

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

Report for Parish Councils – June 2020.

South Cambs District Council

For this month I've now included other major items as well as C19.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

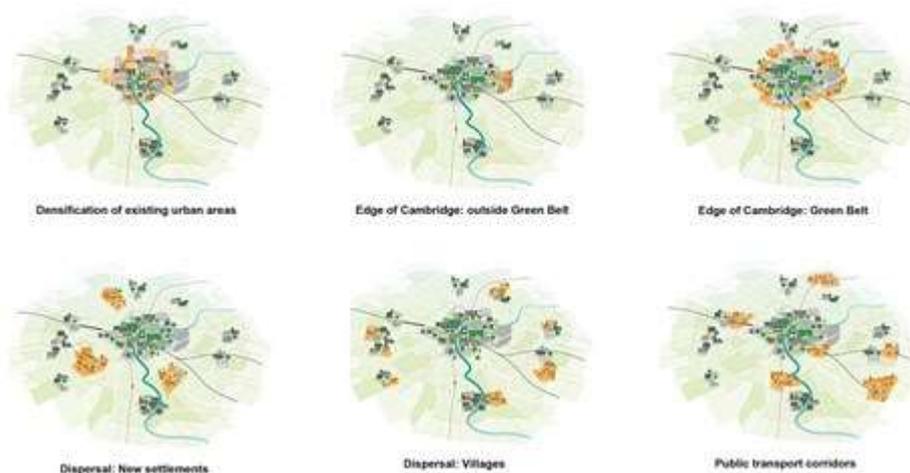
The thousands of people who took part in a recent consultation on the future of Greater Cambridge are being thanked by councils – as a report published on Friday (22 May) sets out that the consultation ‘reached more residents than ever’.

The seven big themes

From the circa 7,000 comments received, which the councils are still in the process of analysing, the [Initial Feedback from the Consultation](#) identified some key areas to be explored during the development of the Local Plan:

- On where to build, it appears there is support for densification of existing urban areas, along with development along public transport corridors. Views on development around villages were polarised and, on green belt development, it appears there is some support for locations which are sustainable in transport terms, to reduce car travel from locations further away
- Most people agree that the right seven themes have been identified for the Plan, but there was a range of views about which themes should take priority
- Infrastructure – which can refer to road and cycle networks, education and health provision, and more – was the theme that attracted the most interest, by a substantial margin, with transport being the most commented on topic
- The second most popular theme was homes, followed by climate change, which prompted a wide range of views – from those who felt it was a high priority, to those who felt that other issues should take precedence
- Many responses said that continuing economic growth was important, although many also raised questions around whether growth was desirable. Some stated that wellbeing was a priority over growth, while others expressed the view that economic growth was the means to raise quality of life.

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Options put forward for where to build

The report, [published for the meeting of the Joint Local Planning Advisory Group on 2 June](#), also outlines a proposed timeline for the next stages of the Local Plan process, which takes into account the comments received and the clear aspiration for continued involvement by communities in the early stages. The new programme outlined in the report makes arrangements to do so, and includes:

- publishing emerging evidence from commissioned external experts in October 2020, followed by stakeholder engagement workshops to debate these in November/December
- the first key milestones for public participation in the plan in summer 2021, when members of the public will be asked to input into the proposed approach. This will be the ‘Preferred Options’ stage, which sets out specifics such as proposed levels of development for jobs and homes; sites allocated for development; and the preferred approach for key policy topics such as climate change targets, affordable housing thresholds, and approach to development in villages.

The proposed timeline is subject to approval by councillors during June 2020.

The [report](#) can be viewed on the website. The Greater Cambridge Planning Service is a partnership between Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councils, and updates on the Local Plan process will be available at www.greatercambridgeplanning.org

Business Grant Funding

On May 13th the Government announced a further ‘discretionary’ business grant scheme which in South Cambs will be c £1m.

Whilst this is a discretionary scheme for local authorities to deliver, many of the criteria have been set nationally, including the priority areas below. In response to the leader’s comments that some of these categories are not a priority for us, we sought guidance from BEIS who responded as follows: “To summarise, funding should be focused primarily on those categories listed but we accept that a proportion of it won’t be used on those and it is for the LAs to decide who in that group they think are the most needy. So effectively we need to

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include the following categories, but can decide on the amounts we award per category, and we can add extra categories.”

