

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 – December 2020.

South Cambs District Council

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

Customer-facing businesses urged to join new South Cambridgeshire 'shop local' directory

The Council is urging all customer-facing businesses in South Cambridgeshire to submit details about safety measures they are taking to adapt during the pandemic – such as click and collect facilities, local deliveries, or new outdoor seating areas – to contribute to a directory that makes it easier for residents to support local businesses this Christmas.

A new Reopening the High Streets Safely team was established at the Council in the spring, thanks to European Regional Development Fund funding which was ring-fenced by the Government to support High Street businesses to safely reopen after the first lockdown.

Customer-facing businesses will this week be receiving festive posters and table talkers from the High Street team, which can be displayed to remind customers of the essential safety measures to prevent the spread of the disease – from 'Hands, Face, Space' to checking in using the NHS Test & Trace App. Any business which has not received these is invited to contact the team to request these, or for any other support around safely reopening:

Reopening@scambs.gov.uk

Covid 19 Support for Business in Lockdown 2.

As of Friday Dec 4th the business grants made were

- 479 paid to date in total (£) £733,000
- 377 RSG (main scheme) £550,000
- 85 Additional Restrictions (Discretionary) £135,000
- 16 Hardship £48,000
- 135 rejected (not eligible, incorrect or insufficient supporting docs uploaded, not being able to demonstrate loss of income due to covid – discretionary)
- Continued push on comms / social media and member engagement- I have posted on every village FB page.
- Awaiting further detail and guidance from Government on how we issue Tier 2 grants and Wet Pub grants – should have some clarity next week

Relaxation of Opening Hours

South Cambridgeshire Councillors have responded to the Government's temporary [relaxation of retail opening hours](#) to offer support to local businesses hoping to extend their opening hours during December and January. Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick suggested that some planning conditions – such as those which limit opening hours – **could be eased to allow shops to open for longer on Mondays to Saturdays through to January.**

Any South Cambridgeshire businesses considering extending their opening hours are urged to carefully consider the impact this may have on any neighbouring residents, and to seek

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guidance from the Council's dedicated Reopening the High Street Safely team, if needed, about how to do this in a considerate way: Reopening@scambs.gov.uk

The High Street team was established at the Council in the spring, thanks to European Regional Development Fund funding which was ring-fenced by the Government to support High Street businesses to safely reopen after the first lockdown. The team has been supporting customer-facing businesses to reopen safely and reassuring residents about the Covid-secure measures put in place – and extending opening hours is another way that businesses could help to make Christmas shopping safer for customers.

Residents are also being asked to consider staggering their usual shopping times, where possible due to extended hours, to help spread the numbers of people in stores at any one time.

New Mobile/Community Warden Schemes

Seven new Mobile/Community Warden schemes covering 20 villages in South Cambridgeshire have launched this month, with wardens visiting older people in their homes. Meanwhile, an increase in funding for the schemes for 2021-2024 has been announced by the Council.

In 2019/2020, over 300 South Cambridgeshire residents were helped with household tasks around the home by Mobile/Community Wardens, so that those who prefer to remain living independently can do so safely and happily. A regular visit from a warden might include lunch being made or delivered (think a Fish 'n' Chips treat for those who can't get to the chip shop themselves), forms being filled in, or shopping and prescriptions being delivered.

Seven new schemes

A number of new schemes are launching this month, partly thanks to South Cambridgeshire District Council's grant funding of £200,000 which was ring fenced to enable new schemes to be established. The Council committed to establishing three new schemes so that more residents from across the district would be able to access a warden scheme in their area, but seven have in fact been set up.

The seven new schemes cover 20 additional villages, building on the work of an existing 15 schemes already part funded by the Council, which cover a further 30 villages. The new schemes mean that almost half of the district can now access a Mobile or Community Warden.

Apply for funding for 2021-2024

Another change this year sees funding available for a three year period (2021-2024) instead of just one year, as well as an increase in the amount of funding available per year, up to £52,255 from £27,000 last year.

