



**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CITY OF ELY COUNCIL HELD AT 7.00 PM ON TUESDAY,  
18TH JANUARY 2022 AT THE MALTINGS, SHIP LANE, ELY.**

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

Cllr S Austen, Mayor

Cllr M Rouse

Cllr K Wilkins

Cllr D Warman

*County Cllr P Coutts*

Cllr R Morgan

Cllr A Arnold

Cllr S Bellow

Cllr R Denness

Cllr C Whelan

Cllr C Phillips

Cllr V Ganivet

Cllr E Every (arrived 7.34 pm)

**NOT PRESENT:** Cllr M Downey

**1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr A Whelan and Cllr I Lindsay and their reasons accepted.

**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 6TH DECEMBER 2021 AND  
MATTERS ARISING**

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 6th December 2021 were agreed and signed as a true record following a correction to item 11 (i), page 1935 to correct the number of entries to the Photography Competition from 16 to 12. They were signed by the Chairman. Pages 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939 refer. Matters arising:- Page 1936, Item 13 – Cllr Rouse confirmed his suggestions for possible new street names had been submitted to the developer, following approval by councillors.

**5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM MR MARTIN SMITH, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
MANAGER, ECDC AND MR NICK LANCASTER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER,  
ECDC WITH REGARDS TO THE CPCA BID FOR CCTV EXPANSION AND THE NEW  
DIGITAL SIGNAGE BOARDS IN ELY**

Mr Smith gave an update to members regarding the CPCA bid for CCTV expansion and the new digital signage boards in Ely. He explained the process that had been followed and made with both of these projects. It was hoped the digital signage boards would be installed and working by September 2022. There would also be a review as to the number of boards that would be necessary. Mr Nick Lancaster explained to members how the boards would work and that there would also be an app to work alongside these. The boards will be able to be independent from each other, so will be able to display different information and will not all be the same. The Council will need to look at producing a business plan to enable them to move forward with generating advertising income from these. The Chairman thanked them both for attending.

*Mr Smith and Mr Lancaster left the meeting at 7.23 pm.*

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## **6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had no announcements.

## **7. QUESTION TIME**

As there were no parishioners present, there were no questions raised.

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

A written report was received from County Cllrs Coutts and A Whelan which was noted. Cllr Coutts informed members that the County Council were looking at the process to make it easier for Councils to move forward with implementing the 20s Plenty Scheme. He had used the City of Ely Council as an example of a Council that was moving forward with this scheme. Cllr Denness confirmed this was still the case. Cllr C Whelan and Cllr Every, in their District Councillor capacity, also produced written reports, which will also be attached to the minutes.

*County Cllr Coutts left the meeting at 7.31 pm.*

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

The Mayor had attended the City of Ely Military Band Christmas Concert; attended a locally held professional wrestling match as a guest and had presented certificates and prizes to the winners of the Council's Youth Photography Competition.

## **10. PLANNING**

No report of the Planning Committee meetings prior to this meeting were received.

## **11. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

The following information only items were received and noted: -

Notification of Road Closures:- Lynn Road, Chettisham, Ely – 1.2.22 – 31.7.23; Queen Adelaide BGK Level Crossing, Ely Road, Queen Adelaide, Ely – 11.2.22; Ely Footpath 29 (Steeple Row) – 3.2.22-14.5.22

Street Naming & Numbering:- Wades Farm & Caravan at Wades Farm, Queen Adelaide Way, Ely

## **12. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(i) PERSONNEL, FINANCE & GOVERNANCE – No report as Committee had not met. Cllr Phillips, as the Chairman of the Inclusivity Working Group, which reports to this Committee, raised his concerns relating to an article in the Ely Standard regarding the rise in hate crimes. Members discussed this and agreed to issue a statement from the Council condemning the rise in these hate crimes, This will be sent to the local press and to the Community Safety Partnership.

(ii) CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT – There were no minutes from this Committee as the meeting on the 10th January could not meet as it was not quorate.

