

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 21st February 2024 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mr Wenman - unavailable, Mr Buchanan - unavailable, Mrs Sole - work commitments, Cllr Williams - caught up in Cambridge, Cllr Kindersley - arrived after the meeting had finished, as he was at another PC meeting earlier.

Present: Mr Wheeler, Mr Barnes, Mr Sole, Ms Newland, and the Clerk.

Minutes: Minutes of the January meeting previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None received

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Community reports:

Croydon Classic Vehicle Show: After much toing and froing, Sunday 8th September is the date chosen for this year's show. The last of these was held in 2022, and was also in September. This will be the twelfth in the series and will follow a now well established format which draws in over two hundred show vehicles from a wide area, plus in excess of five hundred adult visitors through the gate. Children will once again be free of charge. These shows are a wonderful opportunity for the whole community to pull together in a joint enterprise, while at the same time bringing into the village much needed funds to help keep Croydon Church & Churchyard, and Croydon Reading Room, open for all to use. In 2022, nearly £6200 was raised and shared between them. In previous years the Parish council has supported this event, including by funding the hire of field toilets, and the Show Committee would be most grateful if Councillors would consider doing so again this year. The Committee would also like to acknowledge their gratitude to the Sole family for once again permitting their fields to be used. Clerk will obtain quotations for the portaloos.

Village Clear-up Day: A Clear-up Day is usually held in the early spring before the grass on the verges grows too long. No date has been fixed as yet but it might well take place before the March meeting of the Parish Council. To date, these occasions have fallen under the terms of insurance held by the Parish Council. If the next event of this kind does take place before the next PC meeting, please could it be recorded as being insured in the same way as previously. The same safety rules will be applied as before including road signage, high visibility jackets, gloves etc. At least two additional roadside warning signs would be a good addition to the village defensive armour, if it is possible to acquire them in time. Finally, thank you to Council for the purchase of the two long-length pickers. These will make the job of clearing ditches much easier and, perhaps more importantly, will save Croydon youngsters from being sacrificed into the depths of dirty ditches!

Council was happy to allow the litter pick to continue under Council's insurance, provided all safety rules and risk assessments are followed.

Litter pick signs: As Mr Buchanan was unable to attend the meeting, there was no further report on the signs.

Lower Road - report from Highways/Police: Still nothing heard from either organisation yet. Apparently nothing permanent can be done until the two reports have been received, if ever.

SCDC - six free trees: These have been delivered to the Clerk and passed to one of the Tree Wardens for taking care of until ready to be planted. Mr Barnes reported that some of these have already been planted in the new churchyard.

Poor broadband at west end of village:

The meeting item that Mr Buchanan raised about the poor broadband in the west of the village for those properties fed from the Croydon Hill cabinet was to ask for any ideas of support that we can get from the parish council /Sebastian/Heather. Mr Buchanan was planning to try to encourage everyone to sign up to express an interest in fibre to give Openreach an incentive to do something about upgrading the cabinet (as they have already done for the Arrington cabinet that feeds the east half of Croydon). He was also intending to contact Connecting Cambridgeshire

(<https://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/broadband/postcode-checker/>) but the critical reason for wanting a fibre upgrade is not simply the speed and reduced cost (that is a bonus), but having reliable internet connectivity as the copper wires from the Croydon Hill cabinet are known to be poor and are the cause of the slow speeds and very unreliable connections. Any help of suggestions gratefully received.

Please contact Mr Buchanan direct if you have any helpful information.

SCDC 50th Anniversary celebrations: Councillor Peter Fane, Chair of South Cambridgeshire District Council has invited our Chairman to attend a celebratory reception, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the formation of the District Council in 1974. This will take place on Wednesday, 20 March 2024 from 6.00pm - 8.00pm at South Cambridgeshire Hall on Cambourne Business Park CB23 6EA. Refreshments provided. Unfortunately, this is the evening of the March Parish Council meeting, so the Chairman will be unable to attend. The Clerk will reply to this effect for the Chairman.

CCC Weed Control: Following the furore caused by the proposal by CCC to cease chemical weed control, their policy has been reviewed.

Review of Highways Operational Standards in Relation to Weed Management. CCC believes that this review and the proposed revisions to the Highways Operational Standards will contribute to creating a greener, safer, and more environmentally sustainable Cambridgeshire. Funding towards alternative weed control management can be offered, this would be the equivalent cost of using chemicals to control the weeds so therefore would act as a contribution towards alternative weed control and not cover the full cost. The Parish Council's participation in the process to reinstate the use of chemical weed control is crucial to ensure that the standards reflect the needs and concerns of our local communities. Councillors instructed the Clerk to suggest an amendment to the questionnaire and discover the financial benefit if it declined to join the chemical weed removal programme and opted for manual means.

