means we are unclear as to whether this will equate to more officers aka ‘new money’ or the majority being simply reallocation from other budget areas. This is particularly important as we are aware that over £300,000 is at risk of being returned to developers for failing to deal with their applications on time.

To see the budget papers in full you can do so via the link below:

[https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/documents/g9214/Public reports pack Tuesday 22-Feb-2022 14.00 Council.pdf?T=10](https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/documents/g9214/Public%20reports%20pack%20Tuesday%2022-Feb-2022%2014.00%20Council.pdf?T=10)

Electric Bin lorries: Two further electric bin lorries should be arriving at the Waterbeach depot soon. This now takes the depot to its maximum electricity supply. A solar plant is now to be installed from part of the ‘greening’ budget proposals so that more electric bin lorries can be purchased in the future.

Green Bin collection: There has been further interruptions to the Green Bin collections of late. The advice is for residents to please keep putting out your bins on the official days but bring them back in if not collected. Currently there is no facility to report a missed green bin on the website. Some residents, in particular those who pay annually for additional green bins, have asked if refunds will be available. I have asked about this and have had the response that this is not currently under consideration.

Cllr Heather Williams - SCDC The Mordens Ward

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Matters Arising and Village Issues (continued)

Additional Dog Bin: The Focus Group held extensive discussions with Sarah Phillips from SCDC and presented their final recommendations to Council; a section of the report is copied below:-

Procurement recommendations for new combined-waste bins:

The group recommends that the purchase of the two new bins (Locations 5 & 6 above) by the PC is done direct from Glasdon the supplier. Direct purchase would result in a substantial saving compared to the costs quoted by Sarah Phillips. (See Item c below for cost comparisons).

We recommend using a gravel bag to stabilise and weigh-down each of the new bins. This is the current arrangement at Location 3 above. This method is considerably cheaper than using mechanical fixings and a slab, and has the benefit of allowing the bins to be relocated in the future if the need arises.

Additional Signage recommendations:

We recommend that small signs are located on some of the footpath sign-posts/or in appropriate locations, to orient people to the nearest dog bin. The group has in mind three locations for these small bin direction signs - by the noticeboard, when leaving the footpath between Bedlam and South House, and when leaving the footpath by the Old Post Office. A working assumption is that these would be affixed to the posts of existing footpath signs though local agreement should be sought at the time.

Costs to the Parish Council:

Replacement of existing “Picnic” bin Location 2, Clopton Close Sarah has agreed this could be supplied Free of Charge

Bin for Location 4 near footpath 19 - if the existing green bin by the defibrillator is repositioned to this location, this would be Free of Charge.

Supply of Topsy bins at locations 5 - Clopton Way footpath & Location 6 - Church Lane.

Extract of Glasdon basket /quote:

Basket - 2 items

Product Description	Quantity	Price	Total
Topsy 2000™ Litter Bin (Colour: D Grn, Liner: Metal liner, Lock: Keyed lock, Graphics: Litter/Dog waste oval sticker – gold on clear)	2 <small>x remove</small>	£177.38	£354.76

[Continue Shopping](#)

Currency is British Pound.

If you have a Promotional Code please enter it in the box below and click on the 'Apply' button.

[Apply](#)

[Recalculate](#)

Subtotal	£354.76
Delivery	£0.00
Tax	£70.95
Total	£425.71

[Checkout](#)

Cost to supply £425.71 inc. VAT for 2 bins + Cost of 2no. bags of gravel - approx. £10.00

Total cost for 2 Topsy bins therefore approx. £436.00 inc. VAT.

N.B. This is nearly half the price of purchasing and fitting through SCDC.

Installation: We recommend requesting (minimal) assistance from villagers to install the bins free of charge.

Stickers on Topsy Bins to clarify dual waste bins i.e also for dog waste: Free of Charge (order with the new bins and ask South Cambs to put on to their bins free of charge.)

Additional (small) Signage on footpath posts etc. to direct people to nearest dog bins - allow provisional sum of say £150.00 inc. VAT.

Emptying Costs: We understand that the usual SCDC charge is £3 per bin per occasion. Sarah Phillips has confirmed that South Cambs would empty location 5 bin -Croydon Hill, free of charge as it would also serve the wider public.

Note: We believe South Cambs may charge for emptying location 6, but once the PC has agreed if they wish to have a bin at this location, we could check whether emptying could be free of charge as the bin is also serving the wider public.

