

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 7 February 2022 at 7.30pm

Present Caroline Ilott, Jane Trevanion, John O’Neill, Geoff Barnes, Peter Howell, Peter Tye, District Cllr. Deborah Roberts and County Cllr. Peter McDonald. There was 1 member of the public present.

1. Apologies for Absence – Simon Bugey, Andy Brown

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that Sheryl Williamson had resigned from the Parish Council with immediate effect.

Caroline Ilott chaired the meeting as Vice Chair in Simon Bugey’s absence.

2. Laurentian Reporting – Peter Howell

Caroline Ilott advised the Parish Council that Mark Howard had sadly died before Christmas. Mark was a previous Foxton Parish Councillor and regularly attended Parish Council meetings thereafter and will be greatly missed.

3. Notice of Parish Council elections on 5 May 2022 and drop in meeting on 9 March 2022 for prospective parish councillors (nomination papers to the SCDC returning officer by 4pm on 5 April 2022)

Caroline Ilott advised that a meeting for residents interested in becoming a parish councillor is scheduled for Wednesday 9 March 6.30-8pm. Caroline Ilott will prepare packs of information and nomination papers. Simon Bugey, Jane Trevanion, Caroline Ilott, Peter Howell and Peter Tye will attend the meeting. Notice has been provided in the Laurentian and will be published on the website and Facebook.

4. Open Forum for Public Participation – the Clerk advised that a resident had raised an issue by email about a tree removed by the Parish Council – details awaited.

5. Members Declarations of Interest for items on the Agenda – none

6. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 10 January 2022

The minutes and confidential minutes were approved. Proposed Jane Trevanion, seconded John O’Neill. All agreed.

Caroline Ilott signed the minutes.

7. Matters arising from these minutes:

- Cllr. McDonald advised that a meeting to discuss the Preschool bid had been delayed twice. A new date has been proposed (22 February 2022).
- Cllr McDonald received an email on 26 January 2022 to explain that Sue Potter from Cambs & Peterborough Combined Authority will provide a briefing note regarding extending the Harston bypass feasibility study to include a bypass for Foxton. This will be sent to the Parish Council once received.
- Cllr. Roberts had provided CAPALC guidance about public works loans and recommended the Parish Council follows up with CAPALC about this.
- Caroline Ilott advised that she had received input from councillors on the Jupiter Play design and the recreation ground rules had been deferred to the March meeting, after the sports clubs meeting has taken place. Meetings had taken place

with the quantity surveyor to discuss the S106 project and a local resident to discuss recreation ground provision for older children. The outcome of these meetings was fed back to the S106 working party.

- The SCDC S106 officer confirmed that S106 funds can be used for hybrid meeting equipment and hardwire mesh. BT should be installing a WIFI connection for the village hall this week.
- The signs at Mortimers Lane and Barons Lane have been replaced with new signs.
- The Clerk had completed all actions, including a letter sent to residents of the Green re parking. A letter to the owner of 12 St Laurence Road to request removal of the bins and hard standing is on hold.

Action Cllr. McDonald

- Forward briefing note to Parish Council and arrange meeting with Rowland Potter, Head of Transport at the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to consider extending Harston bypass feasibility study to include a bypass for Foxton

Action Cllr. Roberts

- Follow up with SCDC environmental health re signs to remind residents to keep dogs under control

Action Caroline Ilott

- Seek reassurance from This Land that the buildings on the old Trinity School site will be maintained

Action Peter Howell

- Note in Laurentian re holding the Precept for the second year running which will mean that, considering inflation and rising costs, the Parish Council will have less money available in real terms for its budgeted expenditure

Action Simon Buggiey

- WIFI setup at village hall and organise purchase of mesh
- Respond to FGA re Platinum Jubilee tree planting enquiry

