

District Councillor report to Parish Council July 2021

Toolkit for community safety

A toolkit is being launched by the South Cambs Community Safety Partnership (a partnership between SCDC, Cambridge County Council, the Police, Fire and Rescue services, the probation service and the NHS) which will aim to enable people to keep caring for their community as restrictions from the pandemic ease. Throughout the pandemic many volunteers have helped their neighbours by helping with shopping, collecting prescriptions, walking dogs, sorting meals schemes as well as helping people feel less socially isolated. The toolkit provides training and guidance as well as other tools to help support residents' activities.

- Combating loneliness and isolation
- Reaching your community
- Making the local environment safer and greener
- Crime prevention in your community
- Preventing antisocial behaviour
- Tackling road-related concerns

Update from the Police and Crime Commissioner

The county's new Police and Crime Commissioner, Darryl Preston is providing funding to Cambridgeshire Constabulary to enable access to online programmes to help prevent crime through early intervention.

The programmes provide people who have committed an offence with access to online support packages to help address the root causes of what makes them offend and help them turn their lives around.

The local investment is in line with the Government's approach, to ensure that, at the very first step of the criminal justice process there are effective, swift and evidence-led responses in place to break the cycle of crime.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary already makes use of 'Out of Court Disposals' as an alternative to prosecution, where offenders are provided with tailored conditions and support to help them change their behaviour rather than going to Court. This new kind of electronic intervention, provided online, allows officers to support a significantly larger number of people including those who are currently unable to access services due to a number of diverse needs.

On announcing the programme, Darryl said: "Whilst I will always support robust law enforcement, I know from experience that by focusing on early intervention, rehabilitation and tackling the root causes of someone's offending we can prevent crime.

"We live in an age where people expect to be able to access support online. This pilot scheme will allow offenders to easily access support programmes so they can fulfil conditions placed on their rehabilitation. If they don't meet the conditions placed on them, they will go to court.

"If we can intervene early when people first come into contact with the police there is a chance to get them back on track to help prevent future crime."

The online programme will provide access to a range of targeted support including alcohol and substance abuse, domestic abuse, anger management and help to access education and employment.

Those referred to the programme are provided with a log in and password to their mobile phone or tablet with a set time to complete the programme in their own time and at their own pace through any smart device.

Detective Superintendent Mick Birchall, who manages the Investigations Standards Department at Cambridgeshire Constabulary added:

"It is important that people who commit crime are brought to justice and are less likely to offend again in the future. This intervention programme will help tackle the root causes of what makes people offend and support them to make more positive choices.

"Whilst the initial use of this kind of online support has been part of the overall 'Out of Court Disposal' provision, we are looking to expand this into other areas. We have used electronic interventions on a limited basis and these have proved successful."

The Commissioner added: "Partnership working is key to address the causes of offending. My office works with a range of partners across the broad range of issues that can influence people's offending behaviour, from accommodation to employment and substance misuse."

Each year, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner awards around £1.3m of grants to contribute to crime and disorder reduction. This pilot will be funded over a 1-year period at a cost of £26.5k.

Guidance for weddings

As of the 21st of June, the Government has updated the guidance for couples wanting to get married or form a civil partnership in England. The update includes information on how risk assessments should be carried out, social distancing measures and how food and drink should be served etc. I have given you the link below to the Government website and copied the summary into the report.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-wedding-and-civil-partnership-ceremonies-receptions-and-celebrations>

Summary of changes from 21st June

From the 21st June the rules for wedding and civil partnership ceremonies; and wedding receptions and civil partnership celebrations changed.

There is no longer a maximum number cap for attendees set out in law. Instead, the number of attendees at weddings, civil partnerships and receptions is determined by how many people the venue or space can safely accommodate with social distancing measures in place. This is based on the COVID-19 risk assessment of the venue or outdoor space, and the measures put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Where the premises are operated or used by a business, a charitable, benevolent or philanthropic institution or a public body (such as a place of worship or a hospitality venue) your venue manager will tell you the maximum number of people who will be able to attend.

For events taking place in other venues with more than 30 attendees outdoors, (such as a garden of a private home or on private land), organisers will need to complete a COVID-19 risk assessment to determine how many attendees will be able to attend, and make the venue as safe as possible. A marquee or other structure in a garden of a private home must have at least 50% of its walled area open at any time for it to be classed as 'outdoors' and for the limit based on safe capacity to apply.

For events taking place indoors in other venues with more 6 attendees (or attendees from more than 2 households), organisers also need to complete a COVID-19 risk assessment to determine how many attendees will be able to attend, and make the venue as safe as possible. However, these events must not happen indoors at private dwellings, unless they are urgent marriages where one of those getting married is seriously ill and not expected to recover. These weddings can take place indoors in private dwellings with up to 30 people. This includes enclosed structures in gardens of private homes.

Some restrictions on ceremonies and receptions remain in place to enable them to take place safely. This includes Step 3 requirements on table service, face coverings, social distancing, and guidance on dancing and singing.

Viewings can continue to take place with appropriate COVID-19 mitigation measures in place at any venue which is not required in law to remain closed. This includes, for example, any restaurant or indoor visitor attraction.

Marriages and civil partnerships are a vital part of our society, uniting couples to start their new life together and affording certain legal rights. These ceremonies are often followed by receptions and other celebrations attended by guests that are known to one another. However, by their very nature, in bringing families and friends together, they are social events which are particularly vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19 and restrictions have therefore been necessary to reduce the risk of transmission.

This guidance has been drafted on the basis of the scientific evidence available and will continue to be updated in line with the changing situation and as more data becomes available on COVID-19.

The government has been working closely with stakeholders in the wedding industry and the Places of Worship Taskforce to consider how we are able to allow marriages and civil partnerships, including receptions and celebrations, to take place safely.

This guidance is of a general nature. For specific scenarios you're advised to refer to the legislation.

Cambridge South Station

Network Rail has submitted a Transport and Works Act Order application for a new station in the vicinity of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus to improve connectivity in Cambridgeshire and beyond. I have always been passionately in favour of a station on the Biomedical Campus and lobbied whoever would listen that this should happen sooner rather than later so I am pleased to see these proposals put forward that I believe will benefit patients and staff travelling to the Biomedical Campus and provide real green alternatives to driving into Cambridge. I have spoken about Cambridge South in a number of previous reports but wanted to make you aware of some of the plans that have been put forward so have copied a summary below.

Plans would involve the construction and operation of a new two storey, four platform station on the West Anglia Main adjacent to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus which could include:

- *a ticket office*
- *ticket vending machines*
- *lifts providing step free access to all platforms*
- *accessible toilets, baby change facilities, waiting area and space for retail/catering*
- *access for pedestrians and cyclists from both sides of the railway with capacity for a 1000 cycle parking spaces*
- *modification to roads and crossings to facilitate access to the station*

We also plan to modify and enhance the rail infrastructure to support the new station which could include:

- *remodelling of the existing track layout*
- *installing two additional track loops to accommodate a four-platform station*
- *enhancements to Shepreth branch junction*
- *modification to the railway on the southern approach to Cambridge station*
- *provision for overhead line electrification infrastructure and a substation*
- *modification of existing signalling equipment*
- *closure of two private level crossing and provision of alternative access*

Subject to gaining the necessary consents, work could start on the station in 2022 with a funder target of station opening in 2025. A funding statement is included in the TWAO application with a projected investment package of £183.6m to deliver the new station and the associated infrastructure changes.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. I am happy to answer questions over the phone or via email. Contact me on 07595 361 285 or email graham.cone@councillor.online