(iii) ASSETS – Cllr Morgan presented minutes of a meeting held on the 13th December 2021, which were approved. The Committee will approach the CIL Sub-Committee for any additional funds that may be required to cover the cost of a hard standing at Stuntney play area for the basketball hoop. Stuntney Village Council will part fund with their Rural Services grant of £2904.76. Section 106 funding of £11,000 for the new equipment at the Park play area had been approved and this will be installed in March 2022. Three quotations for a replacement lighting scheme in the main hall of the Maltings had been obtained. Members agreed to accept the cheapest quotation from HC Electrical at a cost of £24,281.00. The Council was still awaiting a response from ECDC regarding the Council's proposals for the Maltings Cottage. Cllr Phillips informed members he had met with the Deputy Clerk and Estates Manager today regarding play areas and the cemetery to discuss ideas for the future. They had discussed improvements to the Chapel, Paradise play area and the erection of a headstone to remember all those that do not have a

## 12. COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED .....

headstone. He thanked the Deputy Clerk and Estates Manager for their great input and for being so positive.

(iv) TOURISM AND TOWN CENTRE – No report as this Committee had not met. The next meeting will be held on the 24th January 2022.

## 13. REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Members noted the notes of meetings from:-

City of Ely Allotments and Gardens Association – minutes of a meeting held on the 17th November 2021

Executive Review Group – notes of a meeting held on the 8th December 2021

## 14. TO MAKE COMMENTS ON ECDC'S PARTIAL UPDATE OF ITS 2015 LOCAL PLAN WITH REGARDS TO EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE SINGLE ISSUE REVIEW CONSULTATION - REGULATION 18 (THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LOCAL PLANNING) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012 (AS AMENDED))

Councillors agreed to respond as individuals to this consultation.

## 15. TO CONSIDER PROJECT PROPOSAL REGARDING GARFIELD THE CAT'S MEMORIAL SCULPTURE

Councillors agreed to support this proposal in principle. They felt it would add to the sense of community and wished them well.

## 16. FINANCE

Members approved the following payments:-

*Direct debit payments and BACS payments*

ECDC	499.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	923.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	948.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	279.00	Paid by direct debit
ECDC	1821.00	Paid by direct debit
Plan Communications Ltd	116.99	Paid by direct debit
Plan Communications Ltd	17.72	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	638.80	Paid by direct debit
FuelGenie	159.33	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	1350.06	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
Virgin Media	62.40	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	33.60	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	33.60	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	21.82	Paid by direct debit
Drax Energy Solutions Ltd	34.28	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	383.70	Paid by direct debit
Lex Autolease	352.06	Paid by direct debit
Barclays	164.15	Paid by direct debit
Francotyp Postalia Ltd	72.00	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	746.57	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	709.86	Paid by direct debit
Greene King Brewing & Retail Ltd	994.46	Paid by direct debit
Liquidline Ltd	127.20	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	212.58	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	243.42	Paid by direct debit

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British Telecommunications	101.58	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	42.54	Paid by direct debit
Chess ICT	62.93	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	273.35	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	796.81	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	157.52	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	266.88	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	138.75	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	267.27	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	64.90	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	3551.16	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power	15.11	Paid by direct debit
Cybertill Ltd	65.68	Paid by direct debit
Barclaycard	797.82	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	387.93	Paid by direct debit
Anglian Lifts Ltd	295.33	Paid by BACS
H C Electrical	602.40	Paid by BACS
Studio Nova Ltd	113.99	Paid by BACS
Gem Heating Solutions Ltd	382.80	Paid by BACS
M Routledge	630.00	Paid by BACS
Anglian Lifts Ltd	460.47	Paid by BACS
S Blake	665.50	Paid by BACS
PPL PRS Ltd	6071.10	Paid by BACS
Shefs	274.62	Paid by BACS
Twist of Lemon	57.00	Paid by BACS
HM Revenue & Customs	1557.43	Paid by BACS
Mile Tree Brewery Ltd	319.39	Paid by BACS
Ligna Consultancy Ltd	1704.00	Paid by BACS
Ely Museum	9474.25	Paid by BACS
S Stone	77.99	Paid by BACS
Newmarket Plant Hire Ltd	108.00	Paid by BACS
Grocer's Brokers Ltd	623.08	Paid by BACS
Trade UK	201.21	Paid by BACS
CamAlarms Ltd	137.20	Paid by BACS
ATS Heritage	234.00	Paid by BACS
Human Capital Department	600.00	Paid by BACS
S Blake	297.00	Paid by BACS
M Routledge	16.00	Paid by BACS
ELC Group	2472.34	Paid by BACS