We understand that all the bins are currently emptied weekly. We recommend reviewing this in the future, once new usage patterns are established, to see if reducing to fortnightly emptying would be sufficient and not cause any odour/fly nuisance.

It was also reported that the High Street sign at the Croydon Hill end is broken. Cllr Kindersley told the meeting the best contact, and the Clerk will report this.

Councillors discussed the proposals and Mrs Slator proposed that the offer from SCDC to replace the old bin in Clopton Close should be accepted. Seconded by Mr Wenman - all in favour. Council also approved the direct purchase of 2 Topsy bins (dark green) from Glasdon, for local labour to site. Signs are required to direct people to the bins and state that the bins can be used for both litter and dog waste. **Clopton Close lay-by and Defibrillator kiosk:** The lay-by is very silted at the low-lying end, so much so that weeds can grow there. Clerk approached Cllr Kindersley who said that it is CCC responsibility and on request, a man would come out to clean it up. There is no guarantee how long before this would happen, so if the village is able to do it he suggested that would be a quicker option. Thank you to one of the defibrillator volunteers who gave the kiosk a spring clean when required.

Croydon Hill Closure: Apparently the work has been extended by a week as one of the parts needed for the job is not there. The Road Closed sign is still there, but there are large holes in the road and it is not recommended that the route is attempted. Mr Wenman told the meeting that if an accident happened in a Road Closed section, then car insurance is not valid.

Licensing Hearing: The Clerk has not been informed of any committee meeting relating to Croydon.

Parish Council Elections: Mrs Slator has prepared an information sheet to circulate to the village towards the end of February. This will be sent out on WhatsApp and the village E-News (Mailchimp) and a copy placed in the notice board. It might encourage some interest in standing for election or at least coming to the meetings.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: A disappointing result to the village survey. Based on the number of households that receive the local digital communications, only 18 were returned, a 19% response. Of the 19% the most popular suggestion was the village picnic (14), the second choice the village sign (8) and the third choice the commemorative tree (7). Based on these results Council felt there is insufficient interest to organise anything formal, but is prepared to fund a commemorative tree and

plaque if a site can be found. It was suggested that the village might like to organise a smaller picnic event on the grass outside the Reading Room, where there is shelter if it rains and toilet facilities are available.

Climate Change and SLCC workshop: Mrs Slator recently attended a climate change training where it was suggested that all Parish Council should check their carbon footprint. Impact, the site which was recommended at the training, covers the carbon footprints of whole of the country. Mrs Slator checked Croydon's and felt the results were a little misleading, being higher than some villages with main roads running through them. Council cannot reduce its carbon footprint as it does not own property but the Reading Room might consider theirs, as can all families and businesses in the country. The SLCC workshop covered exactly the same areas as Mrs Slator's training so was not considered useful.

Correspondence:

Electoral Register: No updates received.

EW Rail Update: There is speculation that this project may be dropped.

Reading Room Wi-Fi: The Chair of the Trustees had hoped to be in attendance, but was unexpectedly called away. She did leave the Council correspondence regarding wi-fi for the Reading Room and also requesting a grant towards funding for the alterations. Council considered the amount of financial support involved and will require far more information on both projects before a decision on any funding or a grant can be made. A letter will be prepared to send to all the Reading Room Trustees.

SCDC Jubilee Grants: "SCDC would like to support communities in marking 'The Queen's Platinum Jubilee'. For this reason, the criteria for the Community Chest Grant scheme has been flexed on a temporary and one-off basis until 12 April to allow Parish Councils and community groups to make Jubilee-related applications of up to £700. Applications will then be assessed at the Grants Advisory Committee meetings in March and April to help parishes plan." The Parish Council does not have any projects requiring this grant.

Shingay Road Closure: The road outside the pumping station in Mill Lane will be closed from 7th - 9th March for the installation of a pressure monitoring point. Local diversions will be signposted.

Recovery Room Frauds: The Police are warning of Recovery Room Scams, which offer to reclaim money lost in various scam deals. These are probably offered by those who took your money in the first place and will result in the loss of more money. Do not be duped into using them.

Planning Training: Following feedback direct to the planning service and to Local District Councillors about the complexity of the planning process, the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service would like to offer a Planning Training Session for Parish Councils, to be held via Zoom on the morning of Saturday 26th February 2022 from 9.30am - 12.30pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Clerk for details.

Subsequent Receipts:

What is Building Control? An invitation to a series of on-line awareness sessions running from February to May 2022. What is Building Control? Energy and Sustainability Awareness, and Fire Safety Awareness.