Mobile/Community Warden schemes are invited to bid for this funding now. The Council expects to be able to provide the same funding to the groups that regularly apply successfully, but encourages applicants to demonstrate how they would use any additional

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funding to enhance their offering, to be eligible for an increase in the funding they are awarded.

New or existing Mobile/Community Warden groups can [apply to the scheme](#). The deadline to apply is 5pm, 29 January 2021.

Cambridgeshire County Report

C19 Case Numbers Cambridgeshire Dec 3rd



Covid-19 cases

CONFIRMED CASES – most recent data

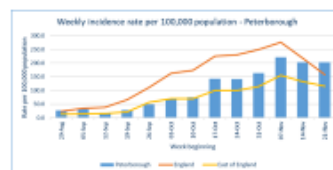
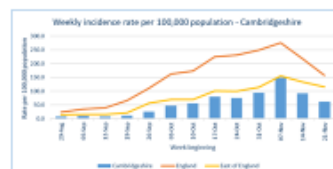
- 816 new lab-confirmed Covid-19 cases were detected in Cambridgeshire (406) and Peterborough (410) in the latest reporting week, 21 - 27 November. This is 191 less than the previous reporting week.
- At a district level, all districts reported a decrease in positive cases when compared to the previous week.
- Incidence rate of Covid-19 cases per 100,000 residents

Area	Most recent weekly data (Mon-Sun)		
	Weekly incidence rate from 14 to 20 Nov	Weekly incidence rate from 21 to 27 Nov	Difference in weekly incidence rate from previous week
Cambridge	130.6	73.7	-56.9 ↓
East Cambridgeshire	82.4	52.3	-30.1 ↓
Fenland	130.6	88.3	-42.2 ↓
Huntingdonshire	65.7	57.9	-7.8 ↓
South Cambridgeshire	67.8	45.9	-21.9 ↓
Cambridgeshire	91.3	63.1	-28.1 ↓
Peterborough	203.2	202.7	-0.5 ↓
East of England	132.9	115.0	-17.9 ↓
England	217.9	207.6	-10.3 ↓

CONFIRMED CASES - trend

Confirmed cases, and incidence rates, have decreased in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, the East of England, and England, in the last reporting week.

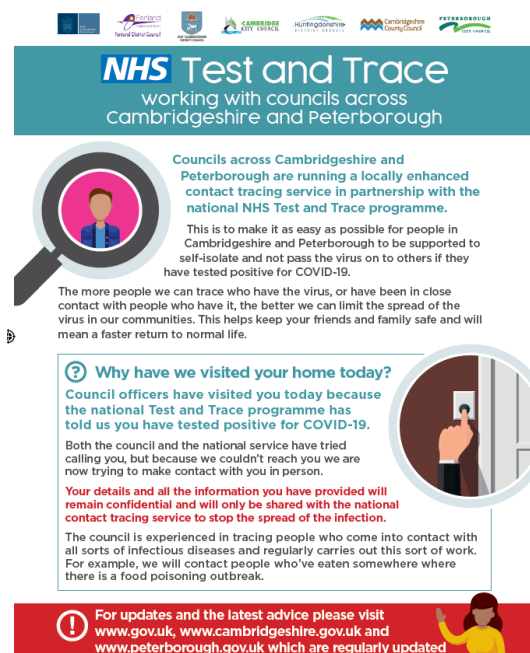
The weekly incidence rate of confirmed cases is currently below the regional and national rates for Cambridgeshire, and above for Peterborough.



Source: PHE, <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/> data extracted Wednesday 02 December
Slides produced by PHE, 03 December 2020

As I mentioned last month Country & District Launched the local **Test & Trace programme** and hopefully you all add the new documentation to go with that.