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

Verve Digital Ltd	120.00	113949
A Bennett	47.50	113950
Securitas Security Services (UK) Ltd	117.60	113951
Ensign Solutions Ltd	217.56	113952
Allen's Skip Hire Ltd	190.00	113934
ESPO	75.60	113954
Aztek Services Ltd	53.54	113955
Churches Fire Security Ltd	107.64	113956
Warren Access	456.00	113957
ECDC	2041.87	113958

**14. FINANCE CONTINUED.....**

Millennium Pest Control Ltd	66.00	113960
Elliga Ltd	184.97	Paid by BACS
National Federation of Cemetery Friends	10.00	113961
Eden Farm Hulleys	483.35	113962
A G Hobbs	153.60	113963
Soham Pest Control	99.00	113964
Jewson Ltd	17.53	113965
Thurlow Nunn Standen Ltd	16.20	113966
City Cycle Centre	64.55	113967
G & J Peck Ltd	363.45	113968
Konica Minolta Bus Solutions Ltd	110.55	113969
Thomas Ridley & Sons Ltd	1044.22	113970
Amazon Payments UK Ltd	179.80	113971
G & J Peck Ltd	43.38	113968
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	3852.29	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	140.98	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	66.05	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	15.81	Paid by direct debit
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	161.89	Paid by direct debit
Ellgia Ltd	26.96	113972
Trade UK	46.45	Paid by BACS
Burrows Newsagents	104.70	113973
ESPO	1030.45	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	79.75	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	179.81	Paid by direct debit
ESPO	328.55	Paid by direct debit
G & J Peck Ltd	24.30	113968
Chess ICT Ltd	4.93	Paid by direct debit
GB Seating Ltd	3000.00	113974
RGP Security Services Ltd	96.00	113975
Barclaycard	753.51	Paid by direct debit
British Telecommunications	143.24	Paid by direct debit

**Payments relating to staff since meeting on the 6th December 2021**

Salaries and wages	£26,977.14
Inland Revenue (tax & NI)	£8,624.60
Pension fund payments	£9,237.09

**The bank reconciliation against the accounts for the period ending 31st December 2021 was deferred to the next meeting for approval.**

*The meeting closed at 7.55 pm*



# Ely County Councillor Report

## MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2022

Happy new year to our parish councils and local residents.

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### COVID-19

#### Overview

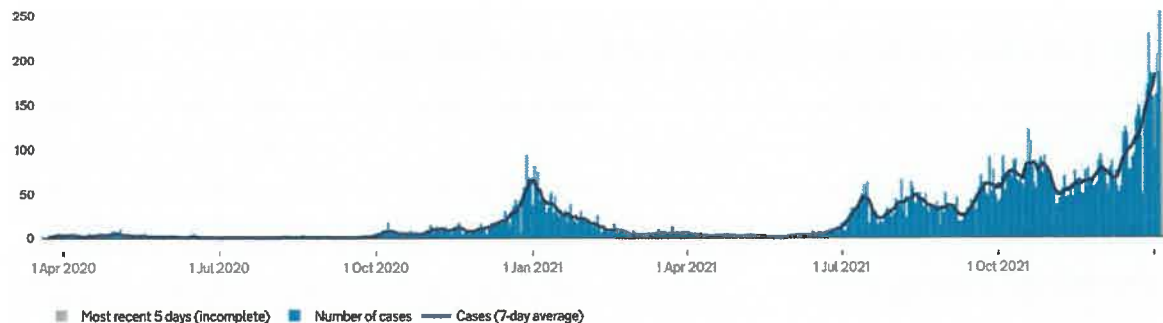
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough’s Enhanced Response Area status was extended to Christmas Eve. The extra resource included a rapid response vaccination team on the ground locally, making direct contact with households in areas of low vaccination uptake, and extra national communications advising residents on protective measures to prevent infection spread.