London-Luton Airport: Received from LADACAN - "The Examination into the proposed expansion of Luton Airport, by building a second Terminal on Wigmore Valley Park and doubling passenger throughput compared to 2023, has now closed. Thank you again to everyone who engaged with the process and made their voice heard. There are now 1,969 documents in the Examination Library and LADACAN made over 30 substantial submissions, working in liaison with other groups who made their own representations in complimentary areas of expertise. The local Councils pitched in across the board guided by their teams of experts. We can all have done no more.

The five Inspectors now have 3 months to weigh the evidence and write their report making a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who then has a further 3 months to make a decision. So we are likely to know the outcome before the General Election.

A similar process is just starting to examine an application for a Development Consent Order to bring Gatwick's northern runway into use by 2030, increasing capacity there to 75 million passengers. It's all heading in the wrong direction, and the challenge for us all now over the coming months is to persuade politicians and would-be MPs to face up to their responsibilities to address the climate crisis and make the polluters pay. That has to include aviation paying its fair share of taxes on fuel and a contribution to decarbonisation, and hopefully increased ticket prices will start to damp down demand."

Received cc from a resident's email to LLA:

"I live in Croydon [REDACTED]. In the last few weeks there has been an increase in noise and overflying - and it's already bad since the AD6 change. You are not using the stack and aircraft are taking the most convenient and cost effective route to Luton. The squealing airbrakes are particularly intrusive. What was previously quiet, rural countryside is now spoilt by LLA arrivals. I have complained before many times. It is pointless reporting every aircraft not to mention stressful to reach for my phone to check each flight. I have given feedback to the CAA for the Post Implementation Review.

Can you please tell me why Croydon is being overflowed so frequently and provide data."

Follow up information

Gmail address: The last Councillor has not reported that a gmail address is operational, but will try and get it established as soon as possible.

Gamlingay Division Councillors Report – South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council – February 2024

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these - or indeed any other - matters, please do not hesitate to contact County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley on 01767 651982 or skindersley@hotmail.com or write to the Manor Barn, East Hatley, SG19 3JA. District Councillor Bridget Smith is on 01767 650510 or Cllr.BridgetSmith@scambs.gov.uk. You can also follow your councillors on Twitter: @Cllrbridget @SebKindersley and Facebook.

South Cambs DC Budget: South Cambridgeshire has now unveiled proposals for next year's budget which proposes significant investment in the Council's recycling and waste collection service, funding for new staff to tackle fly-tipping and the expansion of the Zero Carbon Communities scheme, which has supported clean energy projects across the district, including in Gamlingay.

We intend this to be a budget for growing our services building on a clear track record of success and delivery. Very sensible decisions have been taken over the past six years, including sound investments. The recent independent peer review, carried out by the Local Government Association, said that the council has 'enviable' finances. This comes as dozens of other councils are issuing warnings of impending financial cliff edges and section 114 (bankruptcy) notices. Despite the damage that has been inflicted by the Government, who have been strangling finances for local authorities over the past 10 years, we are in a position to put forward a budget where we're making real progress against our priorities, especially when it comes to tackling climate change.

The council's transformation programme is a long-term process to drive improvements in customer service and to save money. Within Revenue and Benefits there's been £1/4 million worth of savings already, with an expected further £1/4 million to come. We've already undertaken significant transformation work in our planning department - even Michael Gove accepted we have an outstanding planning department in a recent meeting.

However, huge financial pressures and high inflation still mean that we, along with most councils in the UK, will have to increase council tax by the maximum or cut core services. Rent increases are also unavoidable if we want to keep upgrading our housing stock to make it more energy efficient and therefore cheaper to live in.

South Cambs 4 Day Working Week: The 4 day working week trial has now been in place for 12 months for desk-based staff. Savings made by not overspending the budget on agency staff have been enormous - money which is now in reserves to be spent on services for communities across the District. The impact on staff wellbeing and attitudes has also been amazing – going the extra mile is now commonplace across the Council, with obvious benefits to our residents and businesses.

In response to a couple of requests we have put all of the data we are currently submitting weekly to DLUHC onto the website for the public to look at - if you have lots of free time and energy to do so. We had originally intended to publish this at the end of March when the trial completes along with a lot of information to help make sense of what is pretty complex. The BBC reported a lot of positive things about the trial but did point out that money had been spent on agency staff in the Finance team and the Waste teams recently. The finance team is automating a lot of its operations and will need fewer staff so when vacancies occur we are using temps rather than having to make permanent people redundant. When we changed the bin collection rounds (as every council does every few years) we used some additional lorries and crews so that no one went too long without a collection.

