

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 1 August 2022 at 7.30pm

Present Caroline Ilott, Chris Herriot, Peter Tye, Colin Reynolds, Pierre Redelinghuys and District Cllr. James Hobro. There was 1 member of the public present.

1. Apologies for Absence – Ian Francis, Geoff Barnes and County Cllr. Peter McDonald

2. Open Forum for Public Participation and notice of Parish Council vacancies

A local resident, whose property backs onto the recreation ground, expressed concerns regarding the S106 community space and playground plan that had recently been published.

The resident made the following points:

- The plan showed no scale or existing use of the site.
- The site was not a greenfield site if an existing resource was being destroyed.
- He asked if the plan was a fair use of S106 money, considering the ratio of cost to children, teenagers and adults in the village and asked that a fair share was spent on teenagers and adults.
- He asked for a phased development to ensure that children did not have to go months without a play park.
- The hard court was a valuable village resource for riding bikes and scooters and ball games. If it was removed then children may use the car park to learn to ride their bikes.
- A wildflower meadow might be great during the summer but muddy in winter.
- The “mushroom” was popular.
- He asked how much had been spent on the design
- He explained that the sound of the basketball hitting the hoop was more of an issue from him than the noise of the ball hitting the ground.

It was confirmed that approximately £3700 had been spent on the design plans to date and the design was a concept at this stage and relied on grant funding being awarded and a procurement process for tendering contracts. Some of the £90k ring fenced funds had already been spent (for example on the clearance and planting of the area behind the playground). The quantity surveyor had advised completing the project in one stage if possible as a phased roll out could add considerable cost.

The resident asked if the position of the basketball court could be equidistant from all properties and next to the mushroom to give a better and fairer noise protection for properties adjacent to the recreation ground. A councillor explained that new basketball surfacing could reduce the noise impact. Having tested different locations for the basketball hoop, councillors had established that a different location would not make much difference to the noise impact.

It was noted that the Parish Council still had councillor vacancies, with seven out of ten vacancies filled. An expression of interest had been received and an application from requested.

3. Members Declarations of Interest for items on the agenda – none

- 4. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 4 July 2022**
Proposed Chris Herriot, seconded Pierre Redelinghuys. All agreed. Caroline Ilott signed the minutes.

5. Matters arising from these minutes:

- The informal goal order had been put on hold due to an issue arising with the artificial ground surface. The project needed re-costing and would be considered at the September Parish Council meeting. The Clerk had completed all other actions.

Action all

- Consider options for improving communication between the Parish Council and Foxton residents and filling Parish Council vacancies for August Parish Council meeting

Action Cllr James Hobro

- Follow up the option of a lighting column on the junction of the A10 at Foxton Bottom with Emma Murden at Cambridgeshire County Council. Ask the A10 cycling group whether they can support a lighting column on the A10 for safe crossing (as well as bike racks).
- Assist with publicising information via SCDC about turning engines off at level crossings in SCDC and CCC news bulletins

Action Colin Reynolds

- Follow up slanting damaged post at A10 junction with County Council highways.
- Prepare an information notice re switching engines off at the level crossing for publication on Facebook and in the Laurentian

Action Clerk

- Publish information about ash tree survey
- Email Foxton Cricket Club to offer congratulations on their progress in the village cup
- Ask for a summary of the MAYD planned youth service in the area after their August meeting
- Reply to resident re concern raised about Barrington Road verge cutting
- Contact UKPN about Foxton grid capacity
- Update and publish new complaints procedure
- Respond to resident re pump track proposal
- Purchase water bowser
- Orders: Dovecote thatch inspection report, SP Landscapes Dovecote meadow grass cutting

6. County Councillor's Report – none

7. District Councillor's Report – see written report Appendix 1

Cllr. Hobro will publicise information on Facebook regarding (i) toolkit for local traders/markets; and (ii) cost of living payment scams. Cllr. Hobro confirmed that the A10 cycle group Zero Carbon grant application for bike racks outside the village shop had not been

successful and he would recommend that the group write to the Parish Council to explore options.

