

County Councillor report November 2019

New Children's Service at the Community Wing, Northstowe

A new regular breast feeding advisory service will be starting in the New Year at the Children's Centre in the Community Wing. Experts will be on hand to give advice and guidance to help all parents and carers. It's fantastic to see so many children from around the area attending the centre and it's also great to see how many of our friends and neighbours are using the Community Wing for various activities.

Highways

Our LHO will be away for another 4 weeks...

Clean Energy Project – Longstanton Park and Ride.

The County Council are furthering their alternative energy programme at the Longstanton Park and Ride where the County Council is investigating the feasibility of a smart energy grid similar to others proposed at similar sites. The project would consist of building carports over the majority of the parking spaces and mounting solar modules on the carports to generate electricity. The electricity would be fed into a battery storage system for distribution out to the site and for sale to local customers. CCC have been approached by South Cambs District Council officers about supplying electricity to the Northstowe development from the project. This scheme builds off experience the team has gathered developing similar schemes for the St Ives and Babraham Park and Ride sites.

As well as installing carports, CCC will also be relocating lighting columns and CCTV cameras to maintain security on the site. Some lighting columns will need to be removed as they cause shading of the panels, with under-canopy lighting installed to compensate. This will also have the benefit of reducing light pollution from the current site. CCC will also take the opportunity to increase the efficiency of the lighting on-site.

Once the business case is proved viable, hopefully early next year, the Commercial and Investment Committee will be asked to approve a development budget.

As part of any full planning application CCC will conduct something called a Glint and Glare study. This assesses the amount, timing and location of solar glare from the panels on local residents, businesses and drivers. It essentially tracks the position of the sun against the angle of the panels to determine the resulting refraction of light. The study will recommend mitigation measures for any impacts.

Innovate and Cultivate Fund – upcoming application deadlines

Cambridgeshire County Council has announced that the next deadline for Innovate and Cultivate Fund (ICF) applications is 1 February 2020. A pre-application advice session will be held on 10 December 2019 (details below). The aim of the fund is to support initiatives that strengthen our communities and Council services that are inviting applications are adult social care and children and families services. The fund is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations including parish councils, in Cambridgeshire. There are two funding streams: a 'Cultivate' fund for smaller projects that build community support networks and an 'Innovate' fund for bigger, bolder and more innovative initiatives. ICF has now funded 45 projects across Cambridgeshire. If you'd like to see one in action, pop into the Prospects Trust's 'Unwrapped' shop and café in Ely for some homemade soup and cake, bulk staples and fabulous organic produce grown by their co-workers at their farm in Reach. A number of Cultivate applications were received from the 1 November funding round and those, along with the second stage applications for some Innovate applications, will be assessed and notified of success in December.

New Cultivate ‘Seed’ Fund Projects

Guidance has been developed on starting Cultivate Seed Fund Projects that can help people to remain independent and active within their community, encourage volunteering and complement more costly Council services. Projects include **Timebanks, Good Neighbour Schemes, Dementia-Friendly Communities and Men’s Sheds**. Visit the Cambs CF website for details.

Upcoming application deadlines

- 1 February 2020 – Cultivate grants (£2,000 – £19,000) and Innovate grants (£19,001 – £50,000)
- 1 May 2020 – Cultivate grants only (£2,000 – £19,000)

Pre-Application Advice Session

Do you want to talk through your ideas before you submit your application? Pre-application advice sessions are held for each funding round. The next session will be held on Tuesday 10 December 2019 between 9.30am and 12.30pm at the William Collyn Community Centre in Girton. Please book on Eventbrite or email Lianne.Parrett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk if you would like further information.

Cambridgeshire Libraries’ Space Chase: Summer Reading Challenge 2019

Over 7,400 children joined the Summer Reading Challenge this summer and 4,450 children were awarded medals and certificates for reading 6 books over the school summer holidays, thus completing the Challenge – an increase of 9% compared to last year. And over 750 children joined the library to take part in the Reading Challenge! Libraries were asked to concentrate on encouraging children to keep visiting the library over the summer and complete the Challenge – aiming for 60% completion rate. This is always difficult to achieve when there are so many other activities children can take part in during the holidays. The County Council is delighted to report that 16 libraries achieved this, with five libraries achieving over 70%, namely Burwell, Cottenham, Soham, Warboys and Willingham. The star performer this year, in terms of an increase in participants is Milton Road Library, which last year was operating out of a mobile whilst a new library was being built. This summer, at the new library, which opened in June, 168 children took part in the Challenge, an increase of over 300% compared to last year! Cambridge Central Library continues to have the highest number of participants of any library in the county – 679 this year.