“Pre-ERA we were considerably below both the England and East of England average for the numbers of 12–15 year-olds who were vaccinated. Now all areas in Cambridgeshire are above the England average and most are also above the East of England average too”

*Jyoti Atri, Director of Public Health for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough*

## Case rates in Cambridgeshire

As of 8 January, there were 143,941 people in East Cambridgeshire who had tested positive, though there has been a shortage of testing capacity (see below).



Cases in East Cambridgeshire since the start of the pandemic

There have been 192 cases of COVID-19 in Ely North in the seven days to 4 January (compared to 66 a month ago), and 125 cases in Ely South (compared to 63 a month ago).

- Behaviours and testing habits have changed over the Christmas period.
- Case detection is likely to be lower over the recent weeks and data regarding trends is less reliable.
- It will be important to encourage regular testing with the return to school and work
- Rates in children and young people currently more stable than other age groups, with large increases being seen in 18-39 year olds. Increases now also being seen in older age groups.
- Omicron is now the dominant variant in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the rest of the UK.
- Initially spread was in the young working age groups, with a smaller proportion of Omicron cases seen in children
- However it is now the dominant variant and likely to be more transmissible
- Hospitalisations have begun to increase in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, though numbers remain below the January 2021 peak.

## Covid in schools

All secondary pupils were tested when they returned to school and secondary schools will be allowed a staggered start for the first week of term. Head Teachers were briefed at the start of term.

- The Government is temporarily recommending that face coverings are worn in classrooms and teaching spaces for students in year 7 or above, in light of the Omicron variant surge.
- The advice is short term only to support pupils and staff as they return to schools this term and builds on the existing guidance that recommends face coverings for all adults in communal areas of all settings. It will be reviewed by the 26<sup>th</sup>



January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.

- “We would not ordinarily expect teachers to wear a face covering in the classroom if they are at the front of the class, to support education delivery, although settings should be sensitive to the needs of individual teachers.”
- In primary schools, we recommend that face coverings should be worn by staff and adults (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas. Health advice continues to be that children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings.

## Vaccinations

Vaccination rates in Ely are as follows:

	<b>Ely North</b>	<b>Ely South</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	89.7%	86.9%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	84.9%	81.6%
Booster	70.2%	67.3%

A huge amount of effort went into a Christmas vaccination programme. Huge thanks are due to NHS staff and the volunteers who helped make this happen.

## Testing

Recently many residents have been struggling to obtain lateral flow home testing kits, and a shortage of PCR testing capacity across the whole of England. Currently, the availability of online ordering of kits for home delivery is variable with new delivery slots being released regularly throughout the day. Test kits have also been available on Ely Market Place as well as online

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

## General Covid information

- <https://twitter.com/CambsC>
- <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronaviruscovid-19-overview>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirusvaccination/coronavirus-vaccine>

## Household Support Fund

A reminder that the County Council’s Household Support Fund is still open (to 31 March). It offers:

- Support with food, household energy and other essentials for individuals and families: residents are eligible to access this support if they earn less than £17,940 per year, or are in receipt of certain state benefits
- Direct food vouchers: as in previous school holidays, supermarket vouchers will be issued to families meeting the low income criteria for free school meals, funded childcare for two-year-olds, early years pupil premium, or sixth form students eligible for free school meals.

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund)

### Full Council meeting postponed

The Full Council meeting of the County Council on 14 December was postponed on the advice of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough's Director of Public Health, in the light of rising covid numbers. A revised meeting is being planned for 25<sup>th</sup> January.

### Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Cambridgeshire is now open online for public consultation to 23 January.

<https://consultcamb.suk.engagementhq.com/cambridgeshire-flood-riskmanagement-strategy>

Meanwhile, the Council is continuing to address the huge backlog of gully clearing left by the previous administration, with a cyclical programme covering the whole county.

### Climate Change & Environment Strategy

The draft revised Strategy was approved unanimously by the Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee on 16 December, for referral to the Full Council at its budget meeting in February. It sets a new target for a Net Zero Cambridgeshire—2045, five years sooner than the current 2050 target.

The strategy commits the Council to focusing its contribution in three key areas – reducing carbon emissions, supporting the development of resilient communities so that they can adapt to the impacts of climate change, and supporting nature and biodiversity to thrive.