Action Geoff Barnes

- Circulate South Cambs. police contact details for Foxton

Action Clerk

- Send press statement to journalist at CambridgeshireLive
- Consideration of bank signatories to March meeting
- Write to SP Landscapes to confirm tree survey work and date
- Defibrillator/ CPR training - thank David Walston on behalf of the Parish Council and circulate booking details
- Confirm permission for access and container storage to tennis club for the work due to start w/c 21st Feb on the tennis courts.
- Write to Peter Evans to confirm fence repair and date and write to resident to advise of works
- Write to SW Gardens to confirm clearance work behind play area and date and write to residents to request a meeting

- Request all contractors direct R&A communications through the clerk
- Ask all contractors if they are able to continue existing contracts until 30 November 2022 and to confirm prices
- Circulate updated goal risk assessment to Parish Council

8. District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Roberts advised that building work in SCDC offices had now ceased and officers were returning to the office to work part time. Cllr. Roberts advised that budget costs are rising including a pay rise for officers and a rise in county council and district council charges to cover public services. Cllr. Roberts expressed concern about these increased costs in light of other rising living costs residents are facing. Cllr. Roberts expressed concern about the progression of the Foxton travel hub proposal and noted that there was a strong feeling amongst Foxton residents against the proposal. Cllr. Roberts added she was still to hear of any benefits of the proposal to local residents.

9. County Councillor's Report – see Appendix 1

Cllr. McDonald explained that the County Council Joint Administration is proposing a 4.99% rise in Council Tax in order to close the authority's £16m budget gap this year.

Cllr. McDonald gave an update on the Thakeham (25,000 homes) housing proposal, health and social care reform with a new county council integrated care system, progress on implementing 20mph zones (which Parish Councils can apply for) and changes to the Highway Code. (See Appendix 1 for more detail).

Peter Tye asked how 20mph parking zones would be enforced as Foxton Parish Council and residents had previously asked about such a scheme but had always been told it would be refused as it was not felt enforceable. Peter asked what had changed to ensure these schemes were successful.

Cllr. McDonald explained that due to the lack of police resources, the intention was for the scheme to be self-enforceable. It is proposed that applications for the scheme will be considered separately from the LHI scheme and will be open to applications all year round. The budget for the scheme will be £400k compared to £800k for the LHI scheme.

Caroline Ilott noted that the Melbourn Greenway project should bring with it a 20mph speed zone along its proposed route through the village from Shepreth Road to Station Road via the High Street.

10. Any Planning, Infrastructure, R&A, S106 and Police updates will be provided in writing and published prior to the meeting

Caroline Ilott advised that This Land had withdrawn its application for 7 dwellings on the old Trinity School site on Station Road.

Peter Howell asked if the Parish Council would write to This Land to ask them to maintain the buildings in the meantime.

Caroline Ilott advised that she had written to ask them to maintain the site and specifically asked for a large tree to be maintained. The chapel, although not listed, is a building of merit within a conservation area. Caroline will seek reassurance from This Land that the buildings on the site will also be maintained.

Cllr. McDonald added that he had circulated an independent valuation/ audit report of This Land which was long overdue and acknowledged that This Land was failing to develop sites and there were serious questions arising from the report.

Caroline Ilott noted that the pavement on Fowlmere Road is in the process of being resurfaced which is a welcome development after almost 18 months of requesting this from CC Highways.

11. Preschool report

A report had been circulated.

Cissy Sleight advised that the preschool working group had been working with officers at the Cambridgeshire County Council on the submission of a proposal for the provision of a mobile unit within the Foxton Primary School grounds for a 5 day a week preschool provision. The basis for this submission has been that the county council has a statutory obligation to provide sufficient Early Years care for rural areas.

The proposal was submitted to a Justification of Need Panel on Wednesday 19th January for consideration. The findings of that panel were that:

“Senior colleagues have asked for greater understanding of the school's organisational structure and how we as a local authority, under our sufficiency role, support its future looking at a wider set of data sources to be clear on the basic need for the community now and in the future. There is commitment to early years but it is the 'how' we deliver this effectively and with a model that is sustainable, deliverable and provides value for money.”

