

Over Parish Council

Minutes Full Council E-Meeting – Tuesday 8th September 2020

7.30pm

PRESENT

Chairman: Mrs A Griffiths

Vice Chairman: Mr G Twiss

Councillors: Mr A Tranter, Mrs M Hyde, Mrs J Davies, Mr S Couper, Mrs H Pletts, Mr R Robinson, (2 Vacancies)

Parish Clerk: Mrs M Pink

In attendance

County Councillor: None

District Councillor: Mr B Handley

Parishioners: 0

Planning Agent: Mr A Brand

Item

2020/09-01 To Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence

County Cllr P Hudson, District Cllr D Percival, Mr M Conlon and Mrs H Pletts

2020/09-02 Members' Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

- 2.1 Declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda – Registered Interests received from Cllr S Couper, Cllr A Tranter – Trustee of Over Day Centre
Cllrs R Robinson, J Davies, A Griffiths – Trustees of Over Town Lands Charity
Cllr A Griffiths – Trustee of Over Community Association
Cllr Tranter declared an interest in agenda item 2020/09-05 5.6
- 2.2 Requests to Speak - No requests received to speak on any items as declared above.
- 2.3 To receive requests for dispensations - No requests received.
- 2.4 To grant requests received - The granting of dispensations to be made by Full Council.

2020/09-03 Public Participation – Presentation by Agent for Planning Application agenda item 5.6 – The Planning Agent had emailed a brief report prior to the meeting and reiterated that the application is little changed from the 2018 submission but had been resubmitted as an outline planning application as it is believed that the current 5 year land supply is now in question and this application would now meet the District Council requirements for housing in the Village of Over.

2020/09-04 Minutes

4.1 To Approve Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting Dated 11th August 2020

RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the Minutes are approved. The Chairman will sign the Minutes at the next available Full Council Meeting. All actions have been completed.

ACTION CHAIR

2020/09-05 Planning – For Discussion and Approval

- 5.1 Application – 20/03190/FUL – 13-15 West Street – Rear extension and alterations to the main house and outbuildings. The Clerk received comments from a resident stating that their homelife would be compromised if the alterations are made. The house has always had windows on the elevation in question and the new one is to be placed high up and similar in size to a quarter light. It will not open. The alterations proposed will not be visible from the road and will tidy the area.
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Council comments are noted as no objections
- 5.2 Application – 20/03191/LBC – 13-15 West Street – Listed building consent for the above works
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Council comments are noted as no objections
- 5.3 Application – 20/03410/HFUL – 42 West Street – Proposed bungalow side and rear extension plus external cladding
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Council comments are noted as no objections
- 5.4 Application – 20/03513/HFUL – 20 Glover Street – Additional storey above side garage and single storey rear extension. Cllr Twiss stated that the development fits well on the site and does not overlook any neighbours. It is an extension at the back of the house that does not impinge on the property boundary

RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Council comments are noted as no objections

- 5.5 Application – 20/03553/HFUL – 14 Long Furlong – New detached garden outbuilding and link pergola
The Clerk received an email from a resident who was against this application. Cllr Twiss stated that the development is out of site at the back of the house. There is to be a green roof and it is well shielded.

RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Council comments are noted as no objections

- 5.6 Application – 20/03254/OUT – Land North of New Road – 44 Dwellings. The Council discussed this application at length and noted some opposition from Village residents regarding this application. The site would offer the Village a large amount of public open space that would provide enough space to house a new Junior Football Pitch which the Village needs. Provision for formal sports for the younger residents is a priority. All Councillors agreed that facilities for the youth must be considered and with this in mind agreed to provide a response of no objection to the application.

RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and approved (six for and one against) that the Council comments are noted as no objections. Cllr Tranter did not vote as he had declared an interest at agenda item 2.1

Planning for Information Only

- 5.7 Application – 20/02118/NMA1 – 65 Willingham Road – Alterations to first floor windows and bedrooms 2&3

District Councillor Mr Bill Handley left the meeting at 20.15

2020/09-06 Finance

- 6.1 Approval of Payments

RESOLVED: To approve invoices and payments as listed to the sum of £3,120.55.