Cllr. Hobro was asked whether the A10 cycle group could provide support in obtaining a safely lit crossing at Foxton Bottom which he will raise with the group.

It was suggested that the Burlington Press development could be approached regarding cycle rack provision.

8. Any Planning, Infrastructure, R&A, S106 and Police updates will be provided in writing if not included as a separate agenda item

It was noted that there was a slanting post at the junction with the A10. This will be followed up with County Council Highways.

9. Infrastructure

a. Response to public consultation for the developing Local Transport and Connectivity Plan for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough; deadline 4 August 2022 (and link to bypass issue)

A report had been circulated highlighting portions of the plan that could be of interest to Foxton.

The level crossing bypass and issues with emergency vehicle access, general access to the A10 and pollution from idling cars was discussed. In particular it was discussed that the GCP travel hub proposal should be considered at the same time as a bypass option. It was agreed that there was no need to complete the survey and that the Parish Council consider, at its September Parish Council meeting, writing to the Combined Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Authority (CCPA) regarding the bypass issue and raising this with Cllr McDonald and the CCPA.

b. Update on Local Plan including Call for Sites; response to survey on new/amended sites - deadline 12 September 2022

It was explained that a call for sites was undertaken in 2021 as part of the emerging new Local Plan from SCDC, with twelve sites put forward in Foxton. All these sites were rejected by SCDC planning. Further amendments to site proposals had been submitted and the Parish Council had the opportunity to respond to these amendments and add any new information by 12 September 2022.

It was reported that:

The Station Field site had not reduced the number of dwellings (900-1800) and had included covering the cost of a bypass in return for building houses.

Land behind Herod's farm owned by Cambridgeshire County Council - the area had been reduced to 5 hectares and the number of dwellings had been reduced from 486 to 90 with landscape buffers offered. It was suggested that this could be due to the strength of the Neighbourhood Plan but it should be noted that transport regulations state that any development over 100 dwellings required two access points. There is only one viable access to this location.

Drainage, flooding, environmental/ habitat impact and electrical grid capacity were raised as concerns if this development went ahead.

It was explained that the Parish Council had submitted a green call for sites application for the County Council owned land behind Herods farm, to turn the land into a publicly accessible natural chalk area. Catherine Cairns will be providing updated information to circulate to the Parish Council which could be submitted as a response.

Two other sites, one behind the houses on Barrington Road and one opposite the entrance to Mead's farm on the A10 – land here had been requested to be removed from the green belt. One site was being promoted as a 175-space car park for Foxton station plus bicycle spaces and the 2.52 hectares for employment/business use and the other site for 60-90 dwellings.

Mission Street had sold the future land development option at the Burlington Press site to Hill Ltd, who built Challis Close. Mission Street are only wanting to develop the Press buildings as an R&D site.

c. **Emissions near rail crossing (proposal for signs)**

A councillor reported that Great Shelford had a number of signs warning drivers to switch off engines to reduce pollution. Having visited the level crossing, the councillor noted that most cars did not switch off their engines. It was discussed that signs are the remit of County Council Highways and therefore any signs purchased by the Parish Council could be removed.

The Clerk noted that a resident living near the level crossing had complained a number of times about high levels of pollution from idling cars.

It was suggested that information could be publicised on the website, Facebook and in the Laurentian to advise residents about the polluting effect of leaving engines running and the fuel cost that could be saved by switching engines off. Cllr. Hobro will assist with getting the message more widely distributed through the SCDC, Zero Carbon and County Council news bulletins and noted this was a wider issue as there were a number of level crossings in the area.

10. Planning Committee Report and applications:

a. **Reference: 22/01823/FUL The Burlington Press 1 Station Road Foxton**

Extension and external alterations to the Press Building (Units 2, 3 and 7), landscaping and associated works.