The County Council officers are speaking with the school directly and will ensure that the next meeting updates all parties on the current position of the work. In response the Foxton Preschool and Wrap Around Care Working Group submitted information on current and future demand stressing the importance of looking at migration into the area and not relying solely on birth rate data. The working group expects to have clarity on the decision before the next Parish Council Meeting and will provide an update in March. Cllr. McDonald confirmed the next meeting has been scheduled for 22 February 2022.

Cllr. Petr McDonald and Cissy Sleight left the meeting

12. Infrastructure

Caroline Ilott advised that she had attended the LHI online panel meeting with Simon Buggiey. Cllr. McDonald was in attendance and very supportive of the scheme, but was not allowed to vote as Foxton is under his ward. It is hoped that the outcome of the bid will be published by April 2022.

a. Approve press statement re travel hub and level crossing bypass

A draft statement had been circulated. CambridgeshireLive had contacted the Parish Council to obtain a view on improving the Foxton level crossing. The following statement was approved:

As part of an overall infrastructure proposal for Foxton, Foxton Parish Council is looking again at the possibility of a bypass for the Foxton railway level crossing.

The Parish Council wishes to encourage the GCP (Greater Cambridge Partnership),

the County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, and the Combined Cambridge & Peterborough Authority to work in collaboration with each other when considering infrastructure planning that affects the village of Foxton.

In particular Foxton Parish Council wants to make sure that infrastructure projects are not considered in isolation from other considerations. In practice this means that any proposed Travel Hub at Foxton should be considered as part of an overall scheme that includes a level crossing bypass that links up with a road bypass for Harston.

Proposed Peter Howell, seconded John O'Neill. All agreed

13. S106 update

a. Update on the new recreation ground outline plan and engagement of a project manager

Caroline Ilott explained that the Parish Council will need to seek professional help in delivering the recreation ground project as the Parish Council does not have the time, nor expertise. Caroline Ilott advised that members of the S106 Working Group had had two productive meetings with Alistair Russell, a quantity surveyor and project manager, who had provided detailed costings of the next steps required. These costings had been presented to the S106 working group meeting last week. A report will be prepared for the March Parish Council meeting to propose the next steps and to consider costs.

14. Finance

a. Brief budget review

A budget report had been circulated. There were no questions from councillors.

It was noted that now Sheryl Williamson had resigned, the Parish Council had one less bank signatory. The Parish Council will also need to consider which bank signatories will not be standing for re-election in May.

b. Approve transfer of £25,000 from Barclays S106 account to Unity Trust Saver account and £2000 from Lloyds S106 account to Barclays S106 account to ensure funds are spread between banks and covered by financial services compensation scheme up to £85000

Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded John O'Neill. All agreed

c. Approve payment of precept into new Unity Trust current account instead of Barclays account.

The clerk advised that a form needs to be submitted to SCDC to update the bank details for the precept payment. Once this is done the clerk will arrange for the Barclays current account to be switched to Unity Trust.

Proposed Peter Tye, seconded Peter Howell. All agreed

d. Approve virement of funds from playground/ skatepark unused budget (£500) to village warden budget

As the remaining budget for the village warden will not be enough to cover the village warden's costs over the next two months, the clerk explained that funds could be vired from the unused play area and skatepark maintenance budget to the village

warden budget. The village warden has undertaken play equipment and skatepark maintenance so there is some overlap between these budgets.