- 6.2 Receipts noted: VAT Refund 2019 £6,594.41

- 6.3 Insurance Renewal to be noted -The Clerk had emailed the insurance details prior to the meeting and the Council agreed a new three year fixed term Insurance Quotation from Ecclesiastical as recommended by Came and Company of £2,145.57 per year subject to any changes being made by the Council

RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that a three-year plan would be accepted

ACTION CLERK

2020/09-07 Employment

- 7.1 Clerks Appraisal and pay rise to be discussed (inc NJC National pay rise to £14.42/hr backdated to 1st April 2020 and holiday rise to 22 days with a further 3 days after 5 years' service) – The Chairman explained to the Council that the Clerks Appraisal had not yet been carried out and this would be moved to the next meeting for a decision to be made but the Nationally agreed pay scale would be implemented with immediate effect

ACTION CLERK

2020/09-08 Village Matters

- 8.1 Decision needed regarding safety life belts at Overcote – The Clerk asked the Council to decide if they would like to install a life belt station themselves or if they wanted to take advantage of the Emergency Throwline Board installed by the Fire Service. Several Councillors made suggestions and favoured the throw station as opposed to a life belt station. Cllr Robinson commented that the Kayak Club have an emergency throwline and it may be worth contacting them to see if they would be interested in sharing the equipment. Cllr Couper stated that he would like the Clerk to investigate this option, find out some further information and then for the Council to agree to delegate the final decision to the Clerk, Chairman and Vice Chairman for action to be taken if needed.

RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the final decision should be delegated as above

ACTION CLERK, CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

- 8.2 Covid 19 Snake – Re-discussion requested by Cllr Hyde – The Council could not reach a decision regarding a suitable place for the snake and the Clerk is to approach the Community Centre and School and to see if they have any suggestions. The Brownies/Rainbows/Guides should also be asked if they would like to help attach the snake in place once a resting place has been determined.

ACTION CLERK

- 8.3 Time Capsule – Re-discussion concerning further information to be provided by the resident – The Clerk had not yet received any further information from the resident.

- 8.4 Section.106 requirements for Planning Application 20/03254/OUT – Land North of New Road – The Clerk received an email from James Fisher, S.106 Officer at District Council to find out if there are any new priorities for S.106 projects that could be incorporated into the current agreement which would come into effect if the planning application is approved by the Planning Department – The Council discussed this at length and agreed that a new Junior Football Pitch is a priority and they also highlighted other projects that may benefit from S.106 funding. Areas discussed were Formal Sports, Formal Children’s Play Space, Indoor Community Space, Health and Well-being and Green Infrastructure. The Clerk would agree the official Parish Council response in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice Chairman

ACTION CLERK, CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

2020/09-09 Consultations

- 9.1 Planning White Paper to be noted – To include all associated paperwork – The Clerk had emailed the White Paper prior to the meeting and the Parish Council agreed that they did not have any comments to make and they had noted the Paper that had been submitted.

RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the White Paper is noted

2020/09-10 Procedure

- 10.1 Local Highway Initiative bid to be discussed and agreed – Deadline for application 27th September – The Clerk informed the Council that they could make an LHI bid if they had any proposals that could be submitted in time – The Council discussed this but did not have a scheme that could be considered. Schemes for next year could be an option.

Agenda items for Information only – Reports emailed prior to the Meeting

2020/09-11 Matters of Interest from County and District Councillors and PCSO

- 11.1 County Council – Emailed report from Cllr P Hudson circulated prior to the meeting. Noted
 11.2 District Council – Emailed report from Cllr B Handley circulated prior to the meeting. Noted.
 11.3 Police – No report

2020/09-12 Village Reports

- 12.1 To receive Village Handyman Report and consider any maintenance items – Report noted – The Handyman asked the Council to consider a quotation for repairs to play items at the Community Centre play area. A quotation of £975.28 plus VAT was tabled and the Council agreed that these items should be actioned. The Clerk is to liaise with the Handyman to organise these repairs.

RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the quotation is accepted **ACTION CLERK & DB**

- 12.2 To receive Groundsman Report re the Green – Report noted – The Groundsman has requested that a further 4 tonne of topsoil is needed to improve the structure of the Green
RESOLVED: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed that The Groundsman can order some more topsoil if needed. This occurrence will probably happen annually due to the weather conditions so this item will be added to the budget for future maintenance **ACTION CLERK & DB**

The Council also discussed maintenance work to be carried out at Longstanton Road Pond – Cllrs Twiss and Robinson will investigate. The Council agreed a set figure for work to be carried out. If quotations proved to be higher than the accepted figure, then Full Council would need to make an official decision regarding the work.

