

## District Councillor report to Parish Council November 2021

### Grant funding to support children and young people

As part of the Council's package to help people recover from the pandemic, £38,000 has been made available for projects which help empower children and young people to build self-confidence and make a positive difference to themselves and/or their community. Organisations that are charitable or set up for social benefit and Parish Councils can apply for the funding, the grants must be between £4,000 and £8,000 and applications can be made through the SCDC website. It would be really lovely to see some of this money come to the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn ward so I would encourage Parish Councillors to think about local groups that may benefit from this pot of cash. If you need help or support for the application please ask and I will happily put you in touch with officers who will guide you through this process.

### Public consultation on the new Local Plan

In my previous report I have given you lots of information on the Local Plan and where my focus will be in terms of Scrutiny and feedback to the consultation. The public consultation will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> November and will be a key opportunity for residents and Parish Councillors to have their say on the proposals that have been put forward. There is a lot in the emerging local plan that will affect the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn ward as much of the new plan development is on the East of the city including the NECAAP site which means the Water Treatment Plant which has no operational need to move, will need to move to allow for housing development via the Housing Infrastructure Fund agreement. The airport would also be developed with around 7000 houses effectively linking Teversham to the city. Waterbeach New Town would see an additional 2000 houses than what was planned in the current Local Plan, this will clearly affect traffic movements through Fen Ditton and Horningsea. I also have concerns about removing the upper limit on housing density which could see developments come forward that are of higher density than residents would expect. It is really important that residents take part in the consultation, raise their concerns and the bits of the plan that they like and are in agreement with. Local Plans are never easy to put together and it is always a difficult balance around providing enough housing and protecting the look and feel of South Cambridgeshire.

## Skills to start or advance careers in health and care sectors.

The Health and Care Sector Academy is a pilot project developed by City College Peterborough, the Department of Work and Pensions and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. It is hoped that the pilot will allow 1350 people to start or advance their skills in healthcare or care giving. The free courses are for those living in the Cambridgeshire or Peterborough region or are in receipt of an in or out of work benefit. Support can also be given to help with things like childcare and travel costs through a bursary scheme to enable this training.

This pilot is one of six being trialled nationally, put together and funded by the Department of Work and Pensions. The aim is to reduce dependence on in and out of work benefits by recruiting unemployed or lower skilled people into healthcare sector roles. It will also support existing employees to progress to higher skilled and better paid roles. Employers will also benefit via a reduction in labour turnover, help with development and progression within the workforce enabling vacancies that require skills to be filled. Mayor Dr Nik Johnson said the following:

“This investment in skills in health and care will repay itself many times over. Skills shortages directly affect the service that can be provided to people who need it. Bringing more skilled people into the sector will fill vacancies, drive up standards and meet more of the demand for health and care support.

“Second, our region contrasts hugely in levels of skills. In Fenland and Peterborough for example, we have some of the lowest levels of skills in the country. This often leads to lower paid, less secure work, putting pressure on communities and people’s health and wellbeing.

“This academy will help train up more people in good, secure jobs, where skills are in high demand, and with potential for career progression. It is another example of the Combined Authority matching a local need for investment in skills, with an employer need to tackle staff shortages.

“It was fantastic to visit City College Peterborough to see these courses in action.”

Pat Carrington, Executive Principal at City College Peterborough, said:

“The College is very excited about the renewal of support and funding from the Combined Authority and the DWP to refresh the Health and Care Sector Work Academy.

“We’re proud to be leading on what is a national pilot and we’re determined to deliver on the potential of this academy to help people into great careers and bring much-needed new talent into a sector on which so many rely.

“It was great to welcome the Mayor to relaunch the academy and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Combined Authority.”

For those interested in enrolling to the Health and Care Sector Work Academy, visit <https://www.healthandcareacademy.co.uk/>

### Launch of new on demand bus service for the western part of Huntingdonshire

TING, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority’s new on-demand service, to support rural communities across the western part of Huntingdonshire, goes into operation today (25 October).

The new ‘Uber’ style bus service, which is being operated in the area by Stagecoach East, is a great way to get about in West Huntingdonshire without having to rely on a car.

ting isn’t fixed to a specific route or timetable. It provides passengers the option to book an on-demand, tailor made service in real time by using the ting trips app, or calling our local call centre, allowing people across all age groups to order a bus from even the most remote locations and travel any one-way ride for just £2.

Clever technology uses algorithms to join up several people’s needs, combining them into one trip to make sure they all get to where they need to be. Users can book their seats up to seven days in advance or on the same day of their journey, just as you would a taxi in a town centre. The demand responsive service runs between 7am-7pm Monday-Friday and 8am-4pm Saturday. ting doesn’t however operate on Sundays or Bank Holiday Mondays.

The ting branded fleet of four Optare solo, single deck vehicles, provide an overlay service, and operate in addition to the existing bus services currently

running across the area. It isn't a replacement of services and it's not the same as a dial-a-ride service.

The six-month trial has been put forward by the Combined Authority as a much-needed public transport option to get people out of their cars and supports its plans to help the region meet the 2050 Net Zero target for carbon emissions and to make its own operations net zero by 2030.

I think we should be watching this trial very closely in the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn ward given some of the villages have little or no bus service such as Teversham village, Great Wilbraham and Little Wilbraham. This could be a solution that would help the more rural villages in this area gain access to public transport. I will be very interested to see how this works and what the customer experience is like after the six month trial.

Thank you for taking the time to read my report. If you have any questions on my report I will be happy to answer them over the phone (please leave a voicemail) on 07595 361 285 or via email [graham.cone@councillor.online](mailto:graham.cone@councillor.online)