Online Checker for Home Improvement Projects: The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has launched a user-friendly online checker to help home owners find out if planning permission is needed for home improvement projects such as dormer windows, fence installations, outbuildings, front porches, flue installations and more! The checker is at:-

<https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/planning-applications/check-if-i-need-planningpermission/>.

For those thinking about installing solar panels, check out the dedicated webpage for planning permission requirements at:-

<https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/planningapplications/solar-panels/>.

If still unclear, then book the free 15 minute advice pre-app session through here

<https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/planning-applications/householder-and-smallbusiness-planning-advice/>.

Are you claiming the right benefits?: South Cambridgeshire DC is making a big push to raise awareness of benefits entitlement. It's estimated that around 25% of benefits go unclaimed. Here's an easy-to-use on-line Benefits Calculator: <https://entitledto.co.uk>

Help at Home: new 'Care Micro Enterprises': The County Council is now in the process of helping local residents to set up local care microenterprises, as part of a shift toward small localized personalised care and support services for local people. If you would be interested in setting up such a service, or just finding out more perhaps as a resident in need of care, there is helpful information at cambridgeshire.gov.uk, then search 'Care Micro Enterprise.' It's early days but things are taking shape!

Childminding careers - grants of £600 to help get started: From the County Council: Are you interested in working in a profession which would enable you to work in your own home and continue to care for your own children, whilst providing quality care for children of working parents? If so, Registered Childminding may be the profession for you. To help with starting your childminding business the Government is currently offering a grant of £600 towards your set up costs. The County Council holds regular information evenings about childminding which are free to attend.

'Street care and cleaning' - how to make a request: This service covers litter picking, street cleaning, fly tipping clean-up, and removal of dead animals. Search 'Street care and cleaning South Cambs District Council': This website provides information on the next visit to our area by the street care team, which works on a ten-week cyclical basis and is managed by South Cambridgeshire District Council Environmental Health. To request special clearance of a hot spot area, please contact streets@scambs.gov.uk.

Measles: Cases of measles are rising in some areas of the country. Make sure you and your family are protected by having both doses of the free MMR vaccine. Measles is more than just a rash - it is an infection which spreads very easily and can cause serious complications in some people. Find out more about measles, including symptoms and how you can get vaccinated at [Measles | CPICS Website](#). Please also be aware there is a significant cohort of 18-25 year olds who also have not had the MMR vaccine.

How's Planning going?: Greater Cambridge Shared Planning - between Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councils – has set out the progress made during the past year on building sustainable and affordable new homes. The latest monitoring report to 31 March 2023 shows that the Councils have delivered 794 new affordable homes, agreed three new Neighbourhood Plans in West Wickham, Gamlingay (Woooo!), and Fulbourn and a net gain of 21,338 sqm of employment space; including at Melbourn Science Park. Planning policies in both Council areas positively impacted climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, with planning permissions including water efficiency and carbon reduction conditions; and Planning bosses say that the Greater Cambridge Authority Monitoring Report demonstrates the councils' commitment to sustainable development, meeting housing needs, and environmental stewardship.

And climate change?: Cambridgeshire County Council has significantly reduced its greenhouse gas emissions as it seeks to become a Net Zero organisation by 2030. We publish an annual carbon footprint report measuring greenhouse gas emissions from the council's own activities as well as emissions from the whole of Cambridgeshire. There was a 47 per cent reduction in known greenhouse gas emissions produced by the council in 2022-23 compared to baseline figures. A total of 99,104 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) was produced in that year compared to 185,621 tCO₂e over 2018-19.

The report identifies direct emissions like those from the council's heating systems and vehicles as well as emissions that are indirectly caused by the authority's activities such as services provided by contractors or employees' travel for work. Indirect emissions also arise from disposing of household waste. The council aims to be a Net Zero organisation for direct emissions by 2030.

Organisational carbon savings have come from switching some highways fleet vehicles to bio-fuel and a heat decarbonisation programme which has seen old gas and oil

boilers replaced with air source heat pumps at 22 council buildings with more under way. The council also purchases a green electricity tariff, which means its electricity supplies are all generated from zero carbon sources.

If the whole of Cambridgeshire is to reach net zero by 2045, that will need to be a real community effort by households, parish councils, voluntary organisations, community groups, and businesses across the county. It's great to see the speed at which interest in this is growing.

County Council Budget: Included in the proposals are Included in the proposals for the coming year are for the council to invest £57 million to sustain children's and adult social care services; further the Council's commitment to the Real Living Wage, which has increased to £12ph outside London, to take account of the Government uplift of the legally enforceable Living Wage, being paid by adult care providers.