Cllr Robinson stated that he had now received three quotations for the improvements to the heating and showers at the Pavilion, but the quotations were high. The Clerk stated that if the quotations are higher than £25,000 then they would need to look at Contract Finder to get a quote.

Cllr Hyde also informed the Council that, following the resignation of Cllr Robinson from the Christmas Lights Committee, there are now only 2 members left on the Committee and they are looking to join together with the Carnival Committee so that both events can continue to operate within the Village.

Invoices for approval to date - 1st September 2020							
Village				Total Payments	Total Receipts	Powers	Type of payment
<u>Direct Debits:</u>							
British Gas Lite	The Pavilion - Electricity		10.07			LGHA 1972, s.133	DD
<u>Invoices received:</u>							
D Bridgman:	Handyman tasks, August - Village	280.00					online
	Handyman tasks, August - Pavilion	168.00					online
			448.00			LGA 1953, s.4	
Clerk's Salary - August 2020	Gross £1220.61		924.98			LGHA 1989, s.7	SO
HMRC	PAYE and NI August		363.06			LGHA 1989, s.7	online
Atlas Tree Surgery	Tree work at Overcote Willow Tree		240.00			OSA 1906, s.10	online
R Fenwick	Grass Cutting		75.00			OSA 1906, s.10	online
	Total Payments for the Village:			2,061.11			
Costs relating to The Green (Registered Charity 300418)							
D Bridgman:	The Green, August maintenance work		263.25			LGA 1953, s.4	online
Agrovista UK	Pitchcare Spray Paint 610GRASS0200		237.00			OSA 1906, s.10	online
MD Contracting	Hedge work at the Green 2019		360.00			OSA 1906, s.10	online
Bannolds	top soil		193.20			OSA 1906, s.10	dcard
	Total Payments for The Green:			1,053.45			
	Total Payments to be made for August			3,114.56			
Payment made by D Card							
Microsoft	Office 365 monthly charge		5.99			LGA 1972, s.226	Dcard
	Total Payments already made for the Village:		5.99				
Receipts							
HMRC	VAT Refund 2019		6,594.41				
					6,594.41		

Next meeting dates: Full Council E-Meeting – 7.30pm Tuesday 13th October 2020

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.45PM

Signed & dated Chairman

County Councillor report August 2020

Virus update

1. Key points

Confirmed Covid-19 cases – overall and in care homes

- **63 new lab-confirmed Covid-19 cases** were detected in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in the latest reporting period, 17-23 August (as at 26 August). This is 9 less than the previous reporting week.
- The cumulative rate of Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population in **Peterborough (782.7) remain statistically significantly higher** than the national rate (504.8); the rates are statistically similar in Fenland (501.7) and Huntingdonshire (532.1) (data at 26 August).
- The **7 day rolling average of confirmed cases** for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, and each of the Cambridgeshire districts, shows a declining trend in Covid-19 cases since the peaks in late April, and a lower, **more stable trend in recent weeks**. However, confirmed cases have increased in South Cambridgeshire (+1) and Peterborough (+5) in the most recent reporting week.

All cause and Covid-19 deaths – all settings and in care homes

- **4 Covid-19 related deaths** occurred in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in ONS reporting week 33, up from 2 in week 32 (2 Huntingdonshire, 2 Peterborough).
- **All-cause deaths** numbers increased by 19, to a total of 124 deaths, for **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough** in week 33 (plus 19 deaths in Cambridgeshire).
- At a district level, **Cambridge (+8), East Cambridgeshire (+3), Huntingdonshire (+9)** and South Cambridgeshire (+10) had an **increase in all-cause deaths** between the last two reporting weeks.

- **Cambridgeshire has had 2 notifications of a Covid-19 related death in a care home since 10th August.** The last notification for Peterborough was 8th July (data at 25 August).
- The number of **all-cause deaths is above the 2014-18 average in Cambridgeshire and the districts except Fenland.** Numbers in **Peterborough are below the 5 year average** and are similar in Fenland.
- The number of **all-cause deaths in care homes are above the 2014-18 average in Cambridgeshire.** It is below the 5 year average in Peterborough and Fenland, and similar in South Cambridgeshire.