Cambridgeshire Libraries also buys Challenge materials for children to take part in the 11 community managed libraries. They also had a successful summer, with over 670 children signing up. We had 170 under 16s volunteer over the summer, whose support was invaluable in ensuring the success of the Challenge, as well as our programme of events. 300 themed activities took place across all 34 of our libraries. Each child who completed the Challenge was invited to an Awards Ceremony at their local library, where they were presented with a medal and certificate.

New Archives Centre, Ely

The archives currently held in Shire Hall basement are now being moved across into the repository of the new building, where they will be stored in environmentally controlled PD5454-compliant storage for the first time. Currently over 10,000 archive boxes have already been safely moved across, of which precisely 5,244 have been so far scanned by the archive team’s barcode scanning unit. The barcode system is a bespoke one set up by staff at Cambridgeshire Archives, which matches a historical document’s entry on the online CALM database to that specific document’s location, thereby enabling staff to locate a document within seconds no matter where it may be stored in the new centre’s seven miles of shelving. Currently the Council anticipates that the new centre will open to the public towards the end of the year. Please visit the Archives webpages for more information.

Stay Well Campaign 2019/20

The effects of cold winter weather on the health of vulnerable people are well known and often result in unplanned hospital admissions. The key aim of Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health Directorate's Stay Well campaign is to provide vulnerable groups with the appropriate information for how they can minimise the effects of the cold along with where they can find the support and services provided by voluntary organisations and district authorities that are vital in cold weather, such as heating grants and boiler repairs. Since October, Public Health have been distributing 20,000 Stay Well Winter Health Packs. These packs include tips, information, key contacts and resources to keep our most vulnerable groups stay well and warm during the winter months.

If you would like to obtain a box of 100 Winter Health packs, please contact the Library Service on HPResources@cambridgeshire.gov.uk, who are now holding local parish council stock ready for distribution from **25 November 2019**.

Missing Moments

The Public Health team have launched the second phase of its stop smoking campaign 'Missing Moments'. The initial phase of this campaign targeted areas with high smoking prevalence across Cambridgeshire. The second phase is targeting migrant communities and workplaces, and has been developed in partnership with the council's race, equality and diversity leads, managers and users of community centres, frontline staff, commissioned workplace providers and the Stop Smoking Service. This campaign will use emotive images and text to highlight the risks of ill health associated smoking can lead to missing special moments in a loved one's life, available in six different languages. Marketing will include printed cards, posters, Facebook adverts, twitter feeds and workplace toolkits. Smokers are encouraged to register for a Quit Kit through the Be Well Cambridgeshire website and those who register will then be followed up periodically by stop smoking specialists. Quit Kits provide information and advice about stopping smoking and will offer smokers access to specialist support and a closed Facebook support group. The campaign which launched on 1 October will run until the New Year. Advertising and resources will be widely distributed including but not exclusively through workplaces, community centres, libraries, and GP practice, and mother and toddler groups.

Flu Vaccination

The Public Health Directorate continues to promote the flu vaccination with both staff and the public. This promotion is a key strand of the Stay Well campaign, which this year has evolved towards a new brand style called 'Help Us, Help You.' The flu campaign is one of the first to be rolled out under the new branding. The local public campaign is focusing on improving uptake amongst three key groups: pre-school children, pregnant women and adults with long term health conditions or those aged 65 or older. Those eligible are encouraged to get their free vaccine before the **end of November** to protect themselves and their families before flu reaches its seasonal peak. It is the single best way to protect against a potentially very serious illness. As well as getting the vaccine, practicing good hand hygiene by catching coughs and sneezes in a tissue, throwing it away and washing your hands after can help limit its spread - catch it, bin it, kill it.

Children in Reception Year to Year 6 will get their vaccine at school, whilst pre-school children should visit their GP. Eligible adults can get their vaccine from their local GP or pharmacy. More information about the flu vaccination, including who is eligible for the vaccine, can be found on the NHS website.

Climate Change and Environment Strategy

Cambridgeshire County Council declared a Climate Emergency in May 2019, and in response to this, the Council is developing a Climate Change and Environment Strategy and Action Plan. The strategy outlines how the County Council will: reduce the carbon footprint of the council and the county; help our communities adapt to the change already happening; and enhance nature and

the benefits it provides. The consultation on the strategy begins on the 20 December 2019 and will end on the 31 January 2020. The strategy and questionnaire will be available online and we will let you know details of the consultation website shortly. More details about what the council is doing following the climate emergency declaration can be found on the MLEI website.

Peter Hudson
County Councillor

Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick, and Over