Proposed Peter Tye, seconded John O'Neill. All agreed

e. Quotes

i. Village tree condition survey (required May/June 2022): Quote A: £350+VAT; Quote B: £972.25+VAT

Peter Tye advised that he had only found two local companies to quote for this work. It is recommended that a tree survey is carried out every two years and that May/ June would be the right time to undertake the survey once new tree growth is visible. The contractor providing quote A had previously undertaken a tree survey for the Parish Council two years ago which was comprehensive and the quote is significantly cheaper than quote B. Advice will also be sought on whether an Ash PICUS scan is required. It was agreed to accept quote A with SP Landscapes. Proposed Peter Tye, seconded Caroline Ilott. All agreed.

ii. MAGPAS CPR/ defibrillator training for sports clubs and member of the public – cost of main hall hire £20.75

The Clerk advised that David Walston had kindly offered to provide free MAGPAS CPR/ defibrillator training for up to 30 participants in the village and this is proposed for 7-8pm on 18 May 2022 at the village hall. It was proposed that the Parish Council cover the cost of the village hall hire providing a very worthwhile benefit to the community. Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

The Clerk will thank David Walston on behalf of the Parish Council and circulate details to sports clubs. An online booking has been published on the village Facebook site.

iii. Chain link fence to repair broken fence bordering recreation ground and property on Illingworth way £105 (using S106 funds)

Caroline Ilott explained that the fence belonging to a resident of Illingworth Way had collapsed into the recreation ground and needed to be repaired. The resident is unable to manage this due to personal reasons. The Parish Council has a duty to maintain its boundary. A letter will be sent to the resident concerned to notify that this work will be carried out. Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

iv. Further clearance work of stumps and brambles behind play area (S106) and approve a councillor meeting with residents who back onto the playground to update on clearance work £370

Caroline Ilott advised that the first phase of clearance work behind the play area had revealed a large space that required some further clearance of stumps, ground ivy and brambles. It is proposed that once this area is cleared a meeting is called with residents backing onto the play area to explain what work has been carried out and why and asking for any ideas the residents may have for planting in this area. Any ideas will be brought to the Parish Council for consideration. Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Peter Howell. All agreed.

Caroline Ilott suggested that the remaining 4 trees from SCDC Free Trees scheme could potentially be planted in this cleared area as well as some evergreen laurels to provide some sound dampening.

f. Approval of payments

The bank reconciliation and bank statements were reviewed and approved by Jane Trevanion.

The following payments were approved. Caroline Ilott, seconded John O'Neill. All agreed.

Payments

Payments made (prior agreed)

1. Salary (SO) - LGA 1972 s112	£827.04
2. Pension - LGA 1972 s112, s111	£45.36
3. Google Ireland Gmail - LGA 1972 s111, s142	£46.00
4. Opus Metered street lights - Parish Councils Act 1957, s3; Highways Act 1980 s301	£27.52 inc VAT
5. Opus Unmetered street lights - Parish Councils Act 1957, s3; Highways Act 1980 s301	£122.29 inc VAT
6. Boston Seeds - S106	£104.99 inc VAT
7. Post Office Ltd stamps (Access letters) - LGA 1972 s111	£15.84
8. Royal mail 2 nd class stamps (letters re parking) - LGA 1972 s111	£9.37

Payments to be authorised

1. Parish Clerk Salary inc phone & broadband £34.50/ home allowance £22 - LGA 1972 s112	£236.10
2. HMRC National insurance & income tax - LGA 1972 s112/ LGA 1972 s111	£ 103.47
3. Parish Clerk Expenses – mileage - LGA 1972 s111	£5.76
4. Foxton Parish Council Top up Treasurers Account to £500 - LGA 1972 s111	£116.87
5. Aubergine new website set up/ hosting - LGA 1972 s111	£1378.80 inc VAT
6. Foxton Cricket Club Dec grass cutting - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£300
7. Peter Evans – village warden duties (8.5hrs) - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£148.75
8. Shelford Tree Service grounds clearance/ tree removal S106/ Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£1500.00 inc VAT
9. Foxton Village Hall meeting room hire - LGA 1972 s111	£16.20

Invoices/ payments received after agenda circulated

1. Foxton Village Hall Hardman Rd street light electricity Parish Councils Act 1957, s3; Highways Act 1980 s301	£98.11
2. Transfer from Foxton Barclays current account to Foxton Unity Trust Current account to cover payments from Unity Trust Bank LGA 1972 s111	£4000

*Local Government Act

Caroline Ilott asked that in future letters are distributed to Foxton residents by hand rather than using stamps, where possible.

