



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL  
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**MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON  
TUESDAY, 5TH MAY 2020**

**PRESENT:** Mrs T Coulson - Clerk to the Council

Cllr M Rouse, Mayor

Cllr S Bellow

Cllr E Carlsson Browne

Cllr A Whelan

Cllr I Lindsay

*3 members of public*

Cllr A Arnold

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr K Wilkins

Cllr E Every

Cllr S Austen

*County Cllr A Bailey*

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr D Warman

Cllr M Downey

**1. APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

**2. COUNCILLOR REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There were no requests for dispensations.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

**4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THE 9TH MARCH 2020 AND MATTERS ARISING AND MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON THE 23RD MARCH 2020 AND MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 9th March 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828 and 1829 refer. There were no matters arising.

Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on the 23rd March 2020 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages 1830 and 1831 refer. There were no matters arising. Council unanimously agreed to suspend the Delegated Authority Group, as the Council would now be making decisions through the virtual meetings.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman thanked councillors and staff for carrying on the business of the Council. He reminded all present of Friday, 8th May, VE Day celebrations that could take place within the current restrictions. He hoped that VE Day could be incorporated into the celebrations for VJ Day later in the year.

**6. QUESTION TIME**

A parishioner, informed members that they had not been contacted by any organisation, other than their GP, but had been offered assistance with their shopping from a member of the Estates Team. They had also discussed with the Chairman of the City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association, item 18, as they were also a member of this organisation. The Association would not be happy with a gate outside the perimeter fence, as this would not be acceptable from an access point of view as the plots near the entrance will be issued to those that may have accessibility issues. The Mayor thanked them for their comments, which will be taken into account when discussing item 18.

## **6. QUESTION TIME CONTINUED .....**

Another parishioner spoke regarding the proposed post office move to St Mary's Street, Ely. People were against this move and as the owner of the shop it is currently based in, they confirmed that they would not be moving the store to the new site. They had not been consulted or made aware of these proposals. The Mayor thanked them for their comments, which will be discussed further under item 15.

A representative from Spotted in Ely asked members about the Christmas Lights Switch on. They understood why the Council had made the decision to cancel this, but asked if there was the opportunity to do something at the time, would they consider this or even consider supporting others to undertake something, for example Spotted in Ely. Cllr Wilkins confirmed the Council would like to do something, but at the moment no idea what that might be, but certainly would not be on the same scale as previous years. It was too early to say at the present time and would all depend on Government guidelines at the time. The next meeting of the Christmas Lights Committee will be on the 9th June. If the Government's guidelines have altered, then this will be discussed again. They also said that the Group petitioning for a splash pad in Ely had been told that the Councils would not engage with them until they reached 20,000 signatures. They currently have 16,000 so he asked if the Council will do so now, as they are so close to reaching this number. The Clerk explained that this Council had already engaged with them and she had approached them before the agenda for this meeting had gone out, to seek confirmation as to whether they wished to attend the meeting, as they had planned to attend the Full Council meeting in April, which had been cancelled. They had made a decision, that at this time they had put this on hold.

## **7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

A report from County Cllr Bailey was noted and is attached to these minutes. She also explained that the documentation for the reopening of schools was currently being prepared. Cllr A Whelan asked if the Princess of Wales Hospital would be having the road markings supporting the NHS hospitals. County Cllr Bailey thought it was only the acute hospitals that would have this done as Skanska had funded this themselves.

Cllr Every, in her capacity as a County Councillor, informed members that care leavers, aged 18-25 who were still under the County Council's care, but working towards independent living, are an extremely vulnerable group. They have now put in place a Care Leavers Strategy with regard to Covid-19, to enable them to keep in touch and still be able to access support. This is reviewed on a weekly basis. In her capacity as a District Councillor, she informed members that ECDC would be holding their Annual Council meeting, virtually on the 21st May. The Community Safety Partnership Board had met with the new statutory Strategic Assessment. Plans for the forthcoming year, which will be based around a place-based approach to delivery of services, had been agreed. They will engage with the Think Communities approach and take lessons from the community partnership ways of working during the Covid-19 crisis.