CCC intends to prioritise £3m to continue to provide holiday food vouchers for all children eligible for free school meals, despite the government support being likely to end in the next financial year.

We will invest £2.2m to deliver other anti-poverty initiatives – such as support to make sure that vulnerable people are claiming all the welfare benefits that they are entitled to; £1.3m into delivering more accessible libraries to support vulnerable communities and prioritise investment of £23m into making highways, footpaths, and cycleways safer – on top of a recently announced government allocation of £2.3m. This will be to deliver improvements which both repair and prevent potholes, deliver improved drainage schemes, and reinstate cycleway maintenance and weed clearance.

Lastly there will be additional funding into schemes for people experiencing mental health issues to prevent them reaching crisis, particularly focusing on younger people.

The proposals include an increase of council tax by 4.99%, the maximum permitted by Government before a public referendum is needed – with a total of 2% of this increase dedicated to adult social care services across the county, and £17.6m of identified additional savings will need to be made to balance the books.

Police On-line community meetings: Our local police team hold an on-line community meeting every quarter – anyone who'd like to attend is very welcome. Please sign up here: South Cambridgeshire | Cambridgeshire Constabulary (camb.police.uk) (search these words and follow the links). Please note also the encouragement to fill out the community survey to help inform Police priorities.

Change to access at Royston and Thriplow recycling centres: Cambridgeshire residents now need to apply for a digital permit to use Royston Household Recycling Centre in Hertfordshire. The change comes following the announcement last year that Hertfordshire County Council would be adopting a policy restricting access to non-residents at Hertfordshire's network of sixteen recycling centres. However, the county council has reached an agreement with Hertfordshire County Council that enables continued cross-border access to Royston Household Recycling Centre for Cambridgeshire residents living close to the county boundary, whilst allowing Hertfordshire residents access to Thriplow Household Recycling Centre in South Cambridgeshire. Resident-only policies are becoming increasingly common across the region and indeed the country, with many neighbouring counties having had this policy in place for some time.

Parents encouraged to apply for support with childcare costs: The Department for Education is reminding eligible working parents of two-year-olds that they will be able to register to access 15 hours free childcare per week from April 2024. The recommended time to register is between mid-January and the end of February. More information on the childcare support available to parents can be found on the Childcare Choices website, where parents can explore the early education entitlements and other government help with childcare costs.

Take 5 Project: In the light of concerns around Gamlingay Village Primary Take 5 might be a project worth looking into. A walking zone around each school is researched by pupils, and adult volunteers and publicised to parents, carers, and families by a Take 5 map, banners outside the school, and special events. In most cases the Take 5 scheme is also marked out by easily identifiable signs on lamp columns. Families who live in, or near the zone are encouraged to walk, scoot or cycle to and from school every day, while those with longer

journeys who need to drive are asked to park safely outside the zone and to walk the last five minutes of their journey.

Flooding: The recent extraordinary rainfall levels have triggered road flooding widely including at Arrington and the Cinques in Gamlingay. It would be very helpful if you know of a blocked field ditch or drain if you could plot it on the CCC website at

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/> - and likewise with potholes. Thank you!

Buses: The Combined Authority has reviewed a number of bus routes including the 75 (Cambridge - Orwell - Wrestlingworth) and the 17 (Royston - Bassingbourn - Guilden Morden) and has decided to retain them despite the subsidy but will review timings to make them work better with other linking services. The Combined Authority is undertaking a public consultation - but hurry as this closed on Jan 15th. The ambitions are to add more buses to the network; provide bus users with better information; more reliability across the network; provide nicer, better quality buses and better value for money for users, which is why the Mayor proposes to invest up to £2.3 million into improving service so we can keep people connected and make sure the bus routes that are important to the community can keep running. We are also continuing to support the national scheme to cap fares at £2 until the end of 2024 to help bus users struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

<https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/better-buses/#questionnaire>

New Highways maintenance way of working: From April, highways maintenance jobs will be signed off and coordinated by specialist teams rather than Local Highways Officers, though our LHOs will act as intermediaries to keep specialist teams informed of local needs and priorities. Specialist teams will deal with signs, lines, road surface treatment, path treatment and gullies. Teams have formed in anticipation, and we are all getting familiar with new ways of working - we will do our best to help make the transition. Please note that logging jobs on the Highways reporting site is still the right first step. Report a highways fault - Cambridgeshire County Council Any questions please let us know.

Regularising gully clearing: As previously reported, prior to the 2021 County Council Joint Administration, there was no systematic recording and care of gully maintenance. As part of a massive overhaul of Highways maintenance systems, and within a context of managed decline legacy and a visibly deteriorating network, highways maintenance is transitioning to a more accountable system, though resource remains very stretched and need very high. Indeed the upcoming budget requires significant additional expenditure to simply stand still.