2. Covid-19 positive cases: overview tables

This report includes laboratory confirmed Covid-19 infections ('cases') aggregated from pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing.¹ These are updated daily at <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/> and this is the source for the data included here.

Note: It is important to note that availability of testing, and variations in the number of settings that may require collective testing, for example care homes, schools, or workplaces, may be in part responsible for some variation in the number of confirmed cases across areas of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, along with local partners, have a daily surveillance meeting that monitors the Covid-19 infection data and takes appropriate action related to cases in the community or in specific settings such as care homes, schools and workplaces.

The cumulative numbers and rates of lab-confirmed cases of Covid-19 reported at 26 August 2020

Area	Total cases	Rate per 100,000	95% CI	
			Lower CI	Upper CI
Cambridge	374	299.7	270.8	331.6
East Cambridgeshire	208	231.5	202.2	265.1
Fenland	511	501.7	460.2	547.0
Huntingdonshire	947	532.1	499.4	567.0
South Cambridgeshire	388	243.9	220.8	269.4
Cambridgeshire	2,428	371.5	357.1	386.6
Peterborough	1,583	782.7	745.2	822.0
East of England	26,198	420.1	415.1	425.2
England	284,155	504.8	503.0	506.7

Notes: Rate per 100,000 resident population, crude rates calculated using mid-year 2019 population estimates
Last updated on Wednesday 26 August 2020 at 4:04pm. Figures are from pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing.

	Statistically significantly better than England
	Statistically similar to England
	Statistically significantly worse than England

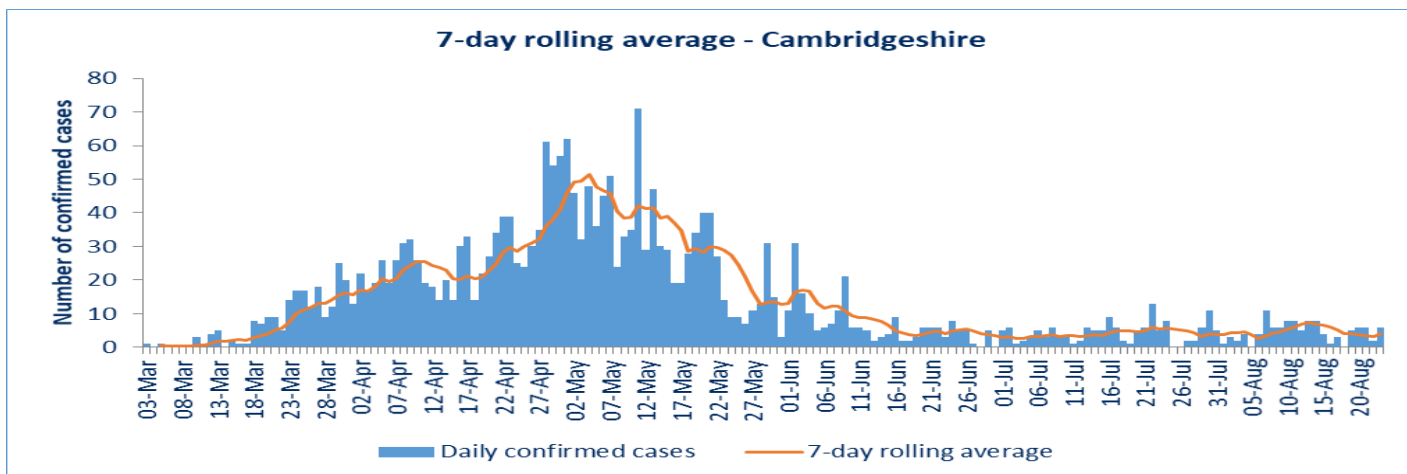
Source: Public Health England (PHE), <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Key points:

- The cumulative rates of confirmed cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 population are statistically significantly lower in Cambridgeshire (371.5) when compared to the England average (504.8).
- Of the Cambridgeshire districts, the cumulative rate of confirmed cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 population in Fenland (501.7) and Huntingdonshire (532.1) is statistically similar to the national average. The rates in Huntingdonshire and Fenland are largely related to cases in particular settings, such as care homes, hospitals, schools and workplaces, and these have been actively managed locally, working with partners and Public Health England.
- The cumulative rate of confirmed cases in Peterborough (782.7) is statistically significantly higher than the national rate. The higher rate in Peterborough has been, in part, driven by the testing completed under pillar 2. This is part of an ongoing management arrangement with Public Health England and partners. The situation is also considered in daily surveillance and outbreak management meetings and appropriate action is being taken in settings and impacted communities.