Cllr A Whelan, in her capacity as a District Councillor, informed members there had been lots of enquiries to ECDC for assistance from vulnerable people, during lockdown, which had been passed to the volunteer group and was working very well.

Cllr C Whelan, in her capacity as a District Councillor, informed members of the District Council meetings now taking place virtually.

Cllr Downey, in his capacity as a District Councillor, informed members he had attended the ECDC virtual Planning Committee meeting.

Cllr Austen, in her capacity as a District Councillor had also attended the Planning Committee meeting.

*County Cllr Bailey left the meeting at 7.30 pm.*

## **8. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS & REPORT**

The Mayor had not attended any engagements due to the lockdown. He had however, provided a short film to Spotted in Ely, which they had posted on You Tube, for VE Day. He was also working with Visit Ely regarding the virtual celebrations for VE Day.

## **9. PLANNING**

A report of the Planning Committee meeting, immediately prior to this meeting was received.

## 10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

The following information only items were received:-

Street Naming and Numbering:- The Old Stables, 5 Seymours Paddock, Stuntney, Ely

Notification from Cadent Gas Ltd of intention undertaking an over line survey of the intermediate pressure gas pipeline situated within Bridge Fen Allotment site on 20.4.20 and 29.5.20

Notification of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan and associated Policies Map Submission to the Secretary of State

Cambridgeshire-Pension-Fund-2019-Final-Valuation-Report

24.3.20 – email sent to Delegated Authority Group regarding the PM’s announcements and how the Council will move forward with working and staff matters

27.3.20 – Email sent to all councillors regarding the furloughing of Council staff

## 11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE – Cllr A Whelan presented a report of a virtual meeting held on the 27th April, which was approved. She reported the Clerk was in the process of calculating the losses to the Council during Covid-19. This being a very uncertain time financially for the Council, as budgeted income will be considerably less during this time. Members had discussed the technical needs of councillors during Covid-19 lockdown and longer term. It was agreed the Clerk would produce a policy for the provision of IT to councillors. Members had discussed the options for the grant process and whether this should be in two parts, due to the current situation and the need for funding for charities and organisations, due to their reduced funding capabilities. Cllr Whelan proposed 50% of the funding be considered for applications in September, as normal and the remaining 50% be available to applicants early next year. This was seconded by Cllr Rouse and unanimously agreed. Members unanimously approved the reappointment of the Internal Auditor for 2020/21.

(ii) ENVIRONMENT – Cllr Lindsay presented a report of a virtual meeting held on the 14th April, which was approved. He reported the floral displays were currently being planted up and would be with the Estates Team shortly. Unfortunately, the new van, which will be equipped with a watering system, will be delayed due to the lockdown. It is hoped to use the existing bowser, until the new vehicle is received, to water the baskets. Cllr Lindsay agreed to contact Cllr A Bailey to find out more information regarding a traffic flow working group that had been set up in the parish as a result of concerns about the HGV traffic, driving down Egremont Street. He also reported that there were no serious proposals, that had been investigated sufficiently, to put forward as an LHI application. There was however, the potential to bid for the second phase of the traffic calming measures that were planned for Prickwillow. Cllr Bellow had agreed to liaise with Prickwillow Village Council and County Cllr Every on this. Issues raised by residents that were currently being addressed were the safety of the cycleway crossing in Bentham Way and speeding traffic on Prickwillow Road near to Ely Sailing Club. Cllr Lindsay informed members that since this meeting the MVAs had now been delivered. Lampposts will be identified in Prickwillow Road to enable the recording of speed data. The Clerk informed members the planned Summer band concerts, which were due to commence from May, had been cancelled until the beginning of June. As Government legislation changes this will be reviewed and further concerts cancelled if necessary. It was hoped that it may be possible to extend into September and October, if Government legislation allowed this type of activity.

(iii) RECREATION & CEMETERY – No report as Committee had not met. Cllr Phillips informed members the first phase of the new play equipment had been installed in Willow Walk play area. This had been completed just before the lockdown. He also reported that the cemetery was looking very good as the Estates Team were continuing with their normal work.