Planning: The weekly planning information was received by Council, and the application for Clopton Farm from July 2020 is still active. It was suggested by the planners that it was withdrawn and a new application submitted. A new application does not seem to have been made, and Clerk was instructed to contact Mary Collins about this.

County Cllr Kindersley gave a verbal report to the meeting:-

CCC Budget: The budget is balanced and there is a 4.99% increase, due to substantial financial pressures. There is a fund available for the low paid - a one-off payment of £20-00.

Household Support Fund: A one-off payment that can be used for any purpose. Eligibility is for those earning less than £17,940 per year, or who are in receipt of certain benefits. The fund is open for on-line applications until 31st March.

Food Hub at Gamlingay: This is held in the Almhouse Chapel from 10.00am - 12 noon daily. A good range of provisions is available, and vans deliver every day. If you are in hardship, just go along and help yourself to anything you need.

Fire Authority: The Authority requires a 2% increase in Council Tax. The Fire Station in Papworth is being closed and all equipment and staff are being moved to the new station in Cambourne next to the Police station.

Croydon Hill: This should have been finished by now. The road is intermittently open but the route is not safe due to large holes in the road, and very flimsy barriers.

High Street Sign: CCC contact name passed to Council to obtain a replacement sign.

Croydon sign: Apparently there has never been a Croydon sign on the approach road from Hatley. Cllr Kindersley informed the meeting the best contact and the Clerk will put in a request for both of the signs.

A1198 Flooding: This will soon be resolved, when the road is excavated and the drainage improved.

As there were no questions for Cllr Kindersley the Chair thanked him for attending and he left the meeting.

Written report from Cllr Kindersley:

Gamlingay Division Councillors Report - SCDC & CCC - February 2021

The Gamlingay Division comprises the Parishes of Abington Pigotts, Arrington, Barrington, Croydon, Gamlingay, Guilden Morden, Litlington, Hatley, Orwell, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Steeple Morden, Tadlow & Wimpole. This report is /for all Division Parish Councils but please be aware that it will include items that may have little or no relevance to your particular Parish. Apologies in advance!

Thakeham: Local Parish Council representatives have been invited to attend a virtual meeting with the Head of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, Stephen Kelly, in early February, for an update on the Local Plan and OxCam Arc in relation to Thakeham's 'Southwest Cambridge' affected villages.

Thanks to all who responded to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals, which make it clear that Thakeham's vision for 25,000 homes in and around our villages is simply not compatible with the principles of sustainable development. Thakeham's only route is via top central government channels where power exists to override local democracy.

Virtual decision-making for local councils – please listen, Government!: The legal requirement for parish, district and county councils to meet in person for formal decision-making is having an adverse effect on many councils as they try to maintain public health safety during the continuing pandemic, with meetings cancelled or minimized in terms of people attending and business covered. The Local Government Association is lobbying government to reinstate provision for meeting virtually where councils feel the need to, but so far Central Government isn't changing its position.

Councillors at meetings must wear masks, keep socially distanced and make sure to have tested negative using lateral flow tests prior to attending.

This is the key time of the municipal year as budgets and precepts are being prepared by county, district and parish councils – but public participation is effectively discouraged due to the need to minimize numbers of people at present. While county and district councils live stream their meetings, parish councils are not set up to do so.

As this petition states, during the period earlier on in the pandemic when virtual meetings were legally permitted, public attendance and engagement shot up! <https://www.change.org/p/uk-government-and-parliament-for-councils-in-england-to-have-the-choice-to-meet-remotely>

Household Support Fund: Reminder! This fund aims to help those struggling to pay for food, energy or other essential items this winter. Cambridgeshire County Council has been allocated £3.58 million as part of the Government's Household Support Fund to help people who need financial support.

The Household Support Fund itself is a new one-off grant, which is live until 31 March 2022. This usually provides £49 (for a family) or £29 (for an individual) to cover food or household energy costs, but more funding may be available for people who can demonstrate a higher need – for instance for higher costs of filling an oil tank or buying a new cooker. To be eligible for the Household Support Fund residents will need to earn less than £17,940 or receive any of the following: Income Support; Income-based Job Seekers Allowance; Income-related Employment and Support Allowance; Pension Credit; Universal Credit; Working Tax Credit.

Details of how to access the scheme are available here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund>

Health and social care reforms juggling act : A major reorganization of health and social care is happening now, with legislation in the process of passing through Parliament. This sounds heavy! Is it important? We think it impacts on us all.