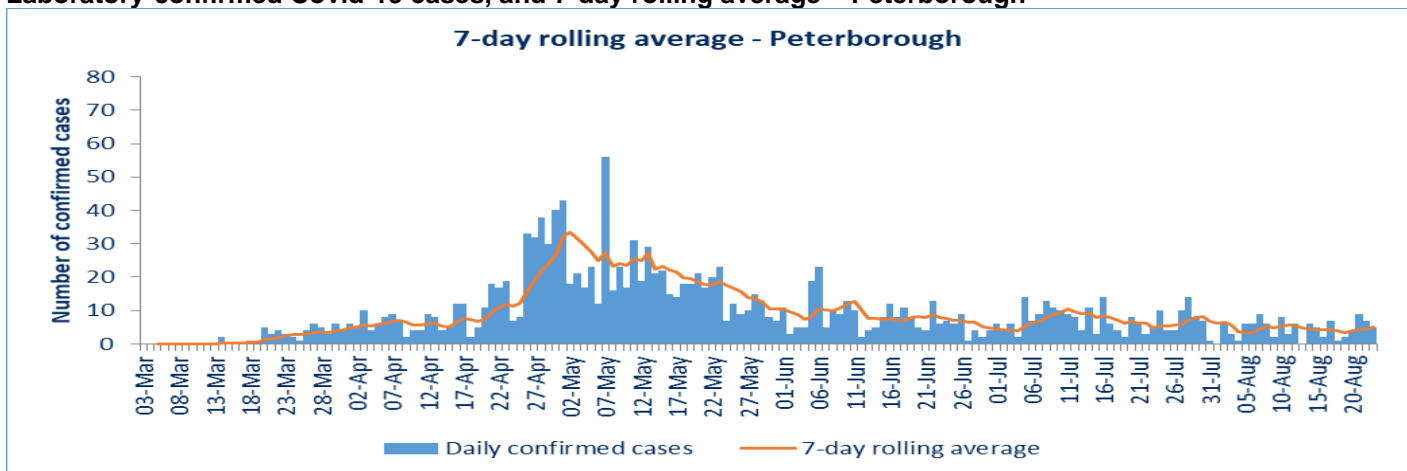
Laboratory-confirmed Covid-19 cases and 7-day rolling average - Cambridgeshire

¹ Pillar 1 is testing in laboratories - so mainly for hospital patients, healthcare workers and care home residents. Pillar 2 testing is processed in national laboratories and is mainly tests booked by individuals in the community - such as the tests available at the drive through site in Peterborough Showground, the postal tests made available through the national Test and Trace website, and whole care home testing of staff and residents.



Notes: Last updated on Wednesday 26 August 2020 at 4:04pm. Figures are from pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing. Source: Public Health England (PHE), <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Laboratory-confirmed Covid-19 cases, and 7-day rolling average – Peterborough



Notes: Last updated on Wednesday 26 August 2020 at 4:04pm. Figures are from pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing. Source: Public Health England (PHE), <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Key points:

- The 7 day rolling average of confirmed cases for each areas across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough show a declining trend since the respective peak in Covid-19 cases overall. However, there is an upturn in the recent days for Peterborough.

Weekly confirmed positive Covid-19 cases, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, at 26 August 2020 (most recent 8 recording periods)

Area	Date, week starting								Total (most recent 8 weeks)	Total*
	29-Jun	06-Jul	13-Jul	20-Jul	27-Jul	03-Aug	10-Aug	17-Aug		
Cambridge	4	5	3	11	6	11	12	6	58	374
East Cambridgeshire	3	0	2	0	1	1	7	5	19	208
Fenland	6	6	7	9	7	5	4	4	48	511
Huntingdonshire	5	3	10	12	11	13	15	8	77	947
South Cambridgeshire	4	9	12	5	5	3	4	5	47	387
Cambridgeshire	22	23	34	37	30	33	42	28	249	2,427
Peterborough	38	67	44	40	46	33	30	35	333	1,579

Notes: Each weekly total refers to reports in the period Monday to the following Sunday (e.g. 03 Aug refers to period 3-9 Aug). Last updated on Wednesday 26 August 2020 at 4:04pm. Figures are from pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing.

