

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

JANUARY 2020

CLLR SARAH CHEUNG JOHNSON & CLLR ALEX MALYON

A reminder that information about South Cambs response to coronavirus can be found on the regularly updated coronavirus pages on the SCDC website:

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

REVISED BIN COLLECTION DATES

Bin collection that are due on Thursday 7th Jan will be moved to Saturday 9th Jan

Those due on Thursday 14th Jan will be moved to Friday 15th Jan

Thereafter they return to normal.

NORTHSTOWE PLANNING UPDATES

The new footbridge has been put in place at the end of Wilson's Road, Longstanton and goes over what will be the dual carriageway main access into Northstowe, the Southern Access Road West. The footbridge will be for all non-motorised users, pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrian users.

Watch this time-lapse video of this bridge going in here -- it is a pretty dramatic bridge!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgpFRlplQCM&t=15s>

Pioneer Park – outdoor gym equipment is being installed here.

HATTON PARK ROAD MONITORS

We would like to pass our thanks on Mrs Morley & Shane Smith for helping us keep the area around Hatton Park Primary School safer for all children by being traffic marshals keeping Hatton Park Road closed during school drop off and pick-ups. They have been there through rain & shine and always with a smile.

Thanks also to Susan Meah, Andrea Todman, and other volunteers (let us know names, we don't have the full set sorry!)

ZERO CARBON COMMUNITY GRANTS

We were really pleased to hear that Northstowe Horticultural Association were amongst the 17 projects that have been awarded funding in the latest round of Zero Carbon Community grants. They have received £5800 from SCDC to develop the community garden and orchard.

Congratulations to the Northstowe Horticultural Association and thank you to everyone who worked hard putting the successful grant application together!

BLOG PIECE ON URBAN SPLASH

This piece which we think is of interested is by Firouz Thompson and Mollie Clark, who formed Northstowe Foodies who bring the food trucks to Northstowe:

We finally got to thank the team at House by Urban Splash at their Pavilion in Northstowe (fab footage here: <https://fb.watch/z0DOLftIMk/>). Back in August Urban Splash kindly helped design our Foodies logo, which you all got to vote on the final two.

So, who are House by Urban Splash? They are the newbies on the block, building 406 new sustainable homes with a twist, built using Modern Methods of construction (MMC) which produce significantly less waste, fewer carbon emissions from site traffic (yes less traffic!) and are cleaner and more efficient than traditionally constructed homes. The on-site team has completed the first foundation pour and been working on mains drainage and the retaining wall. The first homes will soon arrive and they are on sale now, with the first houses available in the spring alongside their green spaces (yes, very different to Northstowe Phase 1).

What has really surprised us is the role that House by Urban Splash have taken within the community, Tony Colville Head of Urban Splash's Charitable Trust informed me this week of what community initiatives they have been embarking on: kitted out Martin Bacon Academy apartment & provided Christmas decorations; provided bursary grant to Northstowe Secondary College, funded a skills programme & looking to furnish their library in 2020 to add to the special books donated this year; collaborating with residents of Rampton Drift to redesign their playground; assisted Longstanton Parish Council with the design of community marketing, supporting with launch plans for the spice museum; provided branding and flags to Northstowe Social looking to rebrand, Northstowe Horticultural Association and many other smaller things like grants for young carers and supporting with toilet rolls at the beginning of COVID

I am sure you will agree that they have set the bar very here at Northstowe, let us hope that going forward we attract more of community spirited house builders such as House by Urban Splash.

DISTRICT WIDE UPDATES

COVID-19 UPDATES

As you are aware, we are now in [another national lockdown](#). For many people in our communities this will be another really difficult period with new restrictions in place. The news of a lockdown will probably be even harder as we can all see the vaccine on the horizon.

In the first wave of the virus back in March 2020, people who were Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) were asked to shield. These are people who have a serious health condition. The increase in cases up and down the country means the Prime Minister announced yesterday that those who are CEV will need to shield again now. Those over the age of 70 do not need to shield.

The Government is writing to everyone on this list to ensure they are aware of the support available – such as national online supermarket priority. Cambridgeshire County Council are now also in the process of writing to the 32,000 CEV residents in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The letters will include information about local support in each district, including the help from local community

groups. As in November's lockdown, we are not going to provide community groups with the details of the CEV people in their area as they have lots of information to seek help if they need it.