The reforms include raising money through the National Insurance contributions that working people pay; widening eligibility for County-funded social care from about 4% of the population now to an estimated 14%, in Cambridgeshire (which must be paid for of course); and requiring the local NHS (our

local GPSs, hospitals, etc) and the Local Public Health and Social Care Authority (Cambridgeshire County Council) to collaborate and integrate, and think at a 'neighbourhood' level. Prevention is a constant theme – how can we live better and avoid getting sick in the first place? How can we give children - from birth - the best chance of a healthy life? What more can local communities be doing to play a part?

Some of the principles seem overwhelmingly positive but other aspects of the reforms are daunting. These are huge bureaucracies and whatever new money is raised will be directed first to the enormous Covid-induced waiting lists. That will take time to work through.

Nevertheless, from July this year it will be a legal requirement for 'Integrated Care Systems' to be up and running with the basics in place. This means that all of these organisations, already working to deliver vaccinations, tackle waiting lists and attract new staff to a depleting workforce, also need to find time to reflect and prepare for new obligations under the Health and Care Bill.

Given that this new legal requirement involves local government, we've been learning fast and furiously. Our colleague Susan van de Ven is chairing the 'Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board' where the NHS and Local Authorities formally come together. If you'd like to know a little bit more, or if you can teach us a thing or two through your own experience and expertise, please join us for a Zoom coffee and chat on March 9th, 6-7PM – just let us know your contact details and we'll send you the link.

This is particularly important for residents of Gamlingay, Hatley and the Mordens. Our GP services are based out-of-county and as such a great deal of our casework over the years has been about a complete failure to communicate and a lack of integration across county borders. We have raised this with the Director of Public Health and formally requested it be taken into consideration during the development of this new plan.

20's Plenty: Progress on introducing new 20mph speed limits to improve transport safety in Cambridgeshire will be discussed at an upcoming meeting when Members of the Highways and Transport Committee will examine how the council is looking to establish a new process for the implementation of 20mph schemes. This would allow third parties – such as Parish Councils - to make an application for a 20mph limit in their chosen area, with a number of schemes then progressing following a period of assessment and prioritisation.

There are two types of 20mph schemes which can be introduced by the council – 20mph limits and 20mph zones. A 20mph limit typically covers individual or a small number of streets and requires signs only, while 20mph zones typically cover larger areas and require both signs and markings.

The former are more cost effective, but the latter have been found to have a greater impact in reducing speed limits, especially when accompanied by traffic calming measures. It is anticipated that details outlining how applications for 20mph schemes will be prioritised, once submitted, will be brought to a committee meeting later this year.

Barrington - All Saint's Gardens: Thanks to officers at South Cambs and to Redrow who between them have given the go ahead for up to 10 occupations at All Saint's Gardens despite the various legal processes being not quite complete – a great relief to at least two families who can now put their children into the school, book the removals vans and so on!

Cambridgeshire County Council Budget: The Joint Administration is to consider a 4.99% rise in order to close the authority's £16m budget gap this year. Next year's funding gap is likely to be even worse. 4.99% would mean an extra charge of £1.04 per week for a Band B, and £1.19 for a Band C household. More than half of all homes in Cambridgeshire are in these two bands. Local government experts who visited in summer highlighted that historic decisions not to raise council tax in previous years had led to significant ongoing lost income to support services. The council is also proposing to set up and spend a £14m fund over the next five years to tackle inequality, improve lives and care for the environment.

The council consulted residents at the end of last year about spending priorities. It visited a representative sample of residents at home and launched an online survey.

In its first year, if agreed, the Just Transition fund will fund schemes that increase flood prevention in the county, continuing a recent rapid increase in gully clearing. It will also work towards tackling climate change; widen opportunities for children with special educational needs and disabilities; increase independent living services and expand direct payments and individual service funds – where adults assessed as needing support can choose and manage their own care services; and Expand the 'Care Together' programme, providing care services close to where people live.

Fire Authority Budget: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority is asking residents to have their say on proposals to increase the fire service's share of council tax for 2022/23. The Service is

looking for a below inflation increase of £1.44 (around 2%) for the year, making the total contribution for the year £74.97 for a resident living in a Band D property.

