

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 – 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 28<sup>th</sup> was:

Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grants

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

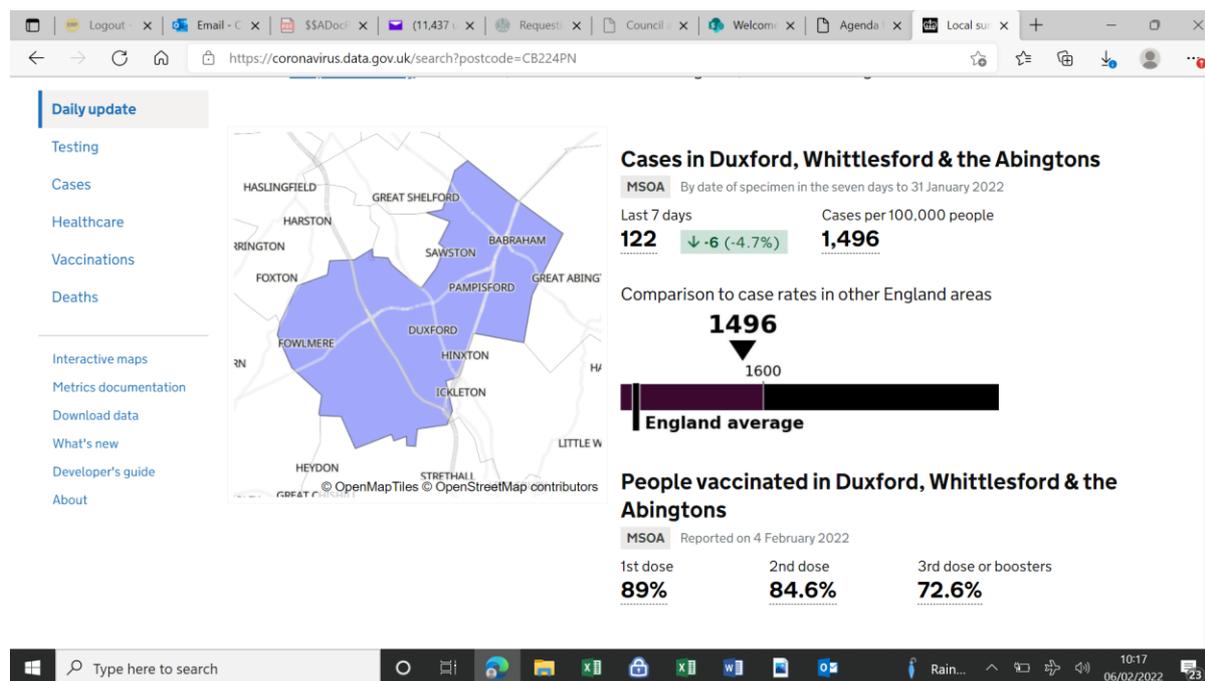
ARG

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

### **Cambridgeshire County Report**

Current Covid & Vaccination Status Locally

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## Cambridgeshire County Council Budget

The Joint Administration is 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.

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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?

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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 25<sup>th</sup>. 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

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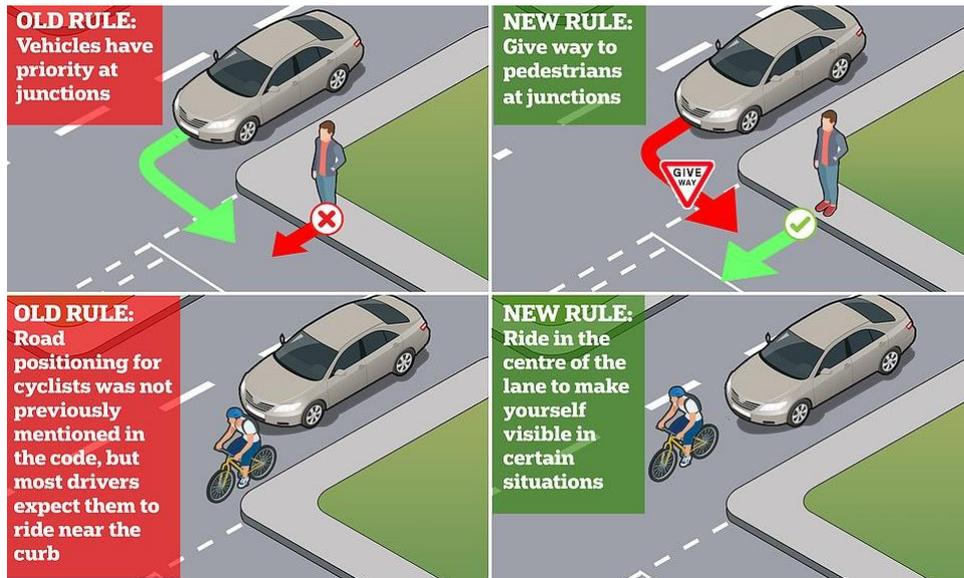
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which is extremely good news. The less good news is that the wheels of government move slowly so we don't expect it to be implemented until 2023.

### **Changes to the Highways Code**

You will be aware of changes to the code from January 29<sup>th</sup>

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



Peter McDonald

February 6th 2022