<https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/22/01823/FUL>

It was agreed to submit the following comment on this application:

Foxton Parish Council recommends refusal of this application and requests that it go to SCDC Planning Committee if the officer is minded to recommend approval.

We also request that the SCDC Planning Committee make a site visit.

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan states:

Policy FOX/3 The Conservation Area and its setting

All new built development shall contribute positively to the existing historic character of the parish. This will be achieved by the following:

- *Within the Conservation Area, respecting and reinforcing Foxton's distinctive vernacular character as described in the Conservation Area Appraisal*
- *Within the built-up area that provides the setting of the Conservation Area, new buildings shall be a positive asset to the street scene: the height, scale and layout must respect the surrounding pattern and form of development and an appropriate palette of complementary materials shall be used, preferably traditional.*

This application needs to comply with this policy. At present there are some issues

- a) *Point 10.11 of the applicants Heritage Statement states that the proposed metal flue will have 'negligible adverse' effect on the conservation area. This flue will be 12.75m tall rising above the current roof line of the eastern elevation of the Press buildings along Station Road. The flue has been moved along the roofline as per drawing 2640-BP23-P-30-01 so that it is now not in line with the weather vane but more towards Unit 7. This will result in the flue being more visible from Station Road and having a greater adverse impact on the setting of the Conservation Area.*
- b) *There is no detailed information on what emissions might come out of this flue. If the intention is to allow the flue to be used for laboratory or fume cupboard use, even with all the British Standards on emissions controlling the height of the flue to ensure safe dispersal at safe concentrations and the regulations on negating potential adverse impact on air quality, there is still the potential of having the adverse effect of unknown fumes in a residential area.*
- c) *Point 10.13 states that the colour of the windows on Units 2 and 3 will be altered from the current blue to grey. Will the rest of the paint colour scheme be altered to match the proposed window frames colour? Will this colour scheme be replicated throughout the buildings? There should be consistency.*
- d) *Unit 7 proposed changes to the exterior to enhance the Foxton War Memorial setting are welcomed as is the removal of the fan coil units. The electrical sub-station remains as an eye-sore. Can this be either moved or screened in some way?*

Cllr Hobro left the meeting.

b. Reference: 22/02796/HFUL 1 Hall Close Foxton

Rear extension to Bungalow

<https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/22/02796/HFUL>

It was agreed to submit the following comment on this application:

Foxton Parish Council recommends approval of this application but makes the following observations:

- a) *The extension design removes the garage from the dwelling. Hall Close is a small cul-de-sac and cannot take further on street parking. What*

arrangements are there for the applicant to ensure that there is adequate off-road parking?

- b. Will any construction traffic be accommodated off road? Again, Hall Close cannot take on-street parking.*
- c. There should be a condition to ensure that all construction traffic takes particular care when driving along Hall Close to the site because of the very old oak tree set back on the verge at 57 Station Road. This is the only mature oak tree in the main part of Foxton and has a TPO. No parking of any kind should be allowed on the grass verges at any time.*

c. Reference: 22/03005/HFUL 16 Chardle Field Foxton

Installation of solar panels to the front (south west) elevation roof
<https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/22/03005/HFUL>

It was agreed to submit the following comment on this application:
Foxton Parish Council recommends approval of this application.

11. New Complaints Procedure and Vexatious Complaints Procedure

It was agreed that the Parish Council did not need a vexatious complaints procedure. Proposed Peter Tye, seconded Caroline Ilott. All agreed.

It was agreed to adopt the new complaints procedure and to add in that all complaints will be circulated to and dealt with by the Parish Council. Proposed Chris Herriot, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

12. R&A

a. Update (informal football goal, Football Foundation grant progress, tree work, Dovecote thatch inspection)

Due to an issue with the artificial ground surfacing, the informal football goal work needed to be re-costed and will be brought to the September Parish Council meeting for discussion. It was noted that the Parish Council could apply for a Sport England Queen's Jubilee grant.