Categories identified by government:

- Small businesses in shared offices or other flexible workspaces. Examples could include units in industrial parks, science parks and incubators which do not have their own business rates assessment.
- Regular market traders with fixed building costs, such as rent, who do not have their own business rates assessment.
- Bed & Breakfasts which pay Council Tax instead of business rates; and
- Charity properties in receipt of charitable business rates relief which would otherwise have been eligible for Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rate Relief.

In addition to these priorities, the government guidance sets out a number of eligibility criteria, including:

- A rateable value or rent or mortgage of less than £51k
- Ineligible for other current schemes, such as Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Discount and the first round of Small Business Grants
- Turnover is not more than £10.2m
- Balance sheet total is not more than £5.1m
- Less than 50 employees
- Must have relatively high ongoing fixed property related costs
- Must be able to demonstrate a significant fall in income
- Must have been trading as of 11th March 2020 (any company in administration or insolvency is excluded)
- Charities must have a rateable value of less the £15k and must not already receive Small Business Rate Relief.

The scheme will open in June and close 2-3 weeks afterwards.

Milton Country Park is being provided with up to £50,000 by the District Council, to ensure residents can keep enjoying the green spaces and paths.

The grant will include a £25,000 payment now and the option of the second half from September. It is being made available to the Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust charity, which runs the 95-acre Park on South Cambridgeshire District Council’s behalf.

The park has a combination of woodland, water and grassy meadow habitats which are carefully managed to support and enhance diversity and the natural environment. Throughout the year there is an abundance of wildlife to see and enjoy.

However, in March, the main sources of income – the car park and café – were closed to help with social distancing requirements. The Park’s chargeable sports and activity programme also stopped. The car park only re-opened at the start of May, for use by visitors who have no option but to drive there, with the café currently only serving takeaways. These factors led to Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust furloughing staff to keep costs down and struggling to meet running costs.

The Trust has not been eligible for the Government’s business support schemes as it does not pay business rates – a key criteria for the main grant schemes announced so far. A

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Crowdfunding scheme is currently running and has reached almost £9,000 but more help is needed to keep the Park open. This led to the Trust approaching the Council.

In 2008, the Council handed the lease for the Country Park to the Trust. Should the trust not be able to continue running it, then the management would revert to be the Council's responsibility.

South East Cambridge Masterplan

The preferred routes/options have been published which impacts Babraham with regard to development points 6,7,8.

https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/cambridgesoutheast/cambridge-south-east-transport-background?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery



Planning Delegations

This was adopted at the Full Council. My submission to the debate is below. Positive sign was a planning application in Whittlesford which came to Committee:

“The issue of Planning delegation goes to the heart of the trade-off between all-encompassing democracy and legal and efficient working of the Council. In deciding whether to support these recommendations I have a number of tests which I like Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Batchelor to apply going forward.

- The amended delegations are logical and sensible from a non legal person point of view. However, we must ensure Parish input on key applications don't fall through the cracks. Provided we adopt and embed what is here that mustn't and shouldn't happen.
- Parishes are statutory consultees. We will of course maintain those rights and indeed strengthen them, but we should re state our commitment to that.
- The Chairman's role is key since he acts as challenger to the officer in the case of non-referral. I trust the Chairman to pick up this challenge and act accordingly in cases where Parishes are concerned about applications.

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- Where there is a difference of opinion the Local Member must be given full voice to make a referral and I believe this is contained in the scheme.
- When a non-referral occurs then there must be a full explanation to the Parish why not and the local member should be included in this explanation. This would be a very very important enhancement
- We should carefully monitor the referrals and address any non increase in the trend. I'm not gong to set a target since that may be invalid but recommend that process is taken fully on board.
- Parishes need to be able to sit down with their new Area Officers as soon as time allows. Can we do this by Zoom soon?
- I recognise and appreciate all the hard work done by you and officers. Now we need to translate all that into wider and deeper Parish engagement with our new Team leads.
- This should not be the end of the story but a Chapter in improving transparency and efficiency.”

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Cambridgeshire County Report

Schools

Jonathan Lewis, Service Director for Education at Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council:

“Parents have the option about whether to send their children or not. We do not have a mandate, and we will not penalise any parent who doesn't send their children back in this academic year. Schools will continue to support pupils at home.