All gullies have, for the first time, been mapped and recorded on a system called KaarbonTech. An initial program has been put in place to ensure all gullies are cleared every two years. Data on the state of each gully is now being recorded with each of those cleans. The next step is to put that together and adopt a smarter gully cleaning regime. Not all gullies need to be emptied every two years, but some will need much more frequent routine work. The aim is to build up the data picture and be smart about where scarce resource is deployed. Parish clerks should now be receiving cyclical gully clearance notices. Any hot spots should be logged on the Highways reporting site.

Electric vehicle charging: An estimated 10,000 public electric vehicle charge point sockets will be needed across Cambridgeshire by 2030, as motorists choose electric vehicles over petrol and diesel cars - set to be banned by government from 2035. Using up to £5M in Local Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding, the council is working with the Combined Authority on how to meet this need, with fewer than 500 public charge points currently installed. Officers will develop a plan informed by technical mapping and seek public engagement to find suitable charge point locations. They will report back later in 2024.

Quishing: The Police have launched a campaign warning the public about the dangers of an emerging scam which works through QR - quick response - codes and can see victims unwittingly download malware or provide fraudsters with sensitive information.

If the QR is on a poster in a public area, always check whether it appears to have been stuck over the original. If the sign or notice is laminated and the QR code is under the lamination or part of the original print, chances are it's more likely to be genuine. However, if in doubt download the app from the official Google or Apple store or search the website on your phone's internet browser, rather than scanning a QR code to take you there. It may take longer, but it's more secure. Check the preview of the QR code's URL before opening it to see if it appears legitimate. Make sure the website uses HTTPS rather than HTTP, doesn't

have obvious misspellings and has a trusted domain. Above all - trust your instincts. If something doesn't seem right, don't share your details.

New Care Professional website for Cambridgeshire - training and career development: Care professionals make up the biggest proportion of Cambridgeshire's working population – even more than the NHS. Our care workforce plays a vital role in supporting those in need of care and support, especially as more of our population gets older.

The County Council's Joint Administration is making a big push on supporting career development in the care sector. This includes rolling out the Real Living Wage for its care workers and supporting its providers to pay the Real Living Wage. It has also now launched a new website for training and career development: The Care Professional Academy, which is supported by Cambridgeshire's Academy for Reaching Excellence (CARE), is a training website for adult social care providers and professionals to access training initiatives, receive benefits for taking part in training and access information from the local authority. There's lots of information at: Cambridgeshire.careprofessional.co.uk

Weeds policy: The County Council's Highways & Transport Committee has changed its policy on highways weed spraying. It will now be reverting to regular twice-yearly weed killing in the places where it used to do this before last year's policy change. Communities which do not want chemical weed spraying in their area will however be able to opt out in favour of manual weed removal by volunteers. Cllr Alex Beckett, chair of Committee said: "I know we didn't get this change right, which is why I asked for a review of the policy. While some communities really appreciated the reduction in chemical weed killing, a large number did not. Local decision making is important, we have listened to that feedback and hope these new changes, if approved, will allow those communities who wish to continue without chemical weed killing to do so whilst allowing those who preferred the previous regime to go back to that."

Changes at Cambridgeshire County Council: Councillors were saddened to hear of the death of Cllr Mac McGuire, the councillor for Yaxley & Farcet in Huntingdonshire and the longest-serving member of the County Council. Mac served on Cambridgeshire County Council from 1985 to 1992, and then again from 1997 until his death over the Christmas holidays. An election to fill the vacancy on the council will be held in due course.

Meanwhile Cllr Ryan Fuller (St Ives North & Wyton) and Cllr Jonas King (Huntingdon North and Hartford) and the Conservatives have parted company with one another - they remain on the council as non-aligned independent councillors. The composition of the various committees on the council will be adjusted to take account of these changes.

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority.....: The Mayor has proposed to increase his precept on the council tax from £12 to £36 per year for the average Band D property. This is intended to enable the funding of a number of new or improved bus services. The Government has issued a revised Best Value Notice in respect of the Combined Authority. The revised notice recognises the significant progress the Combined Authority has made as an organisation since January 2023, and also that some elements need further work. More importantly it makes clear that it wants Board members to work together with common purpose.

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!

Correspondence:

Electoral Register alterations: None received

Highway Events: A microfibre road resurfacing programme is currently underway in Cambridgeshire, but is weather dependent and will probably not run according to the proposed schedule. Affected properties will be given plenty of warning and supplied with a brochure of instructions and requirements. The road has to be clear for the resurfacing to occur.

