

## **South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward**

### **Report to Barton Parish Council July 2021**

#### **Covid Update**

Rates of Covid-19 in Cambridgeshire have risen sharply and they continue to rise. Currently there are 92 cases per 100,000 across Cambridgeshire, which is an 85 increase on last week.

There is particular concern about the rising rates of Covid-19 in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. There are currently 216 cases per 100,000 in Cambridge and 101 cases in South Cambridgeshire, with most cases being seen in 18 to 30-year-olds.

Hospital admissions remain fairly low and there has been one death in the past month.

What we are seeing in parts of Cambridgeshire is very similar to the rest of the country, in that the Delta variant, which we know to be much easier to pass on, is accounting for the rise in cases of Covid-19.

There is a big push to promote testing amongst the 18-30 year olds, including people without symptoms, as you are no doubt aware the virus can spread without any symptoms showing.

Alongside testing there is a race against time to ensure as many people as possible take up their first and second doses of vaccine restrictions are likely lifted on the 19th July. The lifting of restrictions could further fuel the spread of the virus, exposing people at high risk, to infection.

#### **Cambridge South-West Travel Hub**

We understand the plans for the Cambridge South West Travel Hub go before the County Council Planning Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> July. There is still a possibility the decision will be called in by the minister following that meeting.

#### **Cambourne to Cambridge**

The independent audit report on C2C report has now been completed and was included in the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Board papers. The report has recommended continuing with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) but also flagged a number of strategic issues that still need to be resolved – not least the interaction with East West Rail and access to the city centre, 2 aspects that have long been highlighted as issues by campaigners and ourselves.

The board voted to proceed with the EIA last week with acknowledgement that the strategic issues that could change parts of the design.

#### **Police and Crime Commissioner Survey**

The new Police and Crime Commissioner has launched a residents survey and outlined his priorities for his term of office: Community priorities; Crime prevention; Supporting victims and witnesses; Ethical policing; Robust enforcement. The survey can be accessed via <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/>

#### **Summer Holiday Sports Camps**

The District Council's popular sports-based holiday camps for children between the ages of 7 and 14 (school year 3 to year 9) restarted in May 2021, and bookings for the summer holidays are now open. Young people are encouraged to try out a variety of different activities and learn new skills

in sessions led by fully qualified and DBS approved coaches. The cost for one child for one day is £25; if two children book, or if one child attends more than one day, the cost is £21 per child, per day. Each day's camp runs from 10am to 3:30pm, and children can attend any one or up to all four of the sessions. Both camps are held outdoors and have Covid-secure measures in place. The athletics camp is run at Wilberforce Road Athletics Track, Cambridge; the netball camp is run at Impington Sports Centre, Impington.

There are four available camps:

- Athletics: Monday 26 July 2021 and Tuesday 27 July 2021
- Netball: Wednesday 28 July 2021 and Thursday 29 July 2021

### **Free outdoor activities to support young people's wellbeing**

Wild Minds is our free programme of wellbeing activities to support 14-17 year olds with things like anxiety and low mood, or to build self-esteem and confidence. The programme was set up over the last two years in response to the current context around the mental health of young people within the UK; NHS mental health services have experienced greatly increased referrals over the last 10 years, increased wait times for specialist support, and increasing thresholds to gain access. It offers:

- Free outdoor activities at Milton Country Park (all equipment provided)
- Group based activities including bush craft, survival skills, paddle boarding, yoga and mindfulness – no experience is necessary for any activities
- An hour and a half sessions, each weekend, for eight weeks
- Support from both skilled instructors and youth workers

The course has been developed by South Cambridgeshire District Council together with Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust and is supported by a Clinical Psychologist.

The next eight-week course beginning in mid-July is currently full but there are places available for October. Teenagers can register for free here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/wildminds>

### **Zero Carbon Communities Grant**

Up to £100,000 of funding is available for local groups to apply for funding to spend on ambitious projects that reduce carbon emission and promote behaviour change towards low carbon lifestyles. Non-profit groups or organisations that are based in the District, and parish councils, can apply. Other groups, such as social enterprises and community interest companies can apply as part of a partnership led by a parish council or not-for-profit group. The deadline for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> July, and more information on the grants and how to apply can be found on the website here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/nature-and-climate-change/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/>

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