(iv) CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – Cllr Wilkins presented a report of a virtual meeting held on the 29th April, which was approved. He informed members that due to the current pandemic situation and the restrictions regarding public events and social distancing, which may still be in place towards the end of the year, that it would not be possible to hold the switch on event, planned for the 25th November. Members had approved this decision and the Committee will look at an alternative ‘On-line Switch on Event’. The Mayor said this was a very difficult situation and the decision had not been an easy one to make. The Council was not cancelling Christmas and would still mark the switch on in some way.

(v) ASSETS & ACQUISITIONS – No report as Committee had not met. Cllr Morgan informed members the structural report for the Maltings Cottage had now been completed and this had been circulated to all members. He requested an agenda item to discuss the Maltings Cottage, on the next Full Council agenda.

(vi) ELY/RIBE – No report as had not met.

**11. COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED .....**

(vii) YOUTH FORUM – No report as Committee had not met. Cllr C Whelan confirmed she would be setting a date for the next meeting soon.

(vii) TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE COMMITTEE – Cllr Warman presented a report of a meeting held on the Members noted the report from the Tourism and Town Centre Manager, with regard to staff during lockdown and how they were working to continuously promote the service and town centre businesses and being very proactive on the social media side. There were numerous activities on the Visit Ely website to celebrate VE Day and Eel Day virtually and it was hoped the parish would join in with these. Members also noted the City Centre Ranger’s report. Although there was a discussion with regard to Shopmobility, this was still not resolved.

**12. WORKING PARTIES/STEERING GROUPS REPORTS**

CCTV Steering Group – Cllr Every informed members the Group had met on the 1st May. A review of the current system is being undertaken and the Group will report back to Full Council once this has progressed further.

Strategic Plan Working Group – Cllr A Whelan confirmed all Chairs of the Committees had met on the 4th May to discuss how to move the Strategic Plan forward. Each Chairman will look at the planned actions for their Committee and how these can be achieved and prioritised.

Governance Working Group – Cllr C Whelan confirmed the Group would be meeting on the 11th May to discuss the changes to the Committee structure. Will need to ascertain how Covid-19 will impact on this. Plans will need to be kept up to date and reviewed on a regular basis.

*Cllr Austen left the meeting at 7.54 pm due to technical issues.*

**13. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

Ely Museum - Cllr Denness informed members she had attended a meeting of Ely Museum on the 22nd April. Construction work had now recommenced and staff were working from home.

**14. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON HOW THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL IS SUPPORTING RESIDENTS WITH REGARD TO THE CORONAVIRUS**

Members noted the report from the Clerk, which explained how the City of Ely Council is supporting residents with regard to the Coronavirus. The City of Ely Council continues to function to the best of its ability during these very difficult times. Following guidance from the Government the Council has closed its office at Sessions House, Lynn Road; the Maltings and Oliver Cromwell House. However, a high majority of staff are working from home to ensure the Council continues to function and assist parishioners. The Estates Team are working extremely diligently each day to undertake their various duties, whilst maintaining social distancing. The Council through Visit Ely are very much involved with the Facebook group Ely Community Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group and the East Cambridgeshire Community Hub working to support residents. The City Centre Ranger has been working as the connection between the mutual aid group, ECDC, CCC and as a representative of the City of Ely Council. Helping with any problems, unusual requests and urgent requests. She is also responsible for acting as a go-between/middle man in communication between the various bodies and the community group.

Cllr Every thanked all staff for working so hard during this difficult time. She also thanked the City Ranger, the Tourism and Town Centre Manager and the Marketing Assistant for working with the community Hub. Cllr A Whelan seconded these thanks and said it had been quite an experience getting the hub up and running. Unfortunately, there were still people in the parish that had not received the communications they should have and the hub can offer supper to all the vulnerable people within the parish. Members unanimously agreed that they appreciated all the work being done and requested this be recorded.

*Cllr Austen re-joined the meeting at 8.00 pm.*

**15. TO CONSIDER CONSULTATION REGARDING THE RE-LOCATION OF ELY POST OFFICE TO 7 ST MARY’S STREET, ELY**

Cllr Wilkins expressed his concerns regarding the way the process had been undertaken by the Post Office. He felt that the objections to this re-location should come from the Council. Members unanimously agreed with this approach and it was agreed the Mayor would send a letter from the Council, objecting to this re-location on the basis of the location of the new post office is not as good as Market Street, as this serves the community better, with regards to access and transport links. The Clerk will write directly to the Post Office as well as through the consultation process.