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The poster is titled "NHS Test and Trace" with the subtitle "working with councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough". At the top, there are logos for the NHS, Cambridgeshire County Council, and Peterborough City Council. The main text explains that councils are running a locally enhanced contact tracing service in partnership with the national NHS Test and Trace programme. It states that the goal is to make it as easy as possible for people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to be supported to self-isolate and not pass the virus on to others if they have tested positive for COVID-19. A graphic of a magnifying glass over a person's head is used to illustrate this. Below this, it says: "The more people we can trace who have the virus, or have been in close contact with people who have it, the better we can limit the spread of the virus in our communities. This helps keep your friends and family safe and will mean a faster return to normal life." A section titled "Why have we visited your home today?" explains that council officers have visited because the national Test and Trace programme has told them you have tested positive for COVID-19. It notes that both the council and the national service have tried calling you, but because they couldn't reach you, they are now trying to make contact with you in person. A graphic of a person at a door is used here. It also states: "Your details and all the information you have provided will remain confidential and will only be shared with the national contact tracing service to stop the spread of the infection." Another section mentions that the council is experienced in tracing people who come into contact with all sorts of infectious diseases and regularly carries out this sort of work, for example, contacting people who've eaten somewhere where there is a food poisoning outbreak. At the bottom, a red banner with a white exclamation mark icon says: "For updates and the latest advice please visit www.gov.uk, www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk and www.peterborough.gov.uk which are regularly updated".

Since the 19 November, when the countywide service launched, 280 cases have been passed to the local service, with an 83 per cent of cases completed.

Winter Support Package

Councils pledge wide ranging winter support for more people than ever - Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils, working alongside other agencies and organisations, are planning to support many families and individuals whose lives have been made more difficult by the COVID pandemic this year.

They will provide Winter Support Packages to families to make sure that, not only no child goes hungry this year whether they are eligible for free school meals or in a range of other categories, but also that families and individuals who might struggle with other essential bills, such as utilities, can be supported.

The food support will come via a voucher sent to families automatically, using a system many schools are already using. Each eligible child will receive a £15 voucher for each week of the school holidays (two weeks at Christmas and one week in February).

Those eligible for the voucher will be those:

- Eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium
- Funded two year olds
- Eligible for Free School Meals (including those not currently on a school roll)
- Eligible for 16+ bursary

In addition to the Food Vouchers, the scheme is also available to support these same families and individuals with other immediate needs, including (but not limited to) other essential supplies and food, household energy and water bills, essential white goods such as fridges or cookers and boiler servicing and repairs.

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Those eligible for this additional support will include:

- Households who receive income-related benefits
- Households facing financial hardship – who councils are aware of
- Families identified as ‘just about managing’ by schools
- Anyone with an Education, Health and Care Plan
- Care Leavers
- Young Carers
- People with ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ status – such as asylum seekers

Mobile Library Service Times and locations

The mobile libraries service has re started stopping at 364 locations in 85 villages and communities throughout the county. It’s a great place for catching up with friends and colleagues whilst supporting a local community resource. We visit most locations once a month, for example the first Tuesday of the month. We will be visiting on the same times and days of the week as before. [Find a mobile library stop.](#)

Christmas schedule

Mobile Libraries will be off the road between Friday 25 December and Tuesday 5 January 2021.

- Routes on 25 December have been cancelled. The next visit will be on 22 January 2021.
- All routes on 1 January 2021 have been rearranged to Monday 4 January.

How to use the service

Access to the vehicle will be limited to help keep staff safe. We will be providing books selected in advance.

Reservation service

- You can [pre-order books from the library catalogue using the reservation service](#). This service is currently free of charge.

Select and Collect service

- This allows you to request a collection of books based on your tastes. You can [use the Select and Collect service online](#), or by calling [0345 045 5225](tel:0345 045 5225). Simply choose the mobile library as a pick up point and order as far in advance as possible. This helps ensure that a selection is ready and issued for you to pick up from your stop. (Ideally place your request a week in advance - we will do our best with forms received after this.).

If you have any queries please email us at mobilelibraries@cambridgeshire.gov.uk . Please support your local library service delivered directly to your community.