Civil Parking Enforcement Update: Although Croydon has no parking restrictions, the table supplied by SCDC may be handy to anyone walking through to Wimpole Park. " Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) has been live in South Cambridgeshire since late December, but from 1 February tickets, with fines attached, will begin to be issued by

Cambridgeshire County Council's Civil Parking Enforcement Officers.

As was said at the briefing sessions held in November, the officers can only enforce restrictions that are in place, such as parking on a single or double yellow lines, or the footpath where restrictions are adjacent.

Other parking matters, such as causing an obstruction by parking on the pavement, will remain Police matters.

There will be two enforcement officers dedicated to South Cambridgeshire as part of a wider team that enforce the CPE scheme in Cambridge City. It is not possible for the officers to be everywhere all the time and work has been done by Cambridgeshire County Council, utilising available data and insights, to maximise the time they spend enforcing and minimising travel time across the large rural area they will cover.

The team at the County Council has had feedback from some communities about concerns in some areas too. To ensure they get all the information they need to help increase their understanding of local concerns, which in turn can help them continue to improve how resources are allocated, they have provided the table below. This information is also being sent to county and district councillors but if town/parish councils feel they have information to feedback please complete the table and email it back to

parkingcontrol@cambridgeshire.gov.uk "

Restriction: What restriction is being contravened*?	Time: What time does the contravention usually occur?	Day: What day does the contravention usually occur?	Occurrence: How often is the contravention observed?

For further information on Civil Parking Enforcement you can visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CPE

Measles: Public Health Campaign: There have been outbreaks of measles in parts of the country and on 19 January the UK Health Security Agency declared a notional incident onset the rising number of cases. Locally, staff in Public Health are working hard to raise awareness and to encourage vaccination across all ages, and are really keen to reach community organisations to both raise awareness, and promote the additional clinics being held across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

There is a helpful link at [Measles | CPICS Website](#) .

Police Community Engagement meetings: For those who haven't attended before, these meetings are quarterly and held online from 7pm-8pm. They allow members of the public to virtually meet their neighbourhood officers and hear about recent activity. Attendees will also get the opportunity to raise any concerns they have and help shape future priorities.

Please find below the dates for the forthcoming community engagement meetings:

- 28 February
- 22 May
- 28 August
- 27 November

If you would like to attend, please visit the neighbourhood page and click the link on the date. You will be sent to Event Brite to register for free and will be sent a meeting link -

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/police-forces/cambridgeshire-constabulary/areas/campaigns/nhp/neighbourhood-policing/South-Cambridgeshire/>

On the neighbourhood page you will also see a survey which can be filled out by those unable to attend the meeting so all views can be taken into account.

SCDC Community Support: Community Chest - There is still £85,600 left in the Community Chest Grant fund for this financial year so if you are looking for funding for items to support a specific project or activity in your parish, then please visit our webpage for further details and eligible criteria. You may be aware that Community Chest Grant also includes additional ring-fenced funds, depending on what the funding is intended to support. The below list shows the amounts currently remaining in this financial year:

- Community Chest: £17,027
- Biodiversity (ring fenced): £8,000.
- Community-Led Plans (ring fenced): £43,249
- Cost- Of Living (ring fenced): £17,324

Support Cambridgeshire has produced a useful factsheet on how to write a funding application. Please also forward this article on to any not-for-profit organisation that may be looking for funding. We are more than happy to discuss your project with you before you make an application. Please email community.chest@scambs.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire Peterborough Children's Health: A Platform for Families

Introducing www.cambspborochildrenshealth.nhs.uk the new online NHS resource for parents and carers. Designed with local families, 0-19 Healthy Child Programme and other NHS children's services to be a go-to resource for children and young people's health advice.

Easy access to health information - with a family focused design, information is quick to access and easy to use on a phone, tablet or laptop. Accessibility has been prioritised to ensure information can be translated, downloaded and adapted to suit a family's reading needs.

Being a local resource connected with local services - seamless linking to local resources such as 'Keep Your Head', Cambridgeshire and Peterborough SEND Hubs and partner NHS services. There are also dedicated service pages where professionals can find the most up to date contact details, referral forms and guidance.

Evidence based topics for our families' diverse needs - offering a mixture of general and specialist NHS advice for families with children and young people. Covering many topics including:

- [Behaviour, emotions and mental health](#)
- [Child development and growing up](#)
- [Common illnesses](#)
- [Feeding and eating](#)
- [Moving and being active](#)
- [Peeing, pooing and toileting](#)
- [Sleep](#)
- [Speech, language and communication](#)
- [Staying safe and accident prevention](#)

There is also specialist information on topics such as sensory differences, physical skills development, communication skills, physical and mental health and more.