**16. TO CONSIDER THE ANNUAL RENEWAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH ADeC WITH REGARDS TO ELY CINEMA AT THE MALTINGS**

The Clerk explained that the Mayor had met with ADeC to discuss the renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement. ADeC would like to renew but have requested that live film screenings and live theatre be included within the 104 screening a year. The Clerk explained that this was not an issue with the live film screenings, but the live theatre events often meant the need of the building for the whole day, instead of 2.5 hours. Additional Maltings staff were also required for these events. Members agreed that they were happy to renew the agreement for 2020/21 and could include up to ten live film screenings, within the 104 per year, but the live theatre events could not be included. It was agreed this could be discussed again in the future.

**17. ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020**

Cllr A Whelan proposed members approve the Annual Governance Statement, Accounting Statement and the signing of the balance sheet for the year ended 31st March 2020 and to also note the Internal Audit Checks for 2019/2020. This was seconded by Cllr Carlsson Browne and unanimously approved. The Mayor and Clerk will sign the appropriate boxes. The Mayor thanked the Clerk for all her hard work with regard to the accounts.

**18. TO DISCUSS EMAILS REGARDING THE ELY NORTH ALLOTMENTS**

The Mayor suspended the meeting for 2 minutes to allow a representative of the Association to clarify the situation regarding this matter. The Council following input from the Association, accepted the Association's solution to this issue as they felt it was the only way forward with this situation. This being the proposed extra gates should match the 2-metre-high security fence around the rest of the site and be double gates giving a 3-metre-wide opening (pedestrians would only need to open one half) for access. This would then mean that there would be no need to fit locks on the access gates to the plots, and perhaps, at some later date, these gates could be removed. This is the only solution to the car park problem, as it would be within the secure fencing and hence on the allotment site as are the ones on Bridge Fen. The Association intended to offer the plots nearest the entrance to those that may have accessibility issues.

*Cllr Austen left the meeting at 8.19 pm due to technical issues*

The Council also considered ECDC's suggestion, regarding the funding of this from the City of Ely Council's CIL funds and unanimously agreed that this was acceptable to do this.

**19. FINANCE**

Members approved the following payments:-

*Direct debit payments and BACS payments*

Lex Autolease	695.29	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brew & Retailing Ltd	581.94	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brew & Retailing Ltd	431.93	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay (UK) Ltd	207.22	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay (UK) Ltd	87.87	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	55.28	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	197.02	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	2651.29	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	87.65	Paid by direct debit
Chess ICT Ltd	210.65	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	328.64	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	1237.19	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	488.12	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	192.70	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	249.73	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	1852.74	Paid by direct debit

**19. FINANCE CONTINUED .....**

Liquidline	169.88	Paid by direct debit
Baja Cantina	250.00	Paid by BACS
S Blake	1181.00	Paid by BACS
S Blake	445.50	Paid by BACS
ECDC	948.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	923.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	1821.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	279.00	Paid by direct debit
Siemens Financial Service Ltd	569.40	Paid by direct debit
Liquidline Ltd	240.00	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	323.10	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	395.08	Paid by direct debit
Chess ICT Ltd	211.43	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	48.00	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	48.00	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	204.26	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	62.93	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	46.80	Paid by direct debit
Information Commissioners Office	40.00	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	149.02	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	2236.48	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	201.60	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	47.18	Paid by direct debit
Total Gas & Power	203.95	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	258.11	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	72.00	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	442.68	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay Ltd	151.31	Paid by direct debit
Worldpay Ltd	59.37	Paid by direct debit
Haven Power Ltd	35.43	Paid by direct debit
Plan Communications Ltd	116.99	Paid by direct debit
J Ning	100.00	Paid by BACS
Eden Farm Hulley's	143.98	Paid by BACS
Mrs B De Silva	160.00	Paid by BACS
L W Browning	130.00	Paid by BACS
The Calzone Kitchen	500.00	Paid by BACS

*The following invoices had been paid prior to the Full Council, due to due date of payment with the approval of the Chairman*