15. R&A

There is a meeting with parish councillors and the sports clubs scheduled for 24 February 7.30pm.

a. Approve replacement of Andy Brown on R&A

A replacement on the R&A working party will be required for Andy Brown when he leaves the Parish Council and a replacement is now required for Sheryl Williamson who was chair of the R&A working party. As no councillors volunteered to join the R&A working party at the moment, all R&A queries will be directed through the clerk and R&A issues dealt with by available councillors. R&A responsibilities can be reviewed when the new Parish Council is elected in May.

b. Safety of cricket club cordoning off equipment – next steps

Foxton Cricket Club were asked to replace the scaffold poles being used to cordon off the cricket square by 1 February 2022, however, the poles had not been removed.

The Parish Council agreed that the poles are a clear health and safety risk and expressed its disappointment that the poles were not removed by 1 February as requested.

The Parish Council agreed to purchase its own flexible, high impact equipment which the cricket club can use over the winter period. It would advise the cricket club of this and request that the cricket club remove the scaffold poles within a weeks' time. If the poles were not removed as requested then the Parish Council would remove them as it has a duty of care to recreation ground users to do so and it also had to consider any insurance liability implications. It was agreed to share the FA guidance on run off distance with the cricket club.

Proposed Peter Howell, seconded John O'Neill. All agreed.

Cllr. Roberts left the meeting.

c. Approve extension of grass cutting and village warden contracts (D.P Garden Works, SW Gardens, Foxton Cricket Club and Peter Evans) to 30 June 2022 by letter agreement - SW

Peter Howell advised that R&A had considered Foxton's grass cutting costs per hectare compared to other local parish councils and in some cases the costs were three times that of other Parish Councils. The Parish Council had a duty to demonstrate value for money and a duty to provide a standard cut and fertiliser to maintain an open space.

Peter Tye felt that the current grass cutting arrangements provided good value and a good recreation ground condition. Caroline Ilott added that it would be difficult to change contractors during the grass cutting season due to lack of availability and it would be better to wait until the last cuts in November.

It was agreed that an extension to the contracts would allow a new Parish Council time to settle in, research options and compare costs.

The Parish Council agreed to ask all contractors if they would agree to extend their contracts until 30 November 2022 and to confirm their costs, with a view to tendering for contracts in October 2022.

Proposed Peter Howell, seconded Jane Trevanion. All agreed.

d. Approve putting logs on The Green, Foxton to protect the grass verges

Peter Howell advised that spare logs could be used to protect the Green from car damage. The SCDC conservation officer is happy with this proposal. John O'Neill volunteered to help place the logs along the roadside kerb of the Green.

Proposed Peter Howell, seconded John O'Neill. All agreed.

Peter Tye noted that DP Gardenworks should be informed for grass cutting purposes.

e. Approve contractor access to recreation ground and fenced off area for tennis courts work and storage of container in church carpark

Peter Tye advised that the contractor undertaking the resurfacing of the tennis court for the Tennis Club required access via the recreation ground and had requested permission to store a container in the church car park. This was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed Peter Tye, seconded John O'Neill. All agreed.

f. Approve informal goal risk assessment, requirement not to move goal without Parish Council permission and to use ground anchors

A revised risk assessment had been circulated.

It was agreed that the goal should not be moved without Parish Council permission and that the goal should be anchored into the ground in accordance with FA guidance. The village warden will be asked to regularly inspect the goal and to replace the ground anchors if necessary. A notice has been placed on the goal and on Facebook to advise that the goal must not be moved without the Parish Council's permission.