Following the financial settlement confirmed by the government at the end of December 2021, which confirmed the level of funding for the next year, the Service has reviewed its financial position, making savings where possible, and has considered what it needs to maintain its valued services to the public. The service has an excellent track record of finding savings from within the organisation. However, after many years of doing this, it becomes increasingly challenging without damaging service levels. This year like everyone there is considerable pressure from inflation, increased energy and fuel prices and cost of living increases. However, with savings we can keep the council tax rise to a minimum – only £1.44 for the year for most residents.

Mobile Library: CCC operates Mobile Library Vans which are free to join and use. Each Mobile Library vehicle carries up to 3,000 items of stock including fiction, non fiction, large print, books on CD & cassette and books for children of all ages. You can request books/cassettes/CDs/DVDs and they have access to all the books in Cambridgeshire Libraries. You can also request books online to collect from the mobile Library on our next visit.

Any books borrowed from the Mobile Library can be returned to any other Cambridgeshire Library and you can return books from other libraries to us, so no need to worry about missing your due date. You can renew and order books online and all vehicles have a lift for wheelchair users or those who find stairs difficult. You can also find free Hearing Aid batteries, sell stamps and reading glasses. You can view stops at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/mobiles/find-a-mobile-library-stop>

Road Closures: This is advance warning that New Road Guilden Morden will be closed for a week starting February 28th for power works to be undertaken. The alternative signed route will be Trap Road/North Brook End and vice versa. The closure is for a small section but the whole of New Road/Flecks Lane to the Diggings junction will be access only. Cambs Highways and Milestone are due to start on Monday 28th February 2022, with the works being completed by Friday 11 March 2022 which will mean that from 28th February to 4th March the road between Flecks Lane, Shingay and South Farm will be closed and then on 7th & 8th March – again closed between South Farm and The Shingay Road, Abington Piggotts for road rebuilding (fingers crossed).

Civil Parking Enforcement

By the time you read this South Cambs DC will have written to the County Council to ask them to submit an application to the Department of Transport asking them to approve Civil Parking Enforcement for all of South Cambs. The police will no longer be responsible for enforcing illegal parking but instead Enforcement Officers employed by the County Council will be. The plan is to have two officers active full time moving between the villages and issuing parking fines to people who park where they should not. The agreement of the Greater Cambridge Partnership to underwrite the first five years costs has made it possible which is extremely good news. The less good news is that the wheels of government move slowly so we don't expect it to be implemented until 2023.

Cinques Rd and the Cinques Flooding: The lack of a storm drain in Cinques Rd is a long standing problem which there currently appears to be no answer to. Sebastian and Bridget continue to lobby the County Council to sort out this anomaly which will undoubtedly continue to cause problems as the impact of climate change increases the number of major weather events.

Footpath 10: Bridget and Sebastian have been talking fairly relentlessly to the County Council to encourage the opening of Footpath 10 as soon as possible. Bridget has emailed the acting CEO to ask when enforcement action will be taken as the footpath is now closed illegally.

Speeding in Cinques Rd: Having spoken recently to people living in Cinques Rd about an increase in speeding vehicles Bridget has asked the parish council if they could locate the speed camera there for a period. Our thanks to them for doing this so promptly.

Green Bins: The green bin collection was briefly suspended because so many of the staff were either off ill with Covid or having to isolate. We are pleased to say that it got going again exactly when we hoped it would.

May Elections: South Cambridgeshire District Council will be holding elections for the whole district on 5th May. If you would like a postal vote you can go on to the council's website to download a simple form. Likewise if you need a proxy vote, or indeed if you are not on the Electoral Register - all the forms are there.

Water Resources East: WRE is a consortium of all our local water companies and other bodies concerned with water - including the councils. Their job is to oversee and lead on the coordination of

regional efforts and the production of a regional plan for water which may include the import of water and the development of new reservoirs. WRE has just published its very significant report and has opened a consultation on it. You can find out more here: <https://wre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/WRE-Emerging-Plan.pdf>

Biodiversity: South Cambridgeshire DC has now approved its Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document. This is a very significant statutory document that means that any new houses or businesses built in the district will have to demonstrate that they are enhancing biodiversity and not damaging it. The Council's biodiversity target is an ambitious 20%.