East-West Rail - Choose the right approach: From Cambridge Approaches "Following the recent National Audit Office [report](#) on its investigation into the East West Rail project, the existence has been revealed of an HM Treasury officer-led EWR economic growth board. Cambridge Approaches, BFARe and Protect Poets have published a joint press release, which you can view from this link: [The secret East West Rail Economic Growth Board deciding your future](#)"

And an update on East West Rail from SCDC:

East West Rail has let us know that they are continuing to develop their proposals, and in the first half of this year will be ready to launch a statutory consultation on them. East West Rail's website says "A two-stage statutory consultation will maximise the opportunities for our communities to influence the proposals during the development stage of the design process. This approach will help us develop a better solution, more fully informed by the people living

and working in the communities EWR will serve.”

During the first phase of the statutory consultation, they will share their updated designs, as well as new information on design areas. They will also provide an overview of potential environmental impacts and mitigations. Their proposals will be presented in more detail than in previous rounds of non-statutory consultations and will again seek feedback from the public. East West Rail will then analyse and consider all submissions to finalise a single proposal for the entire route, which will be presented in the second stage of the statutory consultation. You can [read more on the East West Rail website](#)

CPRE: Please see the information about raising £20,000 to help fight a development in Cambridge at Paradise Nature Reserve.

"Cambridge City Council and local residents said a resounding NO, but a London-based Planning Inspector has said YES to a Queens College plan to build more student accommodation next to Paradise Nature Reserve." Councillors sympathised but cannot support the fundraising for this.

Greater Cambridge Partnership Planning Forum: An invitation has been received to attend a Zoom meeting on 28th March from 5.00pm. Please let the Clerk know if you would like to attend and she will forward the details to you. Clerk has a prior engagement on 28th March so will not be able to attend.

SCDC Clerks' meeting - 17th April: A Parish Council was less than satisfied with the way that SCDC dealt with a planning application for five dwellings outside the village envelope, which the PC objected to and was subsequently passed by SCDC Planners.

Because of this, Cllr Smith defended the decision made by the Planners and is in the process of arranging a session for Parish council clerks, to offer additional training, increase their familiarity with the planning team and give them an opportunity to raise any items with them. "Unlocking the Potential of Your Parish: How the Planning Team Can Support You as a Parish Clerk" will be held in the South Cambs Council Chamber on Wednesday 17 April 2024 at 11:30 am. As 17th April is the evening of the Annual Meeting, Councillors left it up to the Clerk to decide if she would like to attend..

CCVS Training Workshops: Please see below items of interest for you and your community and groups:-

- Offer from SCDC for some cost of living support - where to get benefits and what is on offer.
- Vaccine hesitancy information sessions
- Links to a CCC Public Health survey gathering data and information about loneliness.
- Source volunteers - list your organisation with CCVS
- CCVS training opportunities
- Free defibrillator
- Library at home dates for information
- Financial advice for young people

Further details are available from Sarah Freeman - Community Connector - South Cambridgeshire Place Team Tel: 07836 334843

Email: Sarah.freeman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Working days are Mon - Thurs 9-5pm, with some flexibility around these hours.

SCDC Report: The latest parish e-bulletin was sent out at the end of January (so the next one isn't due until the end of March) so thought it was important to let you know now".

State of the District report

I attach a 'State of the District' report which was noted at yesterday's Cabinet meeting. We thought you may find it useful. The report provides a high-level overview of the key dimensions of society and economy in South Cambridgeshire. Using data from a number of sources, the report covers six areas: population, health and wellbeing, deprivation, the local economy, housing, and carbon emissions. We hope it is helpful.

This report is on the village website and is 24 pages long..

King Charles III: A portrait of our King is available to any Council that would like it - free. Councillors felt that the Reading Room trustees should be asked if they would like Council to order one, as the only place it could be hung is in the Reading Room.

Circulated

SCDC Parish weekly agendas/e-bulletin
Anthony Browne's weekly updates
CPRE Winter newsletter
Cambridge Approaches newsletter
Cambridgeshire Matters
CCC Budget meeting (recording available)
Zero Carbon Newsletter
Cambs ACRE newsletter
NHS newsletter

Any subsequent receipts:

Extract from Cllr Smith's letter regarding publication of data requested by

Government: "We are proud of the Council's performance data and whilst we are careful not to draw conclusions regarding the four-day week trial, initial evidence suggests that it is benefitting the Council, with key performance indicators (KPIs) demonstrating no statistically significant negative impact of the trial, and indeed in a number of areas KPIs indicated an improvement in productivity. I have also been pleased to hear anecdotal evidence of the wider positive impact the trial is having on our communities, for example where officers have used the greater flexibility afforded by a four-day week to care for or simply spend more time with elderly relatives.