No progress had been made on the Football Foundation grant as the pitch inspection app was still not running. Once this is available, a pitch inspection would be booked.

A report on the ash tree on the recreation ground had been received which had found no particular change in the tree from the previous test and showed that decay was being held at bay. It was recommended to survey the tree again in approximately 3 years' time and it was considered to err on the side of caution and review the tree in 2 years' time. A notice will be circulated to the sports clubs and on FB.

The Parish Council offered its congratulations to Foxton Cricket Club for getting through to the semi-final of the village cup and commiserations that Foxton lost.

The Dovecote thatching had recently been inspected for insurance purposes and the thatcher had verbally confirmed that the thatching work was of a sufficient standard.

It was proposed to pay for a written inspection report at a cost of £50 to provide evidence for insurance purposes. Proposed Chris Herriot, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

13. MAYD (Melbourn youth club) – request from Melbourn Parish Council for Foxton Parish Council to re-join the MAYD Joint Committee as a partner member and to consider whether to continue contributions and appointing a Parish Council representative (next meeting late August tbc)

Previous contributions and MAYD attendance (one young person so far this year) were considered. It was noted that the Parish Council paid a retrospective contribution based on any attendance from Foxton. It was proposed to ask for a summary of the MAYD planned youth service in the area after their August meeting.

14. S106 update

Only two people turned up to view the plans on 16 July 2022 after the school fun day and then the school picnic were cancelled. The plans were also displayed outside the school on 21 July 2022 with positive feedback received from 45 people including many children, who were all enthusiastic and supportive. When asked whether they used the current playground, at least 9 people said they preferred to go to Gt Shelford or Harston as the playgrounds were so much better. Two villagers complained that the scheme was not worthwhile and not supported but they did not want to engage in debate.

A resident had emailed the Parish Council to propose a pump track on the recreation ground. The resident will be advised that this could only be considered if and when the Parish Council and/or the Recreation Ground Trust managed to acquire more land. The current area available was too small to be able to make this a viable project.

Other points noted:

- A summary of all consultation feedback will be drawn up.
- A more readable version of the plan and photos will be drawn up and published to residents.
- The bespoke tower was too tall and was being reviewed. It will need to meet permitted development rights.
- A quantity surveyor had been approved at a cost of 4% of the overall development cost and the Parish Council will need to formally appoint him and approve the costed fee.
- The Parish Council could apply to the Wooden Spoon charity for accessible equipment. The Parish Council agreed to register an expression of interest for this.
- Procurement and tendering advice will be sought from SCDC.
- Grant applications to landfill companies (FCC and Amey) must be received by early December 22 after expressions of interest had been submitted. The Parish Council must commit to repaying 11% of the overall grant to these grant funding bodies and therefore this money will need to be ringfenced from S106 funds.
- All businesses in Foxton parish will be approached for pledges.
- Fundraising ideas were requested and village groups will be contacted for support. A save the date of Sunday 30 October 2022 for a community event to coincide with Halloween was agreed. (Other suggestions – a fun run on the rec. and Halloween house decoration).

It was agreed to postpone progress of the purchase of a leaf collecting machine, using already agreed ring fenced S106 funds, until Foxton Parish Council can secure a grant and/or find a contractor who can commit to collecting the leaves on the whole of the recreation ground. Currently there is not enough leaf drop and no available contractor time to justify this project. Proposed Chris Herriot, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

The one resident attending left the meeting.

15. Finance

a. Budget review and update (including set up and removal of bank signatories)

The chair congratulated the Clerk on helping to achieve a successful external audit with no issues raised.

The clerk advised that bank signatories had been set up on Barclays and Unity Trust. There was a delay in setting up signatories on Lloyds Bank but the bank had received the bank mandate changes. Simon Buggey is being removed from all accounts.