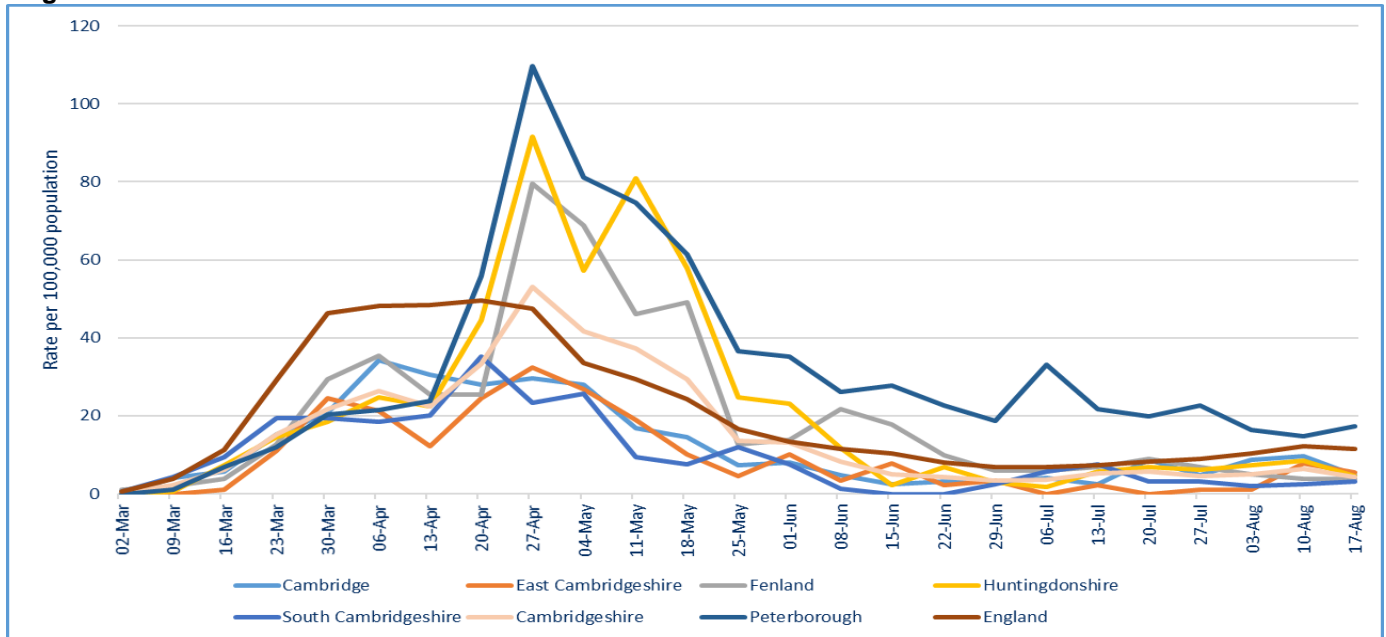
*The total numbers refer to the total of all confirmed positive Covid-19 cases from the week starting 2 Mar 2020 until the week starting 17 August 2020. For reference, the first recording point was the week starting 2 March. This table only shows the most recent 8 recording periods.

Source: Public Health England (PHE), <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

Key points:

- For Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined there were 63 confirmed positive Covid-19 cases in the last reporting week (minus 9 compared to the previous week). This was 28 confirmed positive Covid-19 cases in Cambridgeshire and 35 in Peterborough (+5 for Peterborough compared to the previous week).
- There were an increase in number of cases in South Cambridgeshire (+1) in the last recording week.

Weekly rates of Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population, up to week 17 – 23 August, data extracted 26 August 2020



Notes: Rate per 100,000 resident population, crude rates calculated using mid-year 2019 population estimates
Last updated on Wednesday 26 August 2020 at 4:04pm. Figures are from pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing.

Key points:

- Since the peaks in April, data shows an overall declining trend for the weekly rates of confirmed Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population across each area. However, South Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have had a slight increase in the rate of Covid-19 positive cases in the most recent reporting week.