As part of the Council's plan to achieve Net Zero for its own direct carbon emissions by 2030, the draft strategy sets out how the Council will meet that deadline including:

- Low carbon transport solutions for fleet vehicles
- Net zero carbon buildings and generation of renewable energy from Council assets
- Improving the management of the Council's open spaces to increase biodiversity.

The Strategy also commits to halving the Council's indirect emissions through its supply chains by 2030, and sets out how it will work in partnership with the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority's Climate Commission and district partners to bring actions together to align work programmes. It also identifies how the Council will collaborate with businesses and communities and support all sectors to understand how they can reduce carbon emissions, benefit nature, and take positive climate action.

### Building the team

At the same meeting, the Committee agreed a proposal to use £570,000 over four years of the capital spending set aside for environmental work, to increase the team to support the delivery and funding of the Council's low carbon and energy projects. The service generates income for the Council and has also successfully applied for grants.

£6M of Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund money has been awarded by the Government to the Council's projects in the last eighteen months.

### **Pension Fund and Environmental Issues**

The Pension Fund Committee adopted a revised Investment Strategy Statement. At the last meeting I chaired, we had 7 questions all asking for immediate divestment from fossil fuels.

*"The proposed RI Policy is suitably ambitious, lending support to the Paris Agreement, support for a 'just transition' to a low carbon economy that ensures fair treatment for employees and communities that would otherwise bear the brunt of industrial change and includes the setting of a net zero target. The Policy would lead to significant decarbonisation of the Fund and significant improvements in climate and stewardship reporting. The Fund is taking a lead role in working alongside other Funds in the ACCESS Pool, where the majority of the Fund's assets are held, to ensure these RI ambitions can be met.*

*In early 2022 the Committee is expected to be finalising plans to decarbonise the Fund's portfolio. The intention is for these plans to be fully aligned to an appropriate transition pathway and to have clearly expressed carbon reduction targets as milestones.*

*The Committee's fiduciary responsibility means that the primary purpose of such action is to manage the climate and carbon risk within the Fund's holdings. However, the Committee believes that keeping a global temperature rise this century to well below 2°C relative to pre-industrial levels is entirely consistent with securing strong financial returns.*

*The Committee's approach is one of engagement over blanket divestment of any sector or region. This is entirely consistent with the Paris Agreement and a 'just transition', as even the most ambitious transition pathways require a fuel mix that includes oil and gas decades into the future.*

*The Fund expects each of its investment managers to appropriately manage environmental, social and governance risks alongside financial risks, and constructively engage with investee companies on any issues identified. Should these issues not be addressed satisfactorily, selling or divesting from the individual stock remains an option."*

We will be continuing to push to ensure that the best returns are achieved while enforcing strong RI policies.

### **A10/A142 BP roundabout**

At the December meeting of the County Council's Highways & Transport Committee, welcomed emerging proposals to make a safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists at the A10/A142 BP roundabout at Ely. A report to the committee said:

*“The CPCA [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority] has indicated that work on a ‘quick win’ should be undertaken, developing solutions that would provide significantly enhanced active travel provision at the 10/A142 ‘BP’ roundabout to the west of Ely that might be delivered early with their own funds. It is envisaged that a separate funding allocation for this work will be made.”*

There is no indication at the moment of the location or design of such a crossing, but the current expectation appears to be that it would need to be ‘grade separated’—in other words, a bridge or underpass.

### **Roman crucifixion**

A recent discovery in Fenstanton is of international significance—a human skeleton with a nail through the foot, which experts believe to be the remains of a Roman crucifixion, probably of a slave.

### **Local Concerns – small steps (Piers Coutts)**

Since becoming a County councillor last May more than fifty local residents have contacted me with their concerns on a range of matters. Not all of these can be fixed and some – like a general review of traffic routes within Ely – will take time to address, but for some it is possible to make a difference at once. It was a particular delight when, in the run-up to Christmas, three small issues I had been asked to look into were all addressed within one week.