The risk assessment was approved. Proposed Caroline Illott, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed

16. New website and WIFI update

Aubergine had confirmed that the new website template had been set up and the website content had been transferred. Aubergine will now run its quality checks and the clerk is making sure all documents that will be published on the website are accessible. The website should be able to go live in the next few weeks. It is hoped the WIFI connection to the Village Hall will be set up this week.

17. Police – concern about antisocial behaviour at the skatepark

The clerk had received an email from a concerned resident about antisocial behaviour at the skatepark. The clerk advised the resident to report any antisocial or criminal behaviour directly to the police. Geoff Barnes will circulate the South Cambs. police team contact details to the Parish Council so that this concern, and any other concerns, can be raised with them.

18. Items for next agenda

19. Date and time of next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 7 March 2022 at 7.30pm

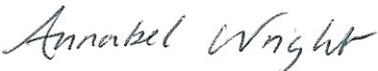
Motion to exclude Public and Press: Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted on the following agenda items 18 to 19

Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded John O'Neill. All agreed.

20. Travel Hub planning advice

Due to its sensitive and confidential nature pertaining to planning and legal advice, this item was discussed in a closed meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annabel Wright".

Annabel Wright
Foxton Parish Clerk
10 February 2022

Appendix 1

Report for Parish Councils – February 2022**South Cambs District Council****Council Tax**

It is proposed to increase the S Cambs element by £5 to £160 for a band D property so a rise of 3.4%. The 3 year plan includes savings of c £1.5m over the next 3 years. This is the link to the 5 yr plan including this year's C Tax.

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s125779/Summary%20General%20Fund%20Revenue%20Budget%202022-2023%20-%20Report%20for%20Cabinet.pdf>

Civil Parking Enforcement

The next stage of the CPE programme is in progress at S Cambs and the funding available from GCP.

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s125697/Civil%20Parking%20Enforcement%20in%20South%20Cambridgeshire%20-%20Report%20for%20Cabinet.pdf>

Business grants update: Hospitality and Leisure Grant and Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) top-up. This is up and running and the status as of January 28th was:

Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grants

- Applications received: 205
- Applications processed: 80
- Processed value: £280.6k (£128k actually pay out)

ARG

- Applications received: 62
- Applications processed: 13
- Process value: £60k
- Rejected 7
- Pending/in progress 42

Cambridgeshire County Report

Current Covid & Vaccination Status Locally *[image removed]*

Cambridgeshire County Council Budget

The Joint Administration is to proposing a 4.99% rise in order to close the authority's £16m budget gap this year. Next year's funding gap is likely to be even worse. 4.99% would mean an extra charge of £1.04 per week for a Band B, and £1.19 for a Band C household. More than half of all homes in Cambridgeshire are in these two bands. Local government experts who visited in summer highlighted that historic decisions not to raise council tax in previous years had led to significant ongoing lost income to support services. The council is also proposing to set up and spend a £14m fund over the next five years to tackle inequality, improve lives and care for the environment.

In its first year, if agreed, the Just Transition fund will fund schemes that increase flood prevention in the county, continuing a recent rapid increase in gully clearing. It will also

work towards tackling climate change; widen opportunities for children with special educational needs and disabilities; increase independent living services and expand direct payments and individual service funds – where adults assessed as needing support can choose and manage their own care services; and Expand the ‘Care Together’ programme, providing care services close to where people live.

Fire Authority Budget

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority is asking residents to have their say on proposals to increase the fire service’s share of council tax for 2022/23. The Service is looking for a below inflation increase of £1.44 (around 2%) for the year, making the total contribution for the year £74.97 for a resident living in a Band D property.

Following the financial settlement confirmed by the government at the end of December 2021, which confirmed the level of funding for the next year, the Service has reviewed its financial position, making savings where possible, and has considered what it needs to maintain its valued services to the public.

Police Budget

Police funding comes from two main sources: 56% from central government (excluding specific grants) and the remainder from the policing part of council tax.

