

MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2021

COVID-19

Cases Nationally and locally COVID-19 cases continue to rise sharply, largely due to the Delta variant, with an expectation of a third wave of infections peaking in early August. The proposed lifting of social restrictions on Monday 19 July come what may can only make this more likely. Health professionals are concerned at significant rises in numbers of cases in Cambridge, along with low levels of vaccination there. Most cases are in the 18 - 30 population. A team is working with the city council and universities on this. Cases per 100,000 population at end June

Cambridgeshire 92 South Cambridgeshire 101 Cambridge 216
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In East Cambridgeshire rates are also rising but remain below regional and national averages.

Vaccinations

Further walk-in clinics for those needing their first or second doses of the vaccine are due to be announced by the local Clinical Commissioning Group in the coming days. The walk-in clinics are designed to help drive up vaccination rates ahead of the planned national easing of Covid-19 lockdown restrictions on July 19. Alternatively, appointments can be booked at www.nhs.uk

Testing

Mobile rapid testing vehicles continue to visit sites across the county, offering on-the-spot tests as well as kits to take away and complete at home. Secondary school pupils also need to rapid test twice a week, to try and reduce the spread of the virus in schools. Testing rates in secondary schools have fallen but young people continue to be carriers of the disease even though they may not be aware, so regular testing is important. Schools and colleges can supply students with Lateral Flow Test (LFT) kits to self-swab. These can be taken home to complete and should be done twice a week. More information about accessing rapid testing can be found online at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting

Information

Do check the Council's public health information messages about COVID which are updated regularly.

•<https://twitter.com/CambsCC>

•<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-overview>

Independent living

In Ely work is progressing on the opportunity to build 80 flats on land at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Ely. 16 of these will be let out to Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust as a hospital rehabilitation ward enabling health and social care to be further integrated. The County Council will own the building. Highways and transport issues arising from the scheme are a concern for nearby residents. At the Council's Adults & Health Committee Lorna Dupre made the point that the new development needed to be a 'good neighbour' to surrounding residents. A number of us want to see more electric vehicle charging points on the site, more buses to serve it, better walking and cycling connections to, within, and from the site, and changes to highways layouts to accommodate the increased use of the site from this and other developments in the immediate area.

Eastern gateway

Barbara Greengrass has informed me the application still has many issues and will not be coming to planning committee for a few months. With regards to the S106 agreement this was not even being looked at yet.

The welcome back fund

The closing date for submissions is **Friday 30th July 2021**. Welcome Back Fund is providing councils across England a share of £56 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support the safe return to high streets and help build back better from the pandemic. The aim of the Welcome Back Fund (WBF) is to help councils boost tourism, improve green spaces and provide more outdoor seating areas, markets and food stall pop-ups – giving people more, safer options to reunite with friends and relatives.

Other news from around the county...

School meal vouchers

The Council's Children & Young People Committee has agreed in principle to provide supermarket vouchers over the summer holidays for families entitled to free school meals. The Strategy & Resources Committee is being asked for up to £537K to make up the difference between Government funding and the cost of ensuring all eligible families have their needs met.

Highways works LHI bids this year...

The Highways & Transport Committee has now approved the prioritised Local Highway Improvement bids for this year.

The new application window for Local Highway Improvement schemes to be delivered in 2022/23 will be as follows.

- Application window opens: Monday 30 June 2021
- Application window closes: Monday 2 August 2021 (midday)
- Feasibility studies undertaken: August to October 2021
- Panel meetings: December —January 2021/22
- Report to committee including prioritised list for approval: March 2022

This will mean the winter period can be used to begin designing schemes for delivery from 1 April 2022, making use of the summer weather for delivery rather than design, although formal approval will not yet have been given.

Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan

Cambridgeshire County Council is currently consulting on its Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The Department for Transport recommended that all local authorities should develop LCWIPs and have advised that those authorities with plans will be well placed to bid for future funding. The LCWIP covers the whole county and focuses on each district to highlight priority routes for cycling using census data to identify where funding could have the greatest effect in terms of where people live and work. If funding becomes available to progress any of the routes within the plan there will be further feasibility work undertaken and local consultation for each individual scheme. The LCWIP consultation proposals are at:-

<https://consultcambcs.uk.engagementhq.com/ccc-local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-consultation-2021>

The consultation will Close on Tuesday 13 July. If you have any questions relating to the consultation, contact transport.delivery@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Minerals & Waste Local Plan

The Planning Inspector has judged the draft Cambridge's hire & Peterborough Minerals & Waste Local Plan to be 'sound', provided it includes his main modifications to it. The County Council's Environment & Green Investment Committee agreed to recommend adoption of the Plan to the Full Council on 20 July. Because this is a joint plan, this will only take effect if Peterborough Council also agrees to adopt the Plan as modified by the Inspector.

Milton recycling centre consultation

The County Council has launched a consultation on plans for the recycling centre at Milton. The centre's planning permission expires in 2026, and it is proposed to enhance and expand the existing facility whilst 'future proofing' it to meet the needs of the local growing population. The consultation closes on Tuesday 27 July and is at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/milton

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Innovate & Cultivate Fund

The next deadline to apply to Cambridgeshire County Council's Innovate & Cultivate Fund is Sunday 1 August. The fund supports projects that strengthen communities and reduce pressure on County Council services. The fund is open to voluntary and community organisations and social enterprises in and outside Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. This round is for applications for 'Cultivate' projects (£2,000 - £15,000) which build community support networks for vulnerable people. 'Innovate' grants (£15,000-£50,000) are currently suspended. The Council has advice for seven different off -the-peg project ideas to help people remain independent and active in their community, encourage volunteering, and complement more costly Council services. You can find guidance on how to apply for a start-up grant for each of these projects at:- <https://data.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/dataset/cultivate-project-ideas>

- Mobile Warden Schemes
- Community Youth Worker
- Digital Inclusion
- Timebanks
- Good Neighbour Schemes
- Dementia-Friendly Communities
- Men's Sheds

You can find application forms and more information on the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) website <http://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html>

Parliamentary boundaries

The Boundary Commission for England has published proposals for new parliamentary constituencies, which are now open to consultation Until Monday 2 August. This is the first stage of a review which will conclude in 2023. For the East of England, the proposals would mean three more MPs, and the effect of this is to create an additional 'St Neots' seat in Cambridgeshire. The proposed new 'East Cambridgeshire' constituency would include the whole of the district (including Sutton and Little Downham wards and Littleport which are currently in North East Cambridgeshire) and add to this the two South Cambridgeshire wards of Cottenham and Milton & Waterbeach.

Healthy Weight

The county council Adults & Health Committee has also made the decision to renew its programme of awareness about healthy weight. In 2018/19 62.8 per cent of people nationally were overweight or obese, with the East Cambridgeshire figure slightly lower than that at 58.8 per cent. The cost of obesity to the NHS each year is £5.1 billion, rising to £27 billion if costs to the wider economy are included. The cost of malnutrition in England was estimated to be £19.6 billion per year in 2011/12, more than 15 per cent of the total public expenditure on health and social care. About half is expenditure is related to older people, and the other half to younger adults and children.

Cllr Alec Jones & Victoria Charlesworth