

Report for Great Shelford Parish Council:

South Cambridgeshire District Council – March 2020

Coronavirus

Further to our email on Sunday, South Cambs has prepared some initial guidance for parish councils, which GSPC should have received on Tuesday. If not, please contact the team at South Cambs here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/parish-councils/coronavirus-advice-for-communities/>. Further information is available here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/sport-health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus-information/>. We understand that further updates from the District Council will be shared directly with parish councils.

You may also have read David Martin's e-mail updates, which highlight a newly-formed volunteer scheme in Stapleford and a local Facebook group set up to help provide support to neighbours: [Great/Little Shelford/StaplefordCOVID-19 Support/help group](#). Another source of support is the general Facebook site for Great Shelford and Stapleford: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/357037668334411/>

We attended the Little Shelford Parish Council meeting on Monday evening, where resident Charles Kingdon described the local effort there, intended to reach all people living in the village. Charles is working with over 30 volunteers to ensure that all houses in the village receive the following leaflet, based on the template that has been widely circulated online, including in our email on Sunday and the South Cambs pack:



Each leaflet will include the name and phone number of a volunteer and contact details of an alternative volunteer, should the primary contact fall ill. Each volunteer has certain streets allocated to them to ensure 100% coverage (similar to the 'adopt a street' approach suggested in the South Cambs pack).

As you can see from the leaflet, the Little Shelford Group has set up a single email account to coordinate support. Six volunteers have access to the email account.

South Cambs – more greenery

Proposals have been put forward to make the Council offices less dependent on fossil fuels, including installing a solar car port, which will generate more than 20% of the electricity for the entire building, and installing a ground source heat pump to reduce the amount of gas used on site by at least 80%.

South Cambridgeshire District Council Budget

£5 million has been pledged in South Cambridgeshire to tackle the global climate emergency. The money will go towards improvements linked to the District Council's 'green to the core' priorities. This includes improving the Council's offices to cut carbon emissions and energy bills, providing communities with grants for projects that cut carbon emissions in their areas, making Council houses more energy efficient and helping people cut the amount of food they waste.

In 2018 the Council declared a climate emergency and pledged to reach net zero carbon by 2050. To help move toward that goal the Council plans to invest in 2020-21 a further £100,000 on Zero Carbon Community grants for community initiatives to cut carbon emissions and tackle climate change, £1.9 million 'greening' of its offices to cut energy bills and show others how they could go green and a further £1.3 million on improving energy efficiency of Council homes. In addition £1.3m will replace 1,800 District Council owned streetlights with LEDs to reduce energy consumption by 60% and £400,000 on an electric bin lorry to see whether it is viable to shift from a diesel to an all-electric fleet.

In 2020-21 the Council expects to generate over £3.5 million from investments which will be spent on local services and help offset cuts to their funding by central Government. The Council's budget also proposes investing an extra £200,000 in expanding the mobile warden scheme in the district. Local Mobile Warden groups support older people to live independently by carrying out practical tasks such as making light meals, shopping, making appointments, filling in forms and collecting prescriptions.

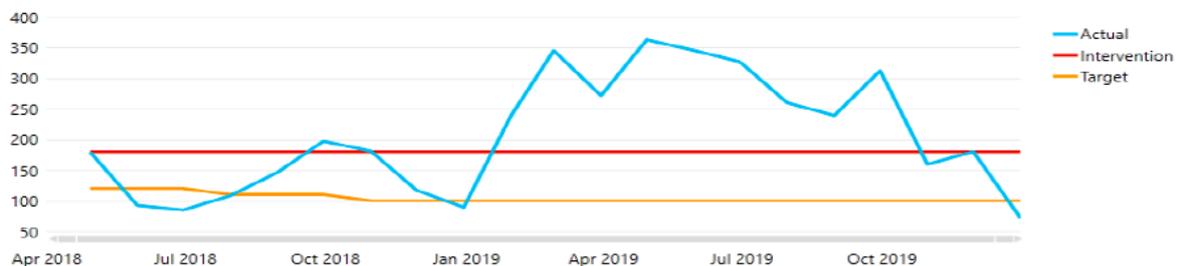
A further £200,000 is also planned to be invested in increasing support for local businesses so that villages remain vibrant and new jobs are created close to where people live.

The revenue account expenditure for the council shows a generally positive picture on expenditure, which will mean a surplus vs £400k deficit in May 2018:

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s115456/Appendices.pdf>

South Cambs operational performance – call answering

There has been a marked improvement in South Cambs' call answering time, which is now down to 1m 10s:



The graph can be viewed here:

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s115434/Appendix%20A%20-%20Operational%20Key%20Performance%20Indicator%20Report.pdf>

New taxi licensing policy will see CCTV installed as standard and improve air quality across South Cambridgeshire

A new taxi licensing policy for South Cambridgeshire aims to improve air quality and increase the safety of passengers and drivers. South Cambridgeshire District Council will adopt the new policy from 1 April 2020.

CCTV will need to be installed in all vehicles as standard, to provide a consistent safeguarding approach. Meanwhile, a number of changes have been approved that will ensure taxis are greener, supporting the Council's commitment to become a net-zero carbon district before 2050.

They key points to highlight from the new policy are:

- From 31 March 2021, CCTV will be a mandatory requirement for all Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles without exception.
- From 1 December 2021, new licences will only be granted to taxis that are ultra-low or zero emission.
- From 1 December 2021, licences will not be granted for taxis older than nine years.
- From 1 December 2028, renewed licences will only be granted to taxis that are ultra-low or zero emission.

The initial consultation on the draft policy took place from July to September 2019. In November a decision was taken to run a further consultation to consider additional issues raised by members of the trade.

New Electric Buses

Stagecoach have purchased 2 electric buses to run in Cambridge using £400,000 of funding from the Greater Cambridge Partnership which South Cambs and the County Council are partners in. They can travel 160 miles on one charge and will be running the Citi 6 route. We are anticipating that this will be the beginning of a much larger electric fleet serving South Cambridgeshire in the near future.

Complaints (and compliments!) to South Cambs

As reported recently, we have now launched our Open Process portal, which allows customers to create an account where complaints can be raised and tracked throughout the investigation, until resolution. There is the facility for supporting documents to be uploaded and messages can be sent between investigators and customers, which will help to speed up the process. All complaints need to be made through: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/feedback/compliments-complaints-and-suggestions/> (selecting the option for the "Online Complaints Form").

Annual Survey of Councils

Some of the key findings from all UK Councils:

- Nearly all councils (97%) plan to increase council tax in 2020/21, with most (93%) planning to raise it by more than 1.5% and nearly all councils (97%) plan to increase fees and charges.
- 12% say they are in danger of being unable to fulfil statutory duties this year with Children's Services & Education the top immediate pressure, while Adult Social Care remains the top long-term pressure.

- There was near universal disappointment in the Government's progress delivering a sustainable funding system for local government (97%) and a long-term social care strategy (98%).

Please contact District Councillors Nick Sample or Peter Fane if we can help with local council matters.

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