- **The Service 12 (Soham) bus stop.** When the level crossing was closed three years ago, and the number 12 bus to Soham had to be re-routed via the new by-pass, passengers lost their bus shelter. The City of Ely Council had suggested moving the new stop from Angel Drove to share the shelter opposite the Tesco service station, but no action had been taken. I contacted Stagecoach and was delighted when their Business Development Director David Boden took up the idea, and the change was made with effect from 5 January.
- **‘Orphan’ streetlights near the underpass to Cineworld.** Walking back from the cinema one evening we realised there were several broken street lights which made the path into Ely from the underpass very dark, and a resident also contacted me about this issue. At first it seemed these lights were ‘orphans’, not owned anyone - not the City, District or County Council. However the District Council officers agreed to take action and I’m grateful to the Parks and Open Spaces team for sorting the problem.
- **Cycle path to Stuntney.** Stuntney Village Council asked me to look into the fact that their cycle path had become overgrown with weeds, which had seriously narrowed the space available. The Local Highways Officer and his team have acted promptly to rectify the problem, and I’m very grateful for their help with this.

I have already learned that it’s not possible to fix everything at once, so it was a great ‘Christmas Present’ to have three problems sorted in one go!

## **Meanwhile on the Combined Authority**

The Combined Authority has appointed Eastern Community Homes (hosted by Cambridgeshire ACRE) to support community homes groups everywhere across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with the exception of East Cambridgeshire which is now ploughing its own furrow.

Two of the four remaining loans across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on the Combined Authority's housing loans book are proceeding to schedule. Repayment of the one to Laragh homes will be delayed by 3 months.

The remaining loan is to East Cambridgeshire for the MOD housing at Ely, where the projected repayment profile continues to slip. This is due to the continuing delay in sale of the fifteen 'affordable' housing units, and a slower than projected rate of sale of the market price units. The Combined Authority is monitoring East Cambridgeshire Trading Company's performance closely.

The Combined Authority has confirmed that ECTC is not defaulting on the loan. However, it says, "there is an increasing likelihood that in order to repay the loan in March 2023 then the borrower may need to re-finance the remaining market units in the scheme that might be unsold in March 2023.

The Haddenham scheme is continuing to make repayments.

The previous Mayoral Authority was awarded £100m to build affordable homes, but the Government withdrew this funding leading to a loss of nearly £40m affordable housing across Cambridgeshire.





# East Cambridgeshire District Council Report

## By Cllr Christine Whelan

As reported previously

Green waste collection cancelled from mid-December to end of January  
The decision was made without going to the Operational Services committee to suspend the green waste collection service from Monday 13 December to Friday 28 January inclusive.

The Council's wholly-owned waste collection company says it has been short-staffed due to COVID-19 and the national shortage of HGV drivers. It says that 'it is currently recruiting for three HGV drivers, fast-tracking two employees to enable them to obtain their HGV licence and working with existing staff who want to obtain HGV licences in the future'. We are still waiting hear an update on this.

In the meantime, residents are being told to reduce food waste, and that green waste can be taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Witchford.

It will result in many more car journeys for those who have the means to take their garden waste to the nearest recycling centre but this is not an option for all.

The operational Services committee meeting scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> January has been cancelled.

### Mepal Outdoor Centre demolished

The Council demolished Mepal Outdoor Centre just before Christmas, to make way for its proposed crematorium on the site.

The Council's Planning Department requested an extension of time to 17 December for consideration of the crematorium application. This date has come and gone. The application is currently subject to objections from the County Council in its roles as Waste & Minerals Planning Authority and as Local Lead Flood Authority.

### Local Plan review

East Cambridgeshire District Council is undertaking a review of its adopted Local Plan.

This review is to partially replace one part of the Local Plan adopted in April 2015, regarding the housing requirement for the district in Policy GROWTH 1.

The vast majority of the Plan should remain unaltered.

The review will not propose any new sites for housing development. The

updated policy will have a housing requirement figure of 9,175 dwellings between 2011 and 2031, though this figure is likely to be adjusted slightly again before the Plan is submitted for examination, to reflect new data which will become available in 2022. The figure is calculated on a nationally specified basis, and there are enough dwellings already in the plan to meet the 9,175 requirement.

The review is now at its second round of consultation, and the closing date for comments is 23:59 on Monday 7 February. The consultation document is at <http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/local-developmentframework/local-plan-review> .