S Bradley	300.00	113221
Truelink Ltd	1800.00	113217
AmeyCespa (East) Ltd	47.44	113218
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	27.78	113219
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	58.54	113220
Express Lifts Alliance Group	2274.00	113222
Shefs	324.00	113223
S Slezacek Building Services	1553.00	113224
RGP Security Services Ltd	108.00	113225
Konica Minolta Bus Sols Ltd	130.61	113226
Total Gas & Power	9.16	113227
G & J Peck Ltd	3.60	113228
S Bradley	250.00	113229
ECDC	280.80	113230
Savills (UK) Ltd	286.25	113232

1837

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MAYOR  
1st June 2020

**19. FINANCE CONTINUED .....**

E Butcher	8.10	113233
K White	46.35	113234
A Bennett	80.49	113235
Ensign Solutions Ltd	86.40	113237
Gordon Harrison	1068.38	113238
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	73.40	113239
Argos Business Solutions Ltd	38.17	113240
AmeyCespa (East) Ltd	57.89	113241
L Rouse	28.00	113242
ECDC	1635.35	113243
Trade UK	157.51	113244
ECDC	224.40	113245
ESPO	114.42	113246
CoolerAid Ltd	9.67	113247
Vaughtons	50.40	113248
Two Blind Mice Publishers Ltd	299.50	113249
ATS Heritage	300.00	113250
Zurich Municipal	10801.70	113231
Soham Pest Control	99.00	113236
Securitas Security Services (UK) Ltd	540.00	113251
HEY Bendalls Ltd	960.00	113252
G & J Peck Ltd	52.98	113253
KOMPAN Ltd	12645.32	113254
BFS Group Ltd	141.80	113255
Ensign Solutions Ltd	72.00	113256
HEY Bendalls Ltd	270.00	113257
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	26.00	113258
Martello Ladies Circle	43.60	113260
Trade UK	161.74	Paid by BACS
CGB Giftware	329.08	113261
Minerva Publications	196.80	113262
Total Gas & Power	9.95	113271
Allen's Skip Hire Ltd	120.00	113272
Heathcote & Ivory Ltd	302.40	113263
Elyi Magazine	232.00	113264
CAPALC	1722.12	113259

*The following invoices had not been paid prior to the meeting*

ICCM	95.00	113265
ECDC	1635.66	113267
ESPO	265.88	113266
CamAlarms Ltd	430.60	113268
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	13.14	113269
Gordon Harrison	130.97	113270
AmeyCespa	47.44	113275
Rialtis Business Solutions Ltd	672.00	113274
Heelis & Lodge	350.00	113273
ESPO	11.88	113266
ECDC	1.00	113267
Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd	253.47	113276

**19. FINANCE CONTINUED .....**

Scrubby Oak Fine Foods	110.00	Paid by BACS
Mr & Mrs D Newham	130.00	Paid by BACS
Inspire Sales Management	250.00	Paid by BACS
St Botolph's Brewery	130.00	Paid by BACS
Replete Flatbreads	130.00	Paid by BACS
G & J Peck Ltd	36.00	113277
FuelGenie	346.96	Paid by direct debit
Haven Power Ltd	34.50	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	62.93	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	329.62	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	499.27	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	193.14	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	1094.02	Paid by direct debit

**Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 9th March 2020**

March

Salaries and wages	£28,147.27
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£8,059.99
Pension fund payments	£14,163.07

April

Salaries and wages	£32,401.05
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£7,175.85
Pension fund payments	£12,636.27

**Members noted and approved the bank reconciliations against the accounts for the period ending 29th February 2020 and 31st March 2020**

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

*Due to enforced social distancing caused by the Coronavirus, this meeting took place by video communication, accessed by the Zoom meetings facility.*



## Cambridgeshire County Council Update – City of Ely Council

5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

This update is necessarily focussed mainly on the County Council's response to COVID 19. The situation has moved incredibly fast and changes happen on a daily basis, so this can only be considered a snapshot in time and is a long way short of covering every subject, but is nevertheless worth documenting. It does not attempt to capture all activity to date, but to give a view of "where we are now".

