

Councillor Peter McDonald Duxford Division & Ward:  
District Councillor for Parishes of Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Babraham, Pampisford.  
County Councillor also for Foxton, Fowlmere, Shepreth, Thriplow, Heathfield, Heydon, Chishills,  
Whittlesford

## **Report for Parish Councils – October 2021.**

### **South Cambs District Council**

Residents are encouraged to comment on the First Proposals for the new Local Plan, after councillors at Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils completed their formal scrutiny of the draft documents.

The public consultation, which will start on 1 November, will help to shape the final plan – which will eventually set out how Greater Cambridge will develop over the next twenty years. The proposals at this stage include 19 new sites for homes and business space, with the majority of extra development proposed for North East Cambridge and the Cambridge Airport site.

37,198 homes are already planned for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire between now and 2041. This is through existing Local Plans for the District and City Councils which were adopted back in 2018, existing planning permissions and ‘windfall’ sites expected to come forward. Proposals for the new joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan suggest the following additional housing sites for the period up to 2041:

- 6,750 new homes at North East Cambridge and Cambridge East (the airport site);
- An additional 1,950 new homes at Cambourne;
- Bringing forward development at Waterbeach new town and Northstowe at a faster rate, so these become thriving communities more quickly;
- An additional 1,000 new homes at Eddington, on the land already allocated for development;
- Six additional village sites, totalling 384 homes;
- One additional site in central Cambridge, for 20 homes.

Full site listings can be seen at - <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan>

### **Afghan Re Settlement**

Five more homes for families from Afghanistan are being put forward by South Cambridgeshire District Council – meaning up to around 40 refugees can now be housed. Last month (August) the Council said it would provide homes to three families as part of its response to the international crisis.

Since then, five further suitable properties have been put forward, including some which have been identified following conversations with housing associations working in the area. All the properties are being made available to support families relocating to the UK through the Afghan Locally Employed Support (LES) scheme, following a plea for Government for Councils to provide more housing help to Afghan nationals who worked for the British Government.

The intention is for Cambridge City Council’s experienced staff team to provide support to families as they arrive, helping them to establish new lives. This was already the arrangement

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for the first three properties identified for the LES scheme by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

### **New Business Growth Fund**

So far c £1.4m has been awarded.

### **Visit South Cambs - Business Listings**

As I mentioned last month South Cambs have launched a new business directory of businesses in the District. This is to try to boost local commerce now that we are coming out of Covid restrictions. Any viable, independent, business in South Cambridgeshire can apply to be listed on the website. It is essentially free advertising! -

<https://www.visitsouthcambs.co.uk/>

### **Cambridgeshire County Report**

The return of schools this term has, as expected, led to a rise in the number of positive cases amongst both pupils and staff. In Cambridgeshire, 31.5% of recorded COVID cases for the week ending 22 September were in the 10 to 14 age group. A further 11.1% were amongst those aged 15 to 19.

As a result, schools are working hard to balance safety with the need to ensure that children receive the education they deserve. All schools continue to ensure buildings are well ventilated and have enhanced cleaning regimes in place and children are encouraged to wash their hands well and regularly.

The rules around self-isolation changed last month and it is no longer a requirement for anyone who is under 18, or has had both doses of the vaccine, to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case. Those who have not had both doses of the vaccine still need to self-isolate. It is therefore important that everyone who is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, takes up the offer.

Pupils with symptoms should not attend school, given the potential risk to others, and should get a PCR test as soon as possible. Headteachers can take the decision to refuse access to school to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19 if they consider the pupil has symptoms.

All education establishments will have contingency arrangements in place to deal with a significant increase in cases and they will work closely with the Local Authority to step up measures where they are needed. This may include reintroducing temporary measures, including the wearing of face coverings and individual classes being ring-fenced from other groups within the school in shared spaces. Where there are insufficient staff to safely operate the school, children may be temporarily moved to remote learning, but only as a last resort.

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Support is available for people who need it whilst self-isolating, including payments for those who will lose income and struggle financially. Parents are also able to claim financial support if they need to self-isolate as a result of a child having symptoms or testing positive.

For more information about this support, see the Council's website here:  
[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/selfisolationsupport](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/selfisolationsupport)

### **Covid 19 Testing**

Residents are being advised that changes to lateral flow test collections from pharmacies come into force (Monday, 4 October).

Under the proposed change, people collecting a test from a pharmacy will be asked to register for a 16-digit collect code via [www.gov.uk/get-collect-code](http://www.gov.uk/get-collect-code) or 119 prior to making a collection. This will then be recorded by the pharmacy.

However, Cambridgeshire County Council is advising residents that if they do not wish to register for a code, new government guidance states that their pharmacist should still provide them with the required test kits and record this as an anonymous collection.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-community-testing>.

### **Sawston Library**

The reopening was on Saturday, October 2nd, with an official ribbon cutting ceremony at 10am. The building replaces the original Sawston Library regrettably lost to fire in 2012. The library opened for use last summer, but public celebration had been delayed due to Covid restrictions.

This new building has been designed as a community hub, housing other services including the relocated children's centre, multi-purpose spaces and an outdoor play area. The library is situated next to the Marven Centre, on the Sawston Village College site.

Peter McDonald

October 5th 2021