The budget points raised by the Clerk were considered and will be kept under review. It was noted that a larger budget may be needed for training lights, considering the latest quote of £1110 for repairs from Balfour Beatty.

The covid community grant of £170 will be retained in case it is required in the future for covid support groups.

b. Approval of quotes:

i. DP Garden Works revised contract scope to include verge cutting on Barrington Road £50 per cut.

After three years of chasing, Cambridgeshire County Council had provided their updated verge grass cutting maps which showed a slight discrepancy with the maps held by Foxton Parish Council with additional verge cutting required on Barrington Road. DP Garden Works had quoted 2 hours work plus travel between sites at £50 per cut. It was reported that there were three grass cutting months left this year and areas to reduce grass cutting next year had been identified (an update will be provided in September). The Parish Council agreed to pay up to £200 for this work and to keep the cost under review. Proposed Peter Tye, seconded Chris Herriot. All agreed.

ii. Painting and refurbishment of 2 Foxton village pumps by village warden £97.50 or £170 with work to wooden structure

It was agreed to consider this cost in the next budget. Reinstating the pumps to provide water was discussed and although a conservation officer had confirmed this could not be done due to the potable quality of the water, it could be looked into further.

iii. Wood treatment for shelter on the Green, bus shelter and bench £255

It was agreed that this work could be delayed until next year.

iv. 110L Water bowser carrier £255+VAT, £269+VAT, £323.60+VAT

It was considered that this would be a good investment for watering all the new plants and trees on the recreation ground and it should be stored empty in the compound. All bowzers offered the same capacity and function and there were additional delivery costs. It was agreed to purchase the cheapest bowser (including delivery cost) at £310.00 and that this would be paid out of the open space budget for maintaining the grounds. Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Chris Herriot. All agreed.

v. Dovecote meadow grass cutting & collection Contractor A £500

A further quote had been received for £825.00 plus VAT. It was agreed to accept the quote of £825.00 plus VAT from SP Landscapes due to its experience and environmental accreditation and to use S106 Dovecote funds for this purpose. Proposed Chris Herriot, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

c. Approval of payments

The bank reconciliation and bank statements were reviewed and approved by Chris Herriot.

The following payments were approved. Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

Payments

Payments made (prior agreed)

1. Salary (SO) and pension - LGA 1972 s112, s111	£1047.44
2. Google Ireland Gmail - LGA 1972 s111, s142	£31.28
3. Opus Unmetered street lights - Parish Councils Act 1957, s3; Highways Act 1980 s301	£102.01 inc VAT
4. Opus Metered street lights - Parish Councils Act 1957, s3; Highways Act 1980 s301	£17.06 inc VAT
5. Unity Trust Bank quarterly account fee - LGA 1972 s111, s142	£18.00
6. Foxton Village Hall office hire (2/4) - LGA 1972 s111	£85.38
7. Foxton Village Hall room hire x 3 - LGA 1972 s111	£34.95
8. Peter Evans playground repair work, authorised by Clerk and Chair Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10, Public Health Act 1875, s164	£82.00
9. Peter Evans village warden - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£131.2
10. Red Shoes Accounting - LGA 1972 s112/ LGA 1972 s111	£76.80
11. Unlimited Logos Ltd - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10, authorised PC July 2022	£108.00

Payments to be authorised

1. Parish Clerk Salary, expenses, HMRC, phone and home allowance LGA 1972 s112/ LGA 1972 s111	£126.16
2. Foxton Cricket Club S106 mower grant – S106 Authorised PC July 2022	£2000.00
3. Foxton Cricket Club July grass cutting - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10	£350.00
4. Progreen weed control (church car park and Illingworth Way) Authorised PC April 2022	£60 inc VAT
5. CAPALC councillor training x 2 - LGA 1972 s111	£150
6. CAPALC councillor training x 2 - LGA 1972 s111	£150
7. CAPALC chairman training - LGA 1972 s111	£50

