

## **Gamlingay Division Councillors Report – South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council – September 2020**

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!

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](mailto:skindersley@hotmail.com) or write to the Manor Barn, East Hatley, SG19 3JA

District Councillor Bridget Smith (Gamlingay Ward, SCDC) is on 01767 650510 or [Cllr.BridgetSmith@scamb.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.BridgetSmith@scamb.gov.uk) and District Councillor Aidan van de Weyer (Barrington, Orwell, the Eversdens & Wimpole SCDC Ward) can be called on 01223 870 869 or email him [aidan@mishmush.com](mailto:aidan@mishmush.com) You can also follow your councillors on Twitter: [@Cllrbridget](https://twitter.com/Cllrbridget), [@SebKindersley](https://twitter.com/SebKindersley) [@aidanvdew](https://twitter.com/aidanvdew)

### **Planning**

The Government has published a White Paper on Planning Reform that is causing some consternation amongst planning authorities. Although there are some serious issues with current legislation and things could be made slicker and better from the customer point of view generally Councils do a good job of protecting the places that need to be protected including the Green Belts, Conservation Areas, Heritage Assets and rural areas. The Government blames local authorities for restricting the speed of housing delivery but in fact it is caused by developers who will only build houses as fast as they can sell them. The new proposal is that areas will be designated for 'growth' and that very few application processes will need to be got through for building to commence. Councils such as South Cambs are gravely concerned that ensuring housing is built to high standards and is located close to jobs and facilities will be stopped, and the planning system reduced to a random race to the bottom. There is a wide ranging consultation underway and we expect that the final legislation will look quite different from what is currently proposed - at least we hope it will.

### **Devolution and Recovery White Paper.**

The government are surprisingly busy with things unrelated to Covid 19 at the moment and a move to massive local government reorganisation is one distraction we really do not need. A white paper in October appears to indicate the dissolution of district councils and the creation of massive unitary councils representing up to 800,000 residents (South Cambs has

about 130,000). The impact on democratic processes will be considerable. Buckinghamshire has recently become one of these huge councils and there are 196 councillors in their council meetings now (45 at South Cambs for comparison) so how anyone raises local issues is anyone's guess.

### **Business Recovery**

South Cambs has distributed over £25million of government grants to businesses. The flow of money has now stopped but the Council now has appointed a team of 4 experts whose job it is to support local businesses in any way they wish - help with a planning application or a trading license or advice on business recovery and diversification and so on. The aim is to create a One Stop Shop at the council for all businesses regardless of size, and to give all business owners a single point of contact in terms of real person with whom they can communicate. If you are a local business please do sign up for the newsletter which contains updates on just about everything you could ever want to know as a business owner in South Cambs.

### **Waste Recycling**

South Cambs was asked by the Telegraph about what happens to recycling here. Less than 2% of South Cambs recycling is sent to energy from waste because it is too low quality for re-processors and/or there is no market for it. Currently this includes thin plastic film. However, depending on demand, it can be recycled and that is why you are asked to include it in your recycling bin. The overwhelming majority of items residents put in their recycling bins get re-processed and re-used.

Out of the 2,376 tonnes of recycling presented by residents in June this year about 35 tonnes of low grade and contaminated plastic film had to be sent to energy recovery (ie incineration).

### **Zero Carbon Community Grants**

Round 2 of the Zero Carbon Communities Grant is now open. This year the grant is focusing on three main themes- cycling, community buildings and tree planting and other 'nature-based solutions'. Applications are invited from parish councils and community groups and closes on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The fund is worth £100k with individual grants between £1,000 - £15,000.

### **Gamlingay Wood Parking:**

Thank you to the residents who highlighted the potential for traffic accidents resulting from visitors to Gamlingay Woods parking on the Waresley Rd verge and also the increase in people parking in Grays' Rd in order to enter the woods from the back. The Wildlife Trust Senior Reserves manager who explained that they own Gamlingay Wood and

have a right of access to it along the track from the road but don't own the access track. Successful negotiations will mean that there will be some limited parking along the track. Having said that we would encourage you not to take your car if that can be avoided and if you do to park as considerably as possible.

### **Green End Industrial Site Development**

The demolition work is now underway at Green End and we know some residents are concerned about dust and detritus impacting on their homes. We have been in contact with Morris Homes who are developing the site and they have assured us that the demolition company, Mick George, is doing everything properly to ensure that this work conforms with regulations and is safe. If you have any worries however please do not hesitate to get in touch.

### **Are you afraid of your child?**

Do you change your behaviour to suit your child's moods? Have you considered that this could be child to parent violence and abuse? During lockdown occurrences of child to parent violence and abuse increased. This is when children and young people use abuse and violence to intimidate family members. This is often parents or carers, but it can include other family members too, such as grandparents or siblings; and it is more than a young person pushing boundaries or one-off incidents. You can seek help from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to talk to someone about it, by phoning 0300 300 8585, or (out of hours) 0300 300 8123 and Family Lives offers a confidential helpline 0808 800 2222.

### **County Broadband Update**

As you may have heard, the news is good. The County Broadband project in Orwell is going ahead with sufficient take up across Orwell, Whaddon and the Eversdens so the plan to bring full fibre connections into homes is now taking shape.

County Broadband are now contacting everyone who has registered to confirm this and outline the next steps. They are also staying open for new registrations under the same conditions as previously (ie no up front payment), for the network build period. So, if you missed the deadline and want to sign up for hyperfast, full fibre broadband, contact [tim.lyons@countybroadband.co.uk](mailto:tim.lyons@countybroadband.co.uk).

