

County Councillor Report for Parishes – January 2022 – Cllr Anna Bradnam

Covid-19

Just before Christmas we received information from **Jan Thomas**, Joint Executive Lead Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System:

“Significant progress has been made to accelerate the COVID-19 booster programme. More appointments have been opened up and in the middle of December we delivered our highest ever number - 72,000 vaccinations in just one week. In the week before Christmas we delivered our highest number of daily vaccinations - 16,500 vaccination in just one day. We have already delivered over 387,000 boosters in our area, which is 70.5% of those currently eligible, and we are giving thousands more boosters daily. This is thanks to the incredible efforts of everyone involved – our GPs, Pharmacists, Hospital Hubs, large scale vaccination centres, teams vaccinating our housebound patients, volunteers, local authorities, and our CCG for pulling together to rapidly accelerate our booster programme.

For those who are most at risk from COVID-19 our support continues: Fast Pass arrangements at vaccination centres enable pregnant or breastfeeding women to skip the queue.

For our housebound patients, and those living in care and nursing homes, our Primary Care Networks and community provider colleagues are delivering their vaccines in their homes.

Our call for volunteers remains. If any of your local residents are interested in volunteering to help, we would ask them to sign up via the [Royal Voluntary Service website](#).”

Vaccinations

If you have not yet received all the vaccinations for which you are eligible, please see:

[The Vaccinators | COVID-19 Vaccination Centres | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough](#)

The nearest is The Grafton Centre (daily walk-ins 08:30 - 4pm and Tues and Weds until 7.30pm) Chesterton Indoor Bowls Club, Over Healthcare and the Village Pharmacy, Fulbourn, which are all taking bookings for

- 1st and 2nd doses for people aged 12 years old and over
- [3rd doses for people with a severely weakened immune system](#) aged 18 years old and over
- boosters for people aged 18 years old and over
- boosters for people aged 16 and 17 years old who are at [high risk from COVID-19](#) OR frontline health and social care workers

If you are unable to book an appointment online please call 119.

Milton COVID vaccine appointments available on 9th January

Milton Surgery have appointments available on Sunday 9th January 2022 **for their patients** who wish to book their COVID-19 vaccine. Please call the surgery to book an appointment on **01223 420511**.

Testing – after a dip in availability LFD and PCR tests are beginning to come online again but demand is high and stores are running out soon after they have received a delivery.

Grants and Funding

Community Fund: deadline for applications - 1st February 2022

Twenty-four community organisations across Cambridgeshire have benefited this year from a fund set up to better equip communities and organisations to support local residents. The twenty four organisations have received a total of £276,352. The **Innovate and Cultivate Fund** helps voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to set up special projects which support and benefit local communities.

For example, Mepal Makers has created a Community Workshop, which makes, repairs, recycles and upcycles items to improve the mental health of older men, increase resilience and to encourage community links across generations.

Waterbeach and Landbeach Action for Youth also received funding for its youth club. This allowed the group to gain match funding from Waterbeach Parish Council and together the two funds have enabled it to employ a part time community youth worker and increase delivery of services.

In the latest round of grants announced last month, nine Cambridgeshire groups have received combined funding of nearly £50,000. They are:

- C3 Church
- Cam Sight
- Haddenham Arts Centre CIC
- Headway Cambridgeshire
- Kings Hedges Family Support Project
- Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust
- St Peter's Church Yaxley
- **The Edmund Trust**
- Young People's Counselling Service

Recently it was agreed to incorporate an awareness of inclusion, biodiversity and climate change into future project criteria and to include projects which will support anti-poverty as well as providing more support with the application process for community groups.

This fund also supports vulnerable groups, reducing loneliness and increasing independence. There is still funding available so get in touch if you have a project which you think the fund could support.

The next application round closes on 1st February 2022.

More details here <http://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html>

Household Support Fund

Cambridgeshire's Household Support Fund, funded by the Department for Work and Pensions, has been created to help people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food, household energy or other essential items. **The scheme will run until 31 March 2022.**

Support is offered in two ways:

- Support with food, household energy and other essentials for individuals and families: residents are eligible to access this support if they earn less than £17,940 per year, or are in receipt of certain state benefits
- Direct food voucher scheme: as in previous school holidays, supermarket vouchers will be issued to families meeting the low income criteria for free school meals, funded childcare for two-year-olds, early years pupil premium, or sixth form students eligible for free school meals.

[Household Support Fund - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Transport

Guided Busway

Following a tragic accident, the County Council will be temporarily closing a section of the Guided Busway in one direction, between Cambridge Railway Station and Addenbrooke's Hospital.

The inbound only track (closest to the maintenance track) will be closed. The busway will be used outbound from the railway station to Addenbrooke's and then inbound buses will use Hills Road on the return journey. This follows ongoing communications with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and as part of our continuous review of safety on the busway.

Cllr Peter McDonald, Chair of the Highways and Transport Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "We have taken the extremely difficult decision to partially close the southern section of the Guided Busway while we wait for the outcome of the independent safety review [of the whole track] following our ongoing communications with HSE....This is a temporary measure while the review we have commissioned is carried out. When we receive the recommendations of that review, we will carefully consider any future actions that are required."