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| 8. Jupiter Play and Leisure foamboard and postage – S106 | £26.14 inc VAT |
| 9. SW Gardens Dovecote hedge - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10
Authorised PC July 2022 | £50.00 |
| 10. SW Gardens grass cutting July (1) - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10 | £175.00 |

Payments received after agenda published

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|---|-----------------|
| 1. DP Garden Works - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10 | £605.00 |
| 2. PKF Little John external audit - LGA 1972 s111 | £360.00 inc VAT |
| 3. Foxton Village Hall meeting room hire - LGA 1972 s111 | £28.45 |
| 4. Peter Evans village warden duties - Open Spaces Act 1906 s9-10 | £157.50 |

*Local Government Act

16. Consider ideas to improve communication with residents (Facebook, Laurentian, website, newsletters)

Some ideas had been received. This item was rolled over to another meeting.

17. Items for next agenda

18. Date and time of Parish Council Meeting: Monday 5 September 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 next agenda item.
Proposed Caroline Ilott, seconded Peter Tye. All agreed.

19. Consider (i) response to letter dated 13 July 2022 from Tees Law on behalf of their client at 28 Illingworth way seeking clarification on two points; and (ii) next steps

Due to the confidential and privileged nature of this item, this item was discussed in a closed meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.



Annabel Wright
Foxton Parish Clerk
3 August 2022

Appendix 1

District Councillor Report August 2022

Councillor James Hobro

District Councillor for the parishes of Foxton, Fowlmere, Heydon, Great Chishill & Little Chishill.

I am always happy to hear from residents with any questions about these or other issues relating to the District Council. Please contact me by telephone on 07768 706670 or by email at cllr.hobro@scambs.gov.uk.

Free to Feed campaign

As part of the #WorldBreastfeedingWeek (1-7 August), the 'Free to Feed' campaign will be launched in South Cambridgeshire to help mothers who breastfeed and/or pump feel confident and relaxed when feeding or pumping for their baby in public. We are encouraging local businesses and venues to take part by signing up and becoming a breastfeeding-friendly location. This is a project that has been funded by Public Health in which we are working in collaboration with Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Foundation Trust, Infant Feeding team. Participating businesses will be displaying 'Breastfeeding friendly' stickers and certificates in their premises, welcoming Mums to help normalise breastfeeding in public.

Licence update for businesses to serve food and drink on pavements and pedestrianised roads

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has announced that temporary changes brought in during COVID-19 which make it quicker, easier and cheaper for business to get a licence to serve food and drink on pavements and pedestrianised roads have been extended. The extension will continue until the changes are made permanent in the spring of 2023. The change was first introduced to help businesses keep operating during the pandemic and was welcomed by the public, café owners and pub landlords. The government will make these changes permanent in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, currently making its way through Parliament.

Support for Ukrainian refugees

Ukrainian families are being given help to integrate into community life thanks to a new grant scheme launched on 7 July by South Cambridgeshire District Council. A wide range of events will be considered for grants, of up to £300 per project, to help reduce social isolation and encourage families to feel involved in their local community and life in Britain. For more information, please see the SCDC Support for Ukraine web page.

Community Facilities now confirmed for Northstowe

Funding for high-quality community facilities for Northstowe residents, has now been confirmed by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

A report discussed at a Full Council meeting on 21 July 2022 outlines a plan for the Council to help fund the growing new town's Sports Pavilion and Community Centre on phase one, and Civic Hub and additional Sports Pavilion on phase two. Councillors unanimously agreed the proposals at the meeting.

The Civic Hub on phase two is intended to be the landmark building within the Town Centre. This will have space for community activity and development, a library service, a GP

surgery, and other similar services. The Sports Pavilion on phase two is likely to be similar to the phase one Pavilion, but details are still being confirmed. These are significant milestones that demonstrate the commitment of South

Cambridgeshire District Council to building a community at Northstowe that offers high-quality housing and local services.