More information can be found on the [CEV pages of the Government's website](#). This includes how to register and update your details.

The announcement that schools will now be providing distance learning to most pupils also impacts our staff. As we did in the first lockdown, we are supporting Council staff to help them fulfil their roles whilst also balancing any caring responsibilities. This may mean staff will be working staggered patterns and may not be immediately available. Where you know a team has a generic email it would be helpful for you to use that if possible. It is also important to recognise that as we adjust to this new lockdown there might be an impact on some of the business-as-usual tasks. We will update you as we understand the impacts in more detail but will always prioritise critical services.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

South Cambs Council have been responding to businesses as swiftly as possible. We have received over 150 emails since 8.10pm on the day of announcement, alongside many calls asking for the latest on where and what next for support etc., and these emails keep on coming in thick and fast!

Whilst the Council are responding to each individual email, situation, or query as quickly as possible, we are also somewhat constrained whilst awaiting detailed guidance from BEIS on how to administer grants post Dec 26th (Tier 4 grants and latest grant announced this morning). Currently, all emails into our BusinessGrants@scambs.gov.uk or openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk will receive the below automated email until a team member can make formal contact within 24-48 hours latest of each new email receipt:

Thank you for your email, we will respond as soon as possible but there may be a delay due to the number of enquiries we are currently receiving.

We are awaiting further information on Tier 4 and National Lockdown grants and we will be in contact when we have established an application process. For the most up to date information and full details of current available grants, including eligibility criteria and application processes, visit our website: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/financial-support-for-business/>

To receive regular updates on support available for business sign up to our business newsletter at: www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/latest-business-newsletters/

We are keeping our website and associated comms/social media activity as up to date as possible, so if businesses do come directly to you, please feel free to share the above text and/or continue to direct them to the business inboxes/website.

For information, initial detail of the latest grant announcement this morning, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/46-billion-in-new-lockdown-grants-to-support-businesses-and-protect-jobs>

CHRISTMAS MEALS FOR THOSE IN NEED

We were really delighted that South Cambs has been able to use some of the COVID funds we received to ensure families in need and vulnerable older residents get a Christmas dinner. More than 1000 meals were distributed, including in our ward. Thank you to all the council staff and volunteers at C3 church and Over Day Centre who have made this happen. More on here: https://www.scambs.gov.uk/christmas-dinner-on-the-menu-for-almost-1-000-vulnerable-and-older-people/?fbclid=IwARoCKcYI1Imcu8fN6Pwme6A1obh_1EliTHHv8ksUie4cVIExv7VJJK7czdA

CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSAL FOR A NEW TOWN

A West Sussex speculative development company is proposing to create a new sprawling town of 25,000 homes between and encompassing the villages of Shepreth, Melbourn, Meldreth, Whaddon, Bassingbourn, Wimpole, Orwell, Barrington, and Foxton. The new town, dubbed 'South West Cambridge,' would profoundly change the hinterland of a multitude of villages and eradicate the rural nature of much of South Cambridgeshire.

The developer, Thakeham, has missed the deadline for the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan's 'Call for Sites,' despite having spent the past two years preparing its scheme, during which time it will have been fully aware of the South Cambridgeshire Planning process. It now proposes a late submission in the Call for Sites. While it has contacted relevant landowners, Thakeham has made no contact with residents or their elected representatives, although it appears Homes England were aware.

The South Cambridgeshire development hierarchy is structured around its largest population centres at Cambourne and Northstowe, which are served by the A428, the Guided Busway and the planned new Cambourne Station, as well as its new schools and health services.

An action group - South West Cambridge Action Group - has been set up and you can see their website at www.swcag.org for further information. Although Planning is a District Council matter District Councillors have been advised not to comment as this might prejudice their position later in the process.

COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Monthly email newsletter - with updates on local news as well as wider district issues which will impact us all. To sign up please go to: https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/email_signup_longstanton

(Note to help us manage GDPR it is easier for us to host from the LibDems webpage, but we absolutely promise this link will NOT subscribe you to LibDem news)

For all the latest news & updates so far please go to:
https://www.sclibdems.org.uk/longstanton_news

For those on social media we have a very active Facebook group covering the whole ward here:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2066298150052161/>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these, or any other matters.

Alex Malyon and Sarah Cheung Johnson

District Councillors for Longstanton, Oakington and Northstowe

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