More grants for Business: Covid continues to damage many businesses especially those in the hospitality sector. South Cambridgeshire businesses can now apply for the latest COVID Government support grants via the District Council. The first is the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG). The second is further funding available via the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG). Full eligibility criteria, and online application forms, can be found on South Cambridgeshire District Council's website at www.scambs.gov.uk/business/grants-and-funding. The OHLG is targeted at businesses within the hospitality and leisure sector which were trading as registered Business Rates payers in South Cambridgeshire on 30 December 2021. These businesses could be eligible for a one-off payment because the rise of the Omicron variant led to severe impacts on their industry. Grants of up to £6,000 are available, depending on the rateable value of each business. Businesses in hospitality, leisure and tourism accommodation sectors, who offer in-person services (like food and drink, experiences and lodging for holiday purposes) are being encouraged to check the full OHLG – initial fund allocation £1.428m (90% of total allocation). At the time of writing around 150 applications for the 2 funding streams had been received.

More Grants for Communities: South Cambs DC Community Chest Grants have increased their maximum award from £1500 to £2000. Community Chest grants will be extended temporarily to allow parish councils and community groups to bid for money to help them run events to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. All details are available on the Council's website.

Local Plan: The First Proposals consultation for the joint South Cambs, Cambridge City Local Plan 2020-2041 concluded in December 2021.

The First Proposals were very much shaped by the feedback the councils received from the First Conversation consultation in 2020. This clearly indicated that addressing climate change was the top priority, so climate change, net zero and doubling biodiversity was put at the heart of the emerging plan. The councils commissioned ground-breaking carbon-modelling work which has enabled them to understand how the plan can create effective policies to minimise climate impacts whilst addressing the growth needs of the city and district.

Government requires the councils to objectively assess the jobs and housing needs of the region, requiring local plans to help create conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Providing jobs near to residents to reduce the need to travel was a key issue for many people. Evidence shows transport is the main source of carbon generation, and so locations with access to existing and committed key sustainable transport infrastructure and opportunities for cycling and walking were prioritised.

The councils also aim to make best use of previously allocated, safeguarded and brownfield land. The adopted 2018 Local Plans, which determine the current growth in the pipeline up to 2031, identify a number of large sites for development, such as Northstowe, a new village at Waterbeach, Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield, and others on the edge of Cambridge such as Marleigh, Darwin Green and Eddington which will continue to build out during and beyond the new plan period.

This means that together with other smaller village sites in 2018 local plans and those windfall sites with permissions since adoption, three quarters of the development required to meet the identified need in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan has already been identified. The balance, including a 10% buffer, to find for the new joint local plan for the period 2020 to 2041 is 11,640 homes of which 40% will be affordable.

Preserving the precious character of villages is extremely important to residents, so the emphasis has been move firmly away from unsustainable locations in rural villages. Only 4% of the proposed new homes in the First Proposals are in better served rural villages, while the bulk will be at two safeguarded sites at Cambridge Airport and North-East Cambridge on the edge of Cambridge and a new extension to Cambourne.

If COP26 has taught us anything, it is that we must be bold and act now to deal with climate crisis. That is why to address concerns on biodiversity, and achieve the vision of doubling nature, the

First Proposals identify new green spaces and wildlife projects. The plan proposes policies that demand 20% biodiversity improvement, higher than national standards, and requiring the planting of many new trees. The proposals also set ambitious targets for building standards, including recommendations for low carbon buildings to help in greening South Cambridgeshire.

Within the control of the emerging local plan, are proposed the highest achievable standards for water use in new homes at 80 litres/person/day together with surface and rainwater harvesting, and grey water recycling. However, even with these measures, it is clear from evidence that provision of water and issues of over-abstraction are real obstacles to delivering new homes. For that reason it is made clear that unless proposals for new water provision are brought forward, the councils cannot build the homes needed.

The two councils believe that this is an exceptionally green plan with the environment and affordability of homes at its very heart. It aims to make South Cambridgeshire, within the context of Greater Cambridge, a place where a big decrease in climate impacts comes with a big increase in the quality of everyday life for all our communities.

Your Councillors are here to help you. Please do feel free to contact us with comments, questions, problems or complaints. We hope we can help but if we can't we are likely to know someone who can!
Councillor Sebastian Kindersley, Manor Barn, East Hatley, SG19 3JA 01767 651982
skindersley@hotmail.com

Finance:

Bank Statement: Not received.

NSI: The annual statement of interest on the NSI account was received. Interest of £2-21 was earned and the current balance is £22,137-63.

Section 137 Spending 2022-23: The amount per elector is being increased from £8-41 to £8-82. This results from increasing the amount of £8-41 for 2021-22 by the percentage increase in the retail index between September 2020 and September 2021, in accordance with Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.

Items for next agenda: None put forward

Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 16 March 2022 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm .

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 9.08pm

Signed

Date