South Cambridgeshire Markets Toolkit and Directory

As part of our Business Plan commitment to help local businesses and economies, the Business Key Projects Team has been working with local traders, communities and businesses to help establish and expand local markets within the District. So far, we have explored how they are run, who by, and whether they wish to grow. Additionally, we have gauged the mood for potential new markets, meeting with groups, village hall users and independent stallholders alike.

To further assist with our push for greater market visibility, we created a specific Market Toolkit guide for anyone considering beginning a market in their village. Coupled with this, our online Trader Directory is designed to list the talented marketeers across the district whilst promoting shopping and supporting local businesses. The overarching goal is to link market organisers with market traders, and help identify additional trading opportunities in the area. Assisting with our aim to expand the Trader Directory, we would greatly appreciate your support in sharing these links across your own social media platforms and contacts. The Council is sharing social media posts on this topic so you may wish to re-share those. For traders wishing to freely sign-up, they can follow the link here. We believe this will assist in the visibility of our small businesses whilst also broadening public interest and support for shopping locally. Contact: businesskeyprojects@scams.gov.uk

Cost of living stakeholder toolkit

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has launched a cost of living stakeholder toolkit which includes a range of materials for organisations to use to support eligible employees, and also to provide an update on the first cost of living payments. It contains:

- A downloadable poster and ordering instructions
- social media copy and assets in English and Welsh
- newsletter copy, FAQs and links
- factsheet
- adaptable assets for stakeholders
- printable PDF for stakeholders

The first half of the cost of living payments were issued last week, following this launch there has been a significant increase in scammers attempting to obtain personal information from customers by sending out texts suggesting that customers are eligible for cost of living payments. Councils are encouraged to remind customers that they do not have to do anything to receive the payments and can help spread the message by using the assets on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

If they are eligible:

- they will not need to apply for the payment
- they will not need to call DWP
- the payment to them is automatic
- DWP will never ask for personal details by SMS or email

DWP leaflets order form

Government announcement on plans to reduce water pollution

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), DLUHC and Natural England have jointly announced new plans to help safeguard England's protected sites by driving down nutrient pollution and allowing for the construction of sustainable new homes. Natural England, in its statutory role as an adviser on the natural environment, has advised a total of 74 Local Planning Authorities on the nutrient impacts of new plans and projects on protected sites where those protected sites are in unfavourable condition due to excess nutrients.

The plans will see:

- A new legal duty on water companies in England to upgrade wastewater treatment works by 2030 in 'nutrient neutrality' areas to the highest achievable technological levels.
- A new Nutrient Mitigation Scheme established by Natural England, helping wildlife and boosting access to nature by investing in projects like new and expanded wetlands and woodlands. This will allow local planning authorities to grant planning permission for new developments in areas with nutrient pollution issues, providing for the development of sustainable new homes and ensuring building can go ahead. DEFRA and DLUHC will provide funding to the scheme.

Natural England will accredit mitigation delivered through the Nutrient Mitigation Scheme, enabling Local Planning Authorities to grant planning permission for developments which have secured the necessary nutrient credits. This will ensure developers have a streamlined way to mitigate nutrient pollution, allowing planned building to continue and creating new habitats across the country.

Announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-plan-to-reduce-water-pollution>

Anti-social behaviour principles

The Home Office has recently published a set of principles developed by the Anti-social Behaviour Strategic Board which seek to describe a consistent approach to understanding and addressing anti-social behaviour in local communities, which will act as a guide to deliver best possible outcomes for the victims of anti-social behaviour.

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anti-social-behaviour-principles/anti-social-behaviour-principles>

Streets for a Healthy Life

On 15 July, Homes for England published a street design best practice guide for highway authorities and housing developers, 'Streets for a Healthy Life' provides examples of UK streets that meet the requirements for 'healthy streets' set out in 'Building for a Healthy Life'. Guidance