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- Each Mobile Library vehicle carries up to 3,000 items of stock including fiction, non fiction, large print, books on CD & cassette and books for children of all ages.
- You can **request** books/cassettes/CDs/DVDs. We have access to all the books in Cambridgeshire Libraries. You can also request books online to collect from the mobile Library on our next visit.
- Any books borrowed from the Mobile Library can be **returned to any other Cambridgeshire Library** and you can return books from other libraries to us, so no need to worry about missing your due date.
- You can **renew and order books online**, please ask onboard for your 'PIN' to get you started.
- Download the [Spydus mobile app](#) to keep track of your library account using your smart phone.
- Books are issued for **5 weeks** and you can renew for up to three months.

This Land

Here is a statement made by Cllr Mark Goldsack in relation to the County Council Company This Land.

“This Land – an update from Cambridgeshire County Council

This Land began trading during the summer of 2017 and is progressing operations in line with its business plan. It takes several years for a start-up development company to purchase land, take it through planning, build houses and sell them before returning a profit. House sales are now underway, in line with the business plan. This Land has never defaulted on any loans to Cambridgeshire County Council.

Amounts paid to Cambridgeshire County Council in interest are much more than £205k. Interest payments will continue to be made by This Land to CCC throughout the life of the loans as scheduled in the loan agreements.

An additional loan facility from Cambridgeshire County Council has been agreed; however, that does not mean that the entire facility will be utilised. Total lending today is below the £120m initial facility authorised in December 2017, and it was long-planned this would

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gradually rise to keep pace with construction spend across multiple sites in line with the business plan.

Independent legal advice was undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council when structuring the funding arrangements for the Company. Income derived from this investment is already helping Cambridgeshire County Council to support the delivery of frontline services to the most vulnerable people in the county.

The This Land Group accounts are calculated under IFRS accounting standards and have been fully audited by a reputable, top 10, firm of UK auditors. All interest payments, capital repayments and loan receipts have been made in line with This Land Group business plan.

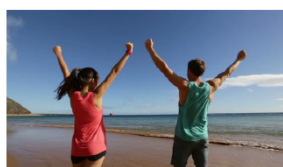
November 25 2020”.

School Issues: Attendance – Autumn 2020

	Cambridge City	East Cambs	Fenland	Hunts	South Cambs	Cambridgeshire	Peterborough
Primary Schools	95.4%	96%	91%	95%	95%	94%	89%
Secondary School	92.4%	90%	88%	93%	88%	90%	79%
Special School	60.0%	75.0%	86.0%	83.2%	75.3%	77%	81.2%
Pupils with an EHCP	77.8%	83.7%	85.5%	86.9%	83.2%	84.0%	84.8%
Pupils with a social worker	81.5%	85.2%	91.4%	89.8%	84.7%	82.5%	75.8%

School Term

Something non-Covid-19 – Term dates 2022 / 23



Proposal

- October half Term is extended from one week to two weeks.
- Easter holiday is shortened from two weeks to one OR the Summer Holiday is shortened by one week.

Consultation will commence next week and run until the end of January – 10 questions and we have considered some of the pro's / cons.

More details on next weeks update.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Help extended families spend time together without children missing school.	"The shape of the school year is not a straight horizontal line. It's an uphill climb, with the steepest gradient at the beginning. So taking a break longer than a week is like stopping on a ledge in the early stages of scaling Mount Everest". There's still so far to go, and you risk losing momentum.
Give families more flexibility to go away outside the peak summer holiday period.	An unnatural break just as students are getting to grips with new courses
School staff will be able to take advantage of cheaper travel and holiday prices.	Lost learning up to exam time.
Schools may save on heating bills for an extra week – a real boon when their budgets are so stretched.	Poor weather.
Less children missing school as less holidays will be taken out of term time.	As more schools move to a two-week break – with its apparent advantages – the new fortnight holiday will become a time of high demand and high prices once more.
The shortening of the summer holidays and the two week autumn half term will break up what is otherwise a long autumn term	Many families can't afford a holiday away at any time of the year.
	Staycations are a much less attractive proposition in the last weeks of October.
	What about families with children educated in different Authorities with different October holiday dates.
	Younger children had only just settled in to school and got used to the routines of school.

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Merry Christmas Everyone. Stay negative. Keep positive.



Peter McDonald

Dec 6th 2020.