As of next Monday (22nd January 2024) the Council will publish on its website all available data submitted to DLUHC as part of the Best Value Notice. This shall be accessible via our 'one-stop shop' four-day week website page where you can find out more information about the trial, including the rationale for the trial, the decision-making process taken, the analysis of the initial three-month long initial trial and information about the Best Value Notice. A link to this page can be found here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/four-day-working-week-trial/>

SLCC - Section 137 spending limit for 2024/25: The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities advised that the appropriate sum for the purpose of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for parish and town councils in England for 2024-25 is £10.81.

This is the amount as a result from increasing the amount of £9.93 for 2023-2024 by the percentage increase in the retail price index between September 2022 and September 2023, in accordance with Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.

Consultation on Street Vote Development Orders - SLCC Response

On 22 December 2023, the government announced a consultation on the detailed operation of the street votes development order system.

Street votes are an alternative to traditional forms of planning permission which gives residents of a street the ability to propose development on their street, for example, the addition of an extra storey to properties or the building of affordable housing and, subject to the proposal meeting certain requirements, vote on whether the development should be given planning permission.

The deadline for comments was 2 February 2024 and [SLCC's response to the consultation can be read here](#)

Lemon Booking: "I work for Lemon Booking which specialises in booking systems for halls, community centres and sports facilities. If Croydon Parish Council has facilities you hire out to the public - and the process of doing so is time consuming - then I hope I can interest you in a free online demo of Lemon Booking." Croydon Parish Council does not have any facilities that require booking, but the Chairman asked the Clerk to discover a ballpark figure for Council.

Croydon Hill: Recent drainage works on Croydon Hill have resulted in a complaint to CCC Highways. An extract from the complaint:- "On the east side there is a drainage ditch running down just inside the hedge line. This takes water from the fields and wood down to ditch marked on your plan and its drains perfectly well. Or did until the grips were cut which now take the water from the drainage ditch out onto the road."

Letter from Cllr Bridget Smith Leader of SCDC

Dear Parish Councillors,

Today, South Cambridgeshire District Council is publishing a report outlining the progress of the four-day week trial up to this point as well as the future steps available to the Council. The report will initially go to our Employment and Staffing Committee on 29th February 2024 and then to Cabinet on 12th March 2024.

The Council is also informing the media of this report, but we felt it important to let Parish Councillors know of its publication too. I strongly encourage you to read the report in full. It's important to us that we ensure that you are fully informed when it comes to the four-day week trial.

Further, I would also like to reiterate that both I and other Cabinet members are more than happy to speak with Parish Councils about the four-day week or answer any questions you may have. The trial was introduced to help address longstanding and serious difficulties in filling hard-to-fill posts, especially in the Planning Service. This has proved to be very successful and over the duration of the trial, £434,000 less has been spent on agency staff covering these hard to fill roles. The Government's consultation on the Local Government Finance Settlement raised the possibility of "using financial levers" in future settlements to disincentive four-day working arrangements. We had expected to be able to run a consultation shortly after the trial ends in March.

However, due to the Government's statements, that is now not the best course of action as we are waiting for them to announce whether financial levers will be imposed on councils who take this innovative approach to their recruitment challenges. Consulting now would mean consulting again once we get that vital information. You can see the full report on the Council's website as well as the statement given to the media.

Finance

Bank statement: At the end of January the balance in the current account was £4599-06. Following the letter of complaint sent to Barclays regarding their handling of the Request for Signatories issue, Barclays has admitted that they received the requested documents in September and October and "failed to act on these" and also "lacked clarity and conviction." A sum of £100-00 was offered as compensation, which was accepted by Council and obtained by Mr Barnes as he is one of the current signatories. This amount will be added to the village nominal.

N S & I: The annual statement was received, and Council has received £155-47 in interest. The total amount in the account is now £19813.70. This is made up of Community Fund monies of £16319.82 and current account savings.

Bank mandate: Mr Barnes has organised the mandate for the Clerk to be able to discuss the Parish Council's account with Barclays. The Clerk is not a signatory to the account and required a mandate, signed by the signatories, to allow her to act on Council's behalf. The signatures were added to the required paperwork, which the Clerk has to return in person to a branch of Barclays for them to scan and forward. The Clerk may not do this herself.

Precept: Acknowledgement of the Parish Council precept request has been received.

Barclays - confirmation of cheque signatories: Concern was expressed that the third signatory had not been confirmed by Barclays, as Council is vulnerable with only two signatories instead of three. Council's account requires any two from three signatories. Council was assured that this would be rectified.

Items for next agenda: None put forward

Next meeting: Wednesday 20 March 2024 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed Date