Attention is also now turning to recovery planning, with a recognition that we are moving into a "new normal" and a focus on capturing the positive changes that have been made during the crisis and building them into future ways of working. I would just like to put on record how incredibly impressive I think officers at the County Council have been in their response to this 1 in 100 year event and to thank every single one of them for all they have done and continue to do.

I sit on a number of regular COVID 19 update and feedback meetings (all happening virtually), both in my role at the County Council, but also as Leader of East Cambs District Council and other locally based activity. These include:

- (CCC) COVID 19 Lead Member Discussion with Corporate Director of People & Communities
- (CCC) Chairs and Vice Chairs Meeting with Senior Management Team
- (CCC/NHS) STP Board Non Executive – informal COVID 19 weekly meeting
- (ECDC) Strategic Coordinating Group Briefing for Local Leaders
- (ECDC) Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government – almost weekly
- (ECDC) District Council Network
- (ECDC) COVID 19 Mayoral Forum (Combined Authority)
- (ECDC) Leader Briefings
- (ECDC) Parish and Community COVID 19 Skype Forum
- (ECDC) Little Downham & Pymoor Community Response Volunteers Meeting

The County Council is up and running with virtual meetings with a number having successfully taken place and the Annual Meeting of Council due to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

I have listed below the current snapshot activity and key points from the County Council by main subject area.

### **Adult Social Care**

As COVID 19 hit, CCC immediately moved to purchased c.370 additional nursing, residential and interim beds which are utilised to discharge people from hospital to clear hospital space for COVID 19 cases; the CCG has agreed to fund the additional beds. There are good levels of capacity currently available.

Attention is currently focussed on the increase in deaths in care homes and testing is now widely available and being taken up. It is important to state that CCC moved very quickly to support care homes early on in the pandemic and care homes in Cambridgeshire have told us they feel well supported:

- 10% increase in fees to all contracted care providers to the end of June to help them cope with increased COVID 19 costs (residential, nursing and home care, extra care, supported living and direct payments)
- Full support on PPE – providing technical advice, information on suppliers, information on availability and providing emergency supplies as needed

- Twice weekly support to care homes with online meetings
- Information sent daily to support care homes to understand Government guidance
- Forums for questions
- Infection control advice, monitoring and on-site support
- Provision of staff to care homes where there are staffing issues caused by self-isolating etc through redeployed Council staff and Reablement staff
- We are supporting with mental health communications and resources
- We have sent a letter to every care home thanking them for everything they are doing

Work has been ongoing to source additional domiciliary care capacity. We have worked to free up resource, pulling in support from families and optimising rounds, as well as ensuring rapid access to community equipment to ensure timely discharge from hospital. We have been working with providers to maximise resource, including giving them access to recruitment expertise and rapid training. Our in house reablement team stands ready to act as provider of last resort but this has not been necessary in any large scale way to date.

The home care market and our own reablement team are currently functioning well and are no more challenged than normal despite the fact that we are generally running with 25% of the workforce off sick/self-isolating. This is due to the redeployment of all available resources to support home care capacity and the use of trained volunteers.

The community voluntary response is helping this effort enormously by doing things like shopping and collecting medications, which frees up home care resource to focus on hands on personal care and other regulated care tasks - we thank all Parish and community volunteer groups for their invaluable and massive support.

### **Children's Social Care**

Changes have been made to the way that children in care and care leavers are supported and these are working well. However, the Council is concerned that there has been a decrease in referrals and is working with safeguarding and putting out communications on this subject.

- Our programme of prioritised face to face visiting to most vulnerable children and young people continues
- Other visiting taking pace virtually using social media
- Some visiting is taking place less frequently than previously where this is proportionate
- Links between early help services and community hubs established
- Schools continuing to offer excellent support to children who are vulnerable and those of key workers

Registration of childbirths are not currently happening face to face, but new births are still known to the Registry Office and relevant services.

### **Education**

We are currently seeing numbers of children (of key workers) attending school rising, with 2545 pupils attending school last Friday (up from 2236 the previous Friday). Issues continue nationally with free school meal vouchers, but CCC is working round these effectively. For those home schooling CCC has been providing regular information, support and content for parents. The national computer and IT access programme will see around 1400 computers being given to children in Cambridgeshire to support home learning.