Flood Risk Management – a consultation until 23 January 2021

Residents are being invited to have their say on plans to help reduce the risk of flooding in Cambridgeshire over the next six years. As a Lead Local Flood Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible for developing, maintaining and applying a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) for the county.

The key objectives of the strategy are; understanding flood risk in Cambridgeshire, managing the likelihood of flooding, helping residents to manage their own risk, ensuring appropriate development in Cambridgeshire and improving flood prediction, warning and post-flood recovery. The council's current LFRMS now requires updating and the new strategy will cover 2021 to 2027. Before the strategy is agreed by council members, residents are invited to have their say as part of a six-week consultation.

Following the flooding that occurred in winter 2020/21, officers agreed that there needs to be greater clarity on the roles of each flood risk management authority and this has been incorporated into the new strategy. There is also increased reference to owners of properties featuring watercourses and community involvement.

The public consultation runs until 23 January 2021. Residents can have their say by visiting ([Consult Cambridgeshire | Homepage \(engagementhq.com\)](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/consultation)).

Residents can check their flood risk by using the online flood maps to check whether they're at risk of flooding at <https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding>

Combatting Climate Change: draft strategy and action plan

The new draft strategy and action plan for Cambridgeshire focusses on cutting carbon emissions before it's too late to prevent severe climate impacts. As a low-lying area, flood risk and rising sea levels are real future risks for the county's communities too.

The County Council's Environment and Green Investment Committee has agreed a draft plan to deliver on its commitments, work with the Combined Authority's Climate Commission and district council partners, and respond to the inevitable future challenges by setting:

- a new ambition for Cambridgeshire to reach net zero emissions by 2045.
- an organisational target for the county council to reach Net Zero by 2030.
- the need for the council and others to engage, support and collaborate with its communities, partners and businesses to make positive changes themselves.

Tackling climate change is the Joint Administration's top priority which is why this updated strategy commits to leading the way for a fundamental shift in the way the council, its partners and communities work to reduce the impacts of climate change.

Since the council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, awareness and understanding of the risks we face when it comes to the impact of climate change has grown. The evidence is clear. The strategy commits the council to focussing its efforts in three key areas - reducing carbon emissions, supporting the development of resilient communities so that they can adapt to the impacts of climate change, and supporting nature and biodiversity to thrive. Focusing on these areas will deliver social, economic, environmental and health benefits for people, businesses, and communities in Cambridgeshire.

As part of the council's plan to achieve net-zero for direct emissions by 2030, the draft strategy sets out how the council will meet that deadline by, for example:

- Delivering low carbon transport solutions for fleet vehicles
- Delivering net zero carbon buildings and generate renewable energy from our assets
- Improving the management of our open spaces to increase biodiversity

The strategy also commits to halving indirect emissions through the council's supply chains by 2030 and sets out how it will work in partnership with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Climate Commission and district partners to bring actions together to align work

programmes. It also identifies how it will collaborate with businesses and communities and support all sectors to understand how they can reduce carbon emissions, benefit nature and take positive climate action.

The draft Cambridgeshire Net Zero emission by 2045 Strategy can be read on the council's website [here](#) and will be considered for adoption at full Council 8 February 2022.

Recognition for Apprentices

The deadline for the first ever county-wide Apprenticeship Awards launched by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council has been extended to **5pm on Thursday 6 January**. The awards are aimed at recognising and celebrating the commitment, hard work and achievements of individuals completing and supporting an apprenticeship. Anyone can nominate an apprentice for an award by visiting: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/jobs-and-careers/cambridgeshire-apprenticeship-awards-2022>.

Nominations can be made for the following categories:

Working with People Award

Behind the Scenes Award

Team Working Award

Personal Achievement

Selected from the above categories will be an overall **Apprentice of the Year**. The judges are looking for an exceptional apprentice who can demonstrate their achievements and the impact they have made within their organisation.

Nominations can also be made for

Apprentice Manager/Mentor Award

Apprentice Ambassador/Champion Award

Will you try Dry January?

A public health campaign run by the charity Alcohol Change UK sees millions of people across the UK go alcohol-free for 31 days.

This year Cambridgeshire County Council is encouraging residents and employees to sign up to Dry January and discover the many benefits of going alcohol-free, including the financial, physical, and medical benefits this can bring. Drinking alcohol is linked to more than 60 health conditions, including liver disease, high blood pressure, depression, and seven types of cancer. Every day in the UK, 20 people die as a result of their drinking.

People who have tried Dry January before have reported several benefits, including having more energy, saving money, and freeing up time and resources to spend doing things they love. Last year during Dry January, 86% of participants saved money, and 65% of people noticed generally improved health.

Alcohol Change UK have a free app, 'Try Dry', which can double your chance of being totally alcohol-free. The app allows you to track units, calories, and money saved over the month and set goals.

Visit [the Alcohol Change website](#) to find out more.

To learn more about why to go dry for January, go to [the Alcohol Change website](#)

Dry January is not suitable for people who are alcohol dependent who may need help from local support services to come safely off alcohol. Please get in touch with the Councils commissioned drug and alcohol support service Change Grow Live if you need support: [Click here to learn more](#).

Wishing everyone in Milton, Chesterton Fen, Landbeach, Waterbeach, Chittering, Horningsea and Fen Ditton a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Anna Bradnam

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