In line with government guidance, the PCC is asking for people’s views on his proposed increase of £10 per year (83p per month based on a Band D property). This, together with an increase of £4.8m from government (excluding specific grants), would enable the Chief Constable to further maintain, invest and support in three key areas. Proposals are here: <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/commissioner-proposes-precept-increase-to-support-record-officer-numbers-for-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough/>

Thakeham

Local Parish Council representatives attended a virtual meeting with the Head of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, Stephen Kelly, last week for an update on the Local Plan and OxCam Arc in relation to Thakeham’s ‘Southwest Cambridge’ affected villages.

Thanks to all who responded to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals, which make it clear that Thakeham’s vision for 25,000 homes in and around our villages is simply not compatible with the principles of sustainable development. Thakeham’s only route is via top central government channels where power exists to override local democracy.

Health and social care reforms juggling act

A major reorganization of health and social care is happening now, with legislation in the process of passing through Parliament. This sounds heavy! Is it important? We think it impacts on us all.

The reforms include raising money through the National Insurance contributions that working people pay; widening eligibility for County-funded social care from about 4% of the population now to an estimated 14%, in Cambridgeshire (which must be paid for of course); and requiring the local NHS (our local GPs, hospitals, etc) and the Local Public Health and Social Care Authority (Cambridgeshire County Council) to collaborate and integrate, and

think at a ‘neighbourhood’ level. Prevention is a constant theme – how can we live better and avoid getting sick in the first place? How can we give children - from birth - the best chance of a healthy life? What more can local communities be doing to play a part?

Some of the principles seem overwhelmingly positive but other aspects of the reforms are daunting. These are huge bureaucracies and whatever new money is raised will be directed first to the enormous Covid-induced waiting lists. That will take time to work through.

Nevertheless, from July this year it will be a legal requirement for ‘Integrated Care Systems’ to be up and running with the basics in place. This means that all of these organisations, already working to deliver vaccinations, tackle waiting lists and attract new staff to a depleting workforce, also need to find time to reflect and prepare for new obligations under the Health and Care Bill.

Given that this new legal requirement involves local government, we’ve been learning fast and furiously. Our colleague Susan van de Ven is chairing the ‘Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board’ where the NHS and Local Authorities formally come together. If you’d like to know a little bit more, or if you can teach us a thing or two through your own experience and expertise, please join us for a Zoom coffee and chat on March 9th, 6-7PM – just let us know your contact details and we’ll send you the link.

20’s Plenty

Progress on introducing new 20mph speed limits to improve transport safety in Cambridgeshire was discussed at the Highways and Transport Committee on Jan 25th. The Council is looking to establish a new process for the implementation of 20mph schemes. This would allow third parties – such as Parish Councils - to make an application for a 20mph limit in their chosen area, with a number of schemes then progressing following a period of assessment and prioritisation.

There are two types of 20mph schemes which can be introduced by the council – 20mph limits and 20mph zones. A 20mph limit typically covers individual or a small number of streets and requires signs only, while 20mph zones typically cover larger areas and require both signs and markings.

The former are more cost effective, but the latter have been found to have a greater impact in reducing speed limits, especially when accompanied by traffic calming measures. It is anticipated that details outlining how applications for 20mph schemes will be prioritised, once submitted, will be brought to a committee meeting later this year.

Civil Parking Enforcement

By the time you read this South Cambs DC will have written to the County Council to ask them to submit an application to the Department of Transport asking them to approve Civil Parking Enforcement for all of South Cambs. The police will no longer be responsible for enforcing illegal parking but instead Enforcement Officers employed by the County Council will be. The plan is to have two officers active full time moving between the villages and issuing parking fines to people who park where they should not. The agreement of the Greater Cambridge Partnership to underwrite the first five years costs has made it possible which is extremely good news. The less good news is that the wheels of government move slowly so we don’t expect it to be implemented until 2023.

Changes to the Highways Code

You will be aware of changes to the code from January 29th

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022>

[image removed]

Peter McDonald
February 6th 2022