### **Community Hub**

The countywide coordination and response hub is established to:

- Help ensure that services provided by key workers are sustained at safe and appropriate levels through the redeployment of staff and the deployment of volunteers
- Co-ordinate the distribution of support to the Shielded group
- Ensure with our partners that we are making the best use possible of all available resources to minimise anxiety, to co-ordinate social action, and to ensure those most vulnerable are benefitting from appropriate community support
- Work closely with District/City Hubs to ensure all vulnerable people are supported (who in turn work with the Parish and Community volunteer groups)
- We have also been contacting all known carers in the county to offer advice, information and support and to give them a telephone number if they need help

There are around 15,000 people now on the registered “shielded” list across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Around one third of this group report they have no support in place. All shielded people are receiving regular telephone contact from our case officers to ensure their needs are being met. Those without any support arrangements in place receive at least one call per week, with others receiving contact either every two or every three weeks. We are also contacting everyone by email or letter, to remind them that we are here should their support arrangements break down. There are around 5,400 shielded people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough who are receiving a national food delivery each week, which is also supplemented by local deliveries of specialist items. Attention is now turning to providing value added support, such as books, games, education access, library access, etc to try to combat social isolation during the long period of lockdown.

### Public Health Update

It is considered that the curve of the pandemic in Cambridgeshire has now plateaued, but that the curve will have a “long tail” so we will see cases declining slowly - a long gradual decline. The NHS has good levels of capacity for COVID patients. Focus is moving to contact tracing which is a necessary part of coping well with changes to lockdown rules; the County Council is expected to play an important role in this. Testing is now widely available and increasing all the time.

For those wanting to keep up to date with statistics and local information on prevalence and deaths, the ONS data is here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsinvolvingcovid19bylocalareasanddeprivation/deathsoccurringbetween1marchand17april>

### Highways

Household Waste Recycling Centres will be re-opening, under controlled conditions to deal with social distancing and traffic management, from 11<sup>th</sup> May. We expect the Government messaging on rules for leaving home to reflect this.

Highways teams are back on 19 sites of 35, carrying out work to the highways. A further 11 sites are expected to reopen by 11<sup>th</sup> May. The contractor, Skanska, is working through issues with the supply chain.



### Finances

The Government is providing financial support to Local Authorities and has announced two rounds of c.£1.6bn nationally. CCC is allocated £14.6m in round 1 and £11.5m in round 2. This is expected

to cover COVID 19 related costs but only up to the end of June. It does not cover future expected costs and loss of income which are expected to be very significant nationally for all Local Authorities, including County and District Councils. A joint Finance document has been developed by all Section 151 officers from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough County and District level Councils and information is regularly provided to Government.

I hope this snapshot has been helpful - there is a huge amount more going on, and I am happy to answer questions.

Anna Bailey, Cambridgeshire County Councillor for Ely South

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**City of Ely Council– Cambridgeshire County Council and East Cambridgeshire District  
Update – 5 May 2020**

**Cambridgeshire County Council  
Cllr Lis Every, Cambridgeshire County Councillor – Ely North**

There's not really much to add to Cllr Bailey's comprehensive report, but I would like to mention our care leavers, ie those young people who have been in care and are now over 18-25, still under the County's care but working towards independent living. These young people were seen as a particularly vulnerable group at this time, but a Care Leavers' Strategy – Covid 19 has been put into place in order to ensure these young people have the support they need and this is reviewed each week.

Collaborative working led by the Director of Education with all the schools and their leads is resulting in the checklist for returning to school. It is in its early stage at the moment and will take note of Government statements, but they are absolutely on it.

The Annual Council Meeting will take place on 19 May as a Virtual Meeting.

**East Cambridgeshire District Council – Ely East**

The ECDC Annual Council meeting will take place on 21 May as previously scheduled but it will be a Virtual Meeting. More details to follow.

Today the Community Safety Partnership Board met with the new statutory Strategic Assessment. Plans for the forthcoming year which will be based around a place based approach to delivery of services. This will engage with the Think Communities approach and take lessons from the community partnership ways of working during the Covid-19 crisis.

Le5.5.2020