“If and when our schools do re-open, measures will be in place to ensure they are safe, with steps taken and adjustments made to ensure social distancing amongst children and staff. We are also fully engaging in the roll out of test and tracing.

“Most of our schools have remained open throughout the lockdown period for vulnerable children and those of key workers. In fact, across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough our levels of attendance have consistently been above the national average.

“We want to see our children returning to school, and hopefully the guidance from government today will provide evidence that categorically proves it is the right time to do so.”

Track & Trace

From May 28th people across Cambridgeshire are being urged to support a new NHS Test and Trace programme which will aim to track every single case of coronavirus in our communities to stop the infection spreading.

As we move out of the national lockdown, we are asking those who have been in contact with anyone who might have the virus to isolate themselves.

Cambridgeshire County Council will also be able to take robust action where a number of people have or are suspected of having caught the virus.

From now on, everyone is being asked to follow this three-step plan:

Step 1 - If you have one or more of the symptoms of coronavirus – a fever, a new continuous cough or a loss of taste or smell – you and the people you live with must immediately self-isolate.

Step 2 – You then must book a test on the [NHS coronavirus website](#) and if you don't have internet access dial 119. Do not leave home for any other reason. If you test positive, you will then be contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service within 24 hours.

Step 3 – If you do test positive, NHS Test and Trace will help you establish who you have been in contact with and might have infected. This could be members of your own household already isolating or someone you have been within 2 metres of for more than 15 minutes. You will also be given clinical advice and support for dealing with the virus. NHS Test and Trace will then contact those contacts anonymously. If you are one of those contacts, you will be advised to isolate for 14 days, even if you don't have symptoms or feel perfectly well. If you developed symptoms, you would be required to get a test.

A network of COVID-19 hubs is working across the county to help people who need support at this time and don't have family, friends or neighbours they can ask for help.

People who need help whilst isolating should visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call 0345 045 5219.

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New Walking & Cycling Routes

As the nation gets ready for a return to a ‘new normal’ due to Covid-19, the Government has advised members of the public to walk and cycle wherever possible, rather than relying on cars and public transport.

Since the Government announcement easing the nation’s lockdown restrictions, working closely with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, we have spent time preparing for both permanent and temporary measures – some of which could be put in place within the next two weeks.

These measures aim to make walking and cycling a default option, by making it as easy as possible to make short trips. We have been working with organisations such as Camcycle and Sustrans.

As well as lessening the chances of spreading and catching Covid-19, walking and cycling also improves health and is better for the environment – two key factors which will help improve your chances of surviving the virus, should you get it.

In Cambridgeshire, there will be three waves of improvements planned as follows, including:

- Shelford Road to the Waitrose junction - removal of bus lane and widening of cycle lanes
- Chesterton Road – removal of centre line and addition of a cycle lane
- Milton High Street – removal of centre line and addition of a cycle lane
- Girton Road – removal of centre line and addition of a cycle lane
- Kings Hedges Road – removal of a centre line and addition of a cycle lane

By early June

- Trumpington Road – on carriageway cycle lane and removal of bus lane and parking
- Trumpington Street to Kings Parade – potential on carriageway cycle lane

By mid June

- One-way system in place on Mill Road.

In addition, the council is working with the Greater Cambridge Partnership to see if it can move ahead with the temporary closure of Luard Road and Grange Road in Cambridge.

Other areas being considered, subject to Department for Transport funding, include:

- Pedestrian crossings – Trialling the replacement of the existing ‘push’ buttons with touch-free options and reducing waiting times for pedestrians at busy crossings in the city centre.
- School street closures - Introducing temporary closures or vehicle restrictions (with the exception of residents or delivery drivers) on roads outside schools in the city.
- Vegetation clearing - Working with Aragon Direct Services to ensure that cycle paths and footpaths are clear overhanging vegetation and more inviting for people to use them.
- Additional cycle parking across Peterborough
- Cycle repairs, training and maintenance facilities
- Cycle lane refreshes
- Temporary social distancing information placed on footpaths and cycle lanes to encourage social distancing
- Monitoring walking and cycling levels across the city on a regular basis
- Increasing Bikeability at schools in the city (school cycle proficiency training)

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- Working with businesses to encourage sustainable travel
- Further longer-term development of the city's Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan
- Investigating any other temporary cycling/pedestrian improvement suggestions from residents, businesses and organisations throughout the city.

