

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 – April 2021.**

### **South Cambs District Council**

#### **Council launches £30,000 Covid Recovery Grant for local communities**

A £30,000 Covid recovery grant fund to help local community groups and parish councils resume activities has been launched by South Cambridgeshire District Council. As the Government's cautious road-map out of lockdown continues, the Council has earmarked the financial package as part of its Community Chest funding so that community groups and parish councils can progress projects and services that will support local people.

The Council's Grants Advisory Committee has temporarily amended the rules around eligibility criteria for its Community Chest Grant scheme for the next two months to allow applications for grants of up to £2,000 for Covid recovery related projects and initiatives. Previously, few parish councils could apply to the scheme as the criteria stipulated they had to have fewer than 160 registered electors. But for the next eight weeks, it will be open to all parish councils and community groups – including new ones that are now setting up. Applications are now being accepted until 10 May 2021, with submissions being reviewed at the May 28 Grants Advisory Committee meeting. Meanwhile, the normal Community Chest Grant scheme continues to run for community groups for a maximum grant of £1,000.

Applying for a Covid Recovery Community Chest Grant is the same as applying for a standard Community Chest Grant. The applicant simply selects which type of grant they are applying for at the start of the [process](#) with all other criteria being the same.

For further details, please email [community.chest@scams.gov.uk](mailto:community.chest@scams.gov.uk)

#### **Covid 19 Support for Business in Lockdown 3.**

- **£11,079,549** paid in total to **4,619** businesses since November+ grants opened. Application deadline now passed for the LRSG and CBLP so focus is on getting remaining ARG out of the door and preparing to administer the Recovery stage grants
- South Cambs have paid **£3,851,616** out of our £4,594,889 ARG (discretionary/hardship) allocated pot
- Our BEIS allocations for restart Grants look to be **£5,814,090**

#### **Five Year Housing Land Supply**

The [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service](#) has now published its updated housing trajectory and five year housing land supply position statement.

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service is a partnership between South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council.

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A housing trajectory is used by Councils to calculate their five-year housing land supply and also to demonstrate that anticipated housing delivery will meet or exceed their housing requirement. Our updated Greater Cambridge housing trajectory (April 2021) concludes that Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire jointly have 6.1 years of housing land supply for the 2021-2026 five-year period. This conclusion is based on our five-year housing land supply being calculated jointly, using the Liverpool methodology, and applying a 5% buffer.

For more information please visit our [Monitoring delivery webpage](#).

### **Housing Update**

New figures show more than 460 families in need of housing were helped by South Cambridgeshire District Council during the past year.

A report highlights that 466 households in need were helped into Council or social housing between 1 April 2020 and 1 March this year. This includes 185 families who were either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The figures show that officers have increased the number of social housing properties that were let despite the pandemic, with a total of 442 households moving into Council or social housing in South Cambridgeshire during the previous 2019/20 financial year.

South Cambridgeshire District Council allocates its stock of around 5,500 Council homes via the Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk Home-Link system. This is a partnership of six Councils and 34 social housing providers.

At the Cabinet meeting, Councillors confirmed some minor changes to the way Council and social housing is allocated. This followed a consultation last year, which aimed to ensure that homes are provided to those most in need and to let Council and housing association properties in a fair and transparent way.

No changes to any of the ‘bandings’ that people seeking housing are placed into have been made. This sees those in the highest need of housing given priority over those with less of a need. Most of the changes are alterations to wording to make it clearer what the policy means and to ensure it is applied consistently across Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk. The new policy does however incorporate changes to how a “local connection” is defined and sets out greater clarity as to what is meant in relation to employment requirements.

There are also changes to give ex-partners or spouses of armed forces personnel the same exemption from local connection requirements as their former partners, when they must move out of a Ministry of Defence property due to a relationship breakdown.

[Housing advice](#) from South Cambridgeshire District Council is available by e-mailing [housingadvice@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:housingadvice@scambs.gov.uk) or calling 03450 450 051.

### **Cambridgeshire County Report**

#### **Vaccination**

You can see the daily data here:

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<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

### **Foxton Travel Hub**

Myself, Foxton & Fowlmere Parishes had a call with GCP on the hub on March 18<sup>th</sup> Still a long way to go !

### Summary of Scheme Design Components



- Up to 500 spaces
- 5% electric charging spaces, with provision for future 100% of all spaces
- 25 disabled spaces, with additional to north of station
- 150 Cycle parking spaces (incl. 26 cycle lockers)
- Solar Panels – 40-60% coverage
- Signal controlled access junction
- A10 crossing point with refuge island for all user types
- Reduced speed limit along A10 – 30mph (starting just south of Travel Hub entrance, and finishing just north of Barrington Road junction)
- Pedestrian bridge with stairs and lift over railway line
- Improved bus stop and shelter provision on the A10
- Biodiversity Net Gain – estimated over 20%
- New planting throughout the car parking area with landscaping as screening
- Shallow drainage swales on site
- LED lighting
- Toilet block
- Drop off / Pick up area

### **East West Rail**

You will have seen the consultation initiated for EWR which has most relevance for Foxton & Shepreth but mostly for Haslingfield/Hauxton.

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## A505 Traffic

I asked for the traffic numbers/peak time profiles – this is the November 2019/2020 snapshot:

	A505 Dottrell Hall		A505 Duxford	
	5day Average	5day Average	5day Average	5day Average
	Nov-19	Nov-20	Nov-19	Nov-20
Top of Form				
<b>12H(7-19)</b>	8837	5449	27071	19009
Bottom of Form				
<b>16H(6-22)</b>	10045	6195	31838	21455
<b>18H(6-24)</b>	10228	6285	32862	21919
<b>24H(0-24)</b>	10636	6619	34773	22934
<b>Peaks</b>				
<b>AM Peak</b>	08:00	07:00	08:00	07:00
	885	679	2737	2096
<b>PM Peak</b>	17:00	16:00	17:00	16:00
	1046	580	2613	1979

## Childcare for 2 Year Olds

### **What is the entitlement?**

Children are entitled to 570 hours in each 12 month period from the term they become eligible until they reach compulsory school age, the term following their fifth birthday. The hours you take up are spread evenly over the year and can be taken as a maximum of 15 hours a week over up to 38 weeks in a year or stretched with fewer hours a week over more weeks in a year.

The hours and sessions which are available for free childcare will depend on the individual childcare setting and will need to be agreed in advance. There should not be any additional

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costs attached to claiming the free hours, such as top up fees or uniform charges. If you need further advice please contact our Family and Childcare Information helpline on 0345 045 1360.

What are the benefits for my child?

Children benefit from early learning, we know this from research. Good quality early learning:

- helps your child to be happy, confident, sociable and curious
- gives opportunities to be active and learn through fun and play, indoors and outdoors
- offers many activities including creative and messy play
- helps them to become effective learners and ready for school
- has a long term impact on their development

**Eligibility: Either parent must be in receipt of one of the following benefits:**

- Working Tax Credit provided your annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,190
- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit provided your annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) does not exceed £16,190
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £15,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

Or, the child:

- has been adopted from local authority care
- has been looked after by a local authority
- has left care through a special guardianship or child arrangements order
- is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance
- has an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan

**Thakeham**

We held a Parish Call on March 20<sup>th</sup> with Anthony Browne and a Public Call April 7<sup>th</sup> to update on progress and next steps for the action group.

Updates as usual here: [www.swcag.org.uk](http://www.swcag.org.uk)

Peter McDonald

April 6th 2021

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