Responses can be

- emailed to [planningpolicy@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@eastcambs.gov.uk)
- posted to

Strategic Planning Team  
East Cambridgeshire District Council  
The Grange  
Ely CB7 4EE

East Cambridgeshire Community Fund Grant

The East Cambs Community Fund grant application window will be open between Monday 17 January and Monday 21 February.

Grants are intended to support the development of new or existing community services and initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents of East Cambridgeshire. Details including eligibility criteria are at <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/finance/east-cambridgeshire-community-fund>

If you have any questions or for more information please contact [stephanie.jones@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:stephanie.jones@eastcambs.gov.uk) or call Stephanie Jones on 01353 665555.



## **CITY OF ELY COUNCIL**

### **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE. 18.1.2022**

**East Cambridgeshire District Councillor, Ely East – Cllr Lis Every**

#### **St Mary's Surgery**

The above has moved temporarily to the POW site and it is understood that the facilities have been well received by those attending. The District Council has supported the upgrade of the old St Mary's site with £750K funding from their CIL funding which came from developer contributions.

#### **Community Safety Partnership Board (CSP): Additional staffing and the ECDC Youth Strategy.**

The CSP is receiving additional funding for a new role to help improve community safety in East Cambridgeshire. The new problem-solving co-ordinator will join the CSP team at ECDC. The post is funded as part of the Putting Cambridgeshire First agenda, set up by Darryl Preston, the new Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire. There is also a £190K pot which can be bid into up for to £5,000 for community safety initiatives and projects.

The Youth Strategy is moving along well and research is being undertaken into the actual provision there is in each of the Parishes, including Ely. This will highlight issues which can be looked individually.

#### **Soham Station**

I attended the opening of the Soham Station recently. Having been closed for 56 years, it follows an £18.6 million investment programme by the Combined Authority. The new single-track line gives passengers the opportunity to travel to Ely, March and Peterborough or to Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket and Ipswich. We now need to push for an hourly service. It is hoped that sometime in the future the new station will act as a springboard for reinstating the Snailwell loop near Newmarket, which would take trains through Newmarket and allow passengers to travel from Soham direct to Cambridge without changing at Bury Edmunds or Ely

#### **Community Orchard Programme**

Parish Councils and other eligible groups can be provided with up to 10 free trees, along with other vital planting equipment, such as stakes.

#### **Waste Collections**

The decision to suspend the service was not taken lightly and the substantial pressure placed on the employees, due to COVID and the national shortage of HGV drivers, heavily influenced the decision. Without these additional pressures, ECDC would have continued to provide the collection of green waste during this time. The staff have been worked hard for the past two years throughout the pandemic, and everyone wanted

to be able to continue to deliver all services without disruption. Unfortunately, this had become unavoidable.

It was questioned whether a reduced service would have been acceptable, rather than a full suspension. However, even other local authorities, like Greater Cambridgeshire Shared Services, who normally reduce to a four weekly green collection during the winter, announced the full suspension of their service for a similar time. This confirmed the difficulty to sustain the services during these pressing times.

Green waste was chosen as the amount of tonnage collected during the winter months reduces substantially, whereas recycling and general waste increases substantially and therefore produces the highest demand.

Green waste can still be disposed of at household recycling centre, as well as recycling waste.

Additionally, residents are also able to dispose of green waste in the black sacks.

#### **Other initiatives/on-going activities**

- Solar panels will be put on ECDC's eSpace North Business Centre with a £50K Investment (payback 6 to 8 years);
- Cambridgeshire County Council are looking at proposals to make Back Hill one-way;
- The GCP Congestion charge/workplace parking levy/increased car parking charges consultation for Cambridge has received a response from ECDC.
- £2m has been received for the A10 Outline Business Case. The CA Transport Committee have agreed to release the funding so this can go ahead;
- £100K Homes have been adopted by ECDC: 4 at the Old Tanner, Forehill, more to come on the old swimming pool site (secured through S106 agreement) with more to come at Kennett. The Government's First Homes policy will then take over.
- Discussions are on-going to expand the Ely Library to encompass a Business and Community Hub as part of our Employability and Skills Strategy.

16.1.2022