Home Learning Hub

Resources and links to help support the mental health and wellbeing of children and parents during Covid-19 have been rolled out by Cambridgeshire County Council.

Education and Public Health leads have joined forces to provide a range of trusted and wide-ranging resources and links, giving children and parents somewhere to turn if they need help.

The resources offer easy access to a range of free, confidential support services which are on hand to help anyone dealing with emotional or physical issues, abuse, substance misuse, or mental health problems.

Some of the services offer support over the phone, giving you a chance to have a chat with a professional, while others are available online, via text, or even through a dedicated app.

Children and parents can find the resources through the county council's popular Home Learning Hub, which offers activities, challenges and lessons plans from across the curriculum – helping those currently learning at home.

You can learn more about resources for children and parents on the Cambridgeshire Learn Together website. <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/home-learning/wellbeing/cyp>

Foxton Travel Hub

This proposal for the travel (Southern option) is going to the GCP Board June 4th

It currently doesn't contain a bridge crossing on the A10 and leaves this open to National Rail to propose. The business case is here:

<file:///C:/Temp/ab098/Downloads/GCP%20-%20Foxton%20Travel%20Hub%20-%20Outline%20Business%20Case.pdf>

Communities Capital Fund

We have submitted an application for £76k for a mobile classroom for Foxton pre school.

Young Peoples Services

The coronavirus and the government lockdown have had an impact on all our lives. Being away from school and not seeing your wider family and friends can be really difficult. Even though technology is helping us stay in touch, it won't always make up for hugging your family members or hanging out with your friends face to face.

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If you are struggling or finding things a bit tough there are lots of services out there to help. Some offer help over the phone, so you can speak to someone in confidence about anything that is on your mind. They are trained to help and will not judge. There are other types of services available too, like a text messaging service and an app.

They are all free, entirely confidential and ready to help.

Keep Your Head

The best place to keep up to date with information on local services is through the 'Keep Your Head' website. This is updated regularly, and is a good place to go to see what help is available locally.

<https://www.keep-your-head.com/cyp>

Chat Health

A text messaging service in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough that provides support for young people aged 11-19 around a variety of topics such as: emotional health, relationships, self-harm, bullying, alcohol/drug use, healthy eating.

Text 07480 635 443

Texts are usually replied to within one working day and cost the same as a standard text or will come out of your contract message allowance.

Kooth

www.kooth.com

Available for any young person aged 11-18 years old with a Cambridgeshire or Peterborough postcode. Kooth offer online support from counsellors, access to a number of moderated forums, and a range of self-help materials.

Chums

Chums – <http://chums.uk.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Duty-Line-2020-1.pdf>

A phone service is available to offer support and guidance to children and young people, parents/carers and professionals.

Centre 33

Centre 33 – <http://centre33.org.uk/help/about-us/>

Available for anyone 18 and under, Centre 33 operate a range of services from free counselling and support to information on sexual health, housing and budgeting.

The 5 centres are currently closed due to the lockdown, but the service is still running and continues to offer support, via any of the means below:

Tel: [0333 4141809](tel:03334141809)

Text/whatsapp: [07514 783745](tel:07514783745)

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Email: help@centre33.org.uk

Safeguarding Reminder

Children's Safeguarding

If you are concerned that a child may be suffering physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect or is at risk of significant harm you should contact Children's Services using one of the following: • Cambridgeshire children: 0345 045 5203
ReferralCentre.children@cambridgeshire.gov.uk • Peterborough children: 01733 864180 •
Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team (EDT): 01733 234724 If you are a professional you can report a safeguarding concern using the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Safeguarding Referral Form. All telephone referrals will need to be followed up in writing within 24 hours by the referring professional.

Adult Safeguarding

If you have concerns for an Adult, you should contact Adult Services using one of the following: Cambridgeshire County Council • Telephone: 0345 045 5202 • Email: referral.centre-adults@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Peterborough City Council • Telephone: 01733 747474 • Email: adultsocialcare@peterborough.gov.uk Between Monday to Thursday 5pm to 8am and Friday 4pm to Monday 8am, adult safeguarding concerns can be directed to the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) – 01733 234724

Peter McDonald

June 1st 2020.