### **Registration opens on solar panels offer for Cambridgeshire residents**

Households across Cambridgeshire can now register for the chance to club together to buy and install solar panels at a reduced price. The County Council and District Councils have joined forces with Solar Together as part of the initiative to improve energy efficiency and reduce

carbon emissions. Households and small and medium-sized enterprises can now register - for free and without obligation - for the group-buying scheme by visiting the website [www.solartogether.co.uk/cambridgeshire](http://www.solartogether.co.uk/cambridgeshire)

When they register online for their complete solar PV system, applicants will be asked questions about their house, roof, and electricity usage.

The County Council will then arrange an auction with pre-vetted installers on 6 October. The auction is a reverse auction, meaning the lowest bid wins. The winning bid sets the price for all solar systems and battery systems. All installers are pre-vetted and must comply with certain criteria to guarantee the quality of the offer.

After the auction, applicants will receive a personal recommendation based on their registration details. They then have six weeks to decide if they want to take up the recommendation and proceed with an installation.

Households that already have solar panels installed can also register to have battery storage added to their existing solar panels to maximise the benefits of their system.

### **New Coronavirus rules**

New coronavirus rules banning social gatherings of more than six people comes into force on September 14th. Unlike previous social gathering rules, this will be law and can be enforced through a £100 fine. It applies both indoors and outdoors, including in private homes - although there are some exemptions, such as gatherings for work.

COVID-19 Secure venues, such as places of worship, restaurants and hospitality venues, can still host larger numbers in total, but groups of up to six must not mix or form larger groups. This rule will not apply to individual households or support bubbles of more than six who will still be able to gather together. Education and work settings are unaffected, and organised team sports will still be able to proceed, as will weddings and funerals up to 30.

For more information visit the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk).

### **Road Gullies**

If residents have any issues with drainage or sitting water after heavy rain can you please let us know? County Council budgets mean there is no longer any scheduled gully cleansing – it is reactive only – and with increasingly heavy rainfall surges property is likely to be affected – so getting in early is important!

### **New System at Addenbrookes**

There is now a new pilot triage system at Addenbrooke's Hospital launched to help make sure patients get the right care in the right place. From 9am to 9pm, anybody who attends Emergency Department (ED)

without a referral from a medical professional, who hasn't been brought in by an ambulance, or hasn't called NHS 111 in advance will be reviewed by a senior clinician.

They will assess the patient's symptoms and decide whether emergency is the most appropriate place for their issue. If the patient does not require care from the ED, they will be directed to call NHS 111 or to visit their GP or a local pharmacy.

This pilot also supports the new national NHS 111 First initiative that encourages people to contact NHS 111 before going to an Emergency Department in order to ensure they get the right help at the right time.

### **Hospital Appointments**

Cambridge University Hospitals says: "During the pandemic, we had to make some difficult decisions such as postponing non-emergency operations, outpatient appointments and diagnostic investigations. We want to reassure all patients who are waiting that they have not been forgotten and that we will schedule their appointment or treatment as soon as possible. It is important that patients know that if their health changes or their symptoms become much worse while they are waiting, they need to let us know so that we can re-assess their condition. If you or a loved one are waiting for your first outpatient appointment and have not yet been seen by anyone at CUH, please contact your GP to let them know if your symptoms have become much worse. If you have already been seen by someone at CUH for the condition you have been referred in for, please contact the hospital team which is leading your current care. You may also have new questions about risks and precautions or about coming to hospital at this time. It's fine to raise these questions and discuss any concerns. Similarly, if you are unwell, it is important that you still use the appropriate NHS services to get medical help if you need it. Further details on accessing NHS services during the pandemic can be found on the NHS website."

### **East West Rail**

East West Rail have re-started the consultation about the chosen Route E which runs to Cambourne and then through parishes in South Cambs to join one of the London lines. There are significant concerns about this route not least the impact on the Astronomy site at Barton and the proposed location of Cambourne to the south of the town, rather than on the A428. A local group has been set up – Cambridge Approaches – to pursue the best solution for South Cambs residents who will see a very dramatic change in their environment.

### **New Police Hub in Milton**

The public consultation on relocating the central Cambridge Police HQ has ended and showed the majority agreed (70%\*) that the Milton site is a

good place to relocate to.

The current facilities at Parkside Police Station do not allow the Constabulary to fully respond to today's needs. There is no room to expand the existing station, too few cells, the location is subject to heavy traffic and the building doesn't meet modern standards. In total the Constabulary considered 22 sites, and after assessing a number of criteria including availability, ecology issues, access and infrastructure, a site next to the Park & Ride facility in Milton was considered the best option – and the public seem to agree.

### **Steeple Morden Quarry**

The County Council has received and is minded to grant planning consent for an extension to the extraction of chalk and restoration to a beneficial afteruse at Station Quarry, Steeple Morden with the end date extended from September 2020 to December 2038, as there have been no objections from statutory consultees.

### **Green End Gamlingay - Morris Homes**

District Councillor Bridget Smith has been in contact with Morris Homes regarding concerns that have been raised by residents about the demolition works now taking place at Green End. Cllr Smith has asked Morris Homes to write to neighbouring properties to provide more information and appropriate contact details in case of issues arising. As this is a construction site, residents with concerns can of course contact the Health & Safety Executive as they are the enforcing authority. They can then investigate and determine whether the specific demolition works which are the cause for concern are taking place in a suitable and controlled manner. <https://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/concerns.htm>

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!

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