Provisional number of deaths occurring related to Covid-19 in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents, and proportions occurring in care homes, in week ending 14 August 2020 (week 33)

Local authority name	Place of death							% in care homes - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough local authorities	% in care homes - England & Wales
	Home	Hospital	Care home	Hospice	Other communal establishment	Elsewhere	All settings		
Cambridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	34%
East Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	34%
Fenland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	34%
Huntingdonshire	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	50%	34%
South Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	34%
Cambridgeshire	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	50%	34%
Peterborough	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	50%	34%
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	0	2	2	0	0	0	4	50%	34%

Notes: ONS recording Week 33 relates to deaths occurring week ending 14 August, registered up to 22 August 2020

Source: ONS, File name = lahbttablesweek33.xlsx, released 25 August 2020

Key points:

- ONS recording Week 33 (ending Friday 14 August 2020) there were 4 Covid-19 related deaths across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Of those 2 were in Huntingdonshire and 2 in Peterborough. Both Huntingdonshire and Peterborough had 1 death in a care home and 1 hospital death each.
- In Week 33, the percentage of Covid-19 related deaths which occurred in a care home setting was 34% nationally.

Cumulative number of Covid-19 deaths occurring up to 14 August 2020, by place of death

Local authority name	Place of death						
	Home	Hospital	Care home	Hospice	Other communal establishment	Elsewhere	All settings
Cambridge	3	35	43	1	0	0	82
East Cambridgeshire	3	31	16	1	0	0	51
Fenland	3	61	16	1	0	0	81
Huntingdonshire	9	89	35	0	0	1	134
South Cambridgeshire	2	38	21	0	0	0	61
Cambridgeshire	20	254	131	3	0	1	409
Peterborough	5	72	28	1	0	1	107
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	25	326	159	4	0	2	516

Schools open their doors after an academic year like no other!

Children and young people across the county have sharpened their pencils, polished their shoes and dug out their schoolbags, as many return to school. While schools in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough led the way in remaining open throughout lockdown for vulnerable children and those of keyworkers, the majority of our school-aged children have not set foot in a classroom since schools went into lockdown on 20th March. In many cases parents have stepped into the role of educators, helping their children with online learning, and fitting this in around their own lives. The upshot of most of our schools remaining open has been the knowledge and experience they have gained in adapting and adding new measures to ensure a safe environment. Our schools have been working in social bubbles for months, and are well versed in knowing how to keep people safe. Every school in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough was asked to work through a rigorous risk assessment, bespoke to their school. They have thought of everything and thought again.

There is a [helpful guide](#) to support parents and young people as they transition back into formal education. In it is clear information on some of the common things parents ask about every year, such as transport, attendance, free school meals, etc. There is also also a point of clarifying the Test & Trace process.

Cambridgeshire leads the way for future proof digital connectivity

Cambridgeshire County Council has been recognised by the Government as a leading authority for its 'barrier busting' work to attract investment in the fastest, most reliable fibre broadband networks to support businesses and communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The work of the Connecting Cambridgeshire digital connectivity programme to 'effectively encourage the deployment of next generation gigabit broadband networks in rural and urban areas' is cited in a letter to all local authorities from the Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government Simon Clarke and Digital Minister Matt Warman. The letter highlights the importance of digital connectivity for economic growth and social inclusion, which is vital during the Covid-19 pandemic and for recovery, and encourages other local authorities to follow the excellent examples of work by Cambridgeshire and Kent county council members and officers. The Connecting Cambridgeshire digital connectivity programme, led by Cambridgeshire County Council, is significantly improving broadband, mobile and public access WiFi coverage, whilst securing future proof full fibre and 5G networks to take advantage of emerging technology.

Superfast broadband coverage across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is now over 98% and the programme is aiming to achieve over 30% full fibre coverage by 2022, through a mix of direct intervention and stimulating the market to provide commercial coverage. Connecting Cambridgeshire was among the first in the country to set up a dedicated Enabling Digital Delivery (EDD) service to remove barriers to the delivery of future-proof digital connectivity, with additional funding from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority. The team facilitates private sector investment for full fibre networks and next generation mobile phone coverage across the area. The EDD service is working with network providers, telecoms operators, housing developers, and council teams to resolve a wide range of fixed and mobile infrastructure issues including wayleaves, street works permits, and infrastructure problems and planning. The service is being used as an exemplar for other local authorities, and has developed a Streetworks Guide to share learning and best practice about working collaboratively with contractors to maximise efficient use of resources and minimise conflicts, delay and costs.

Cambridgeshire registration service bounce back from lockdown



The county council's registration service team have been working hard to recover as quickly as possible following lockdown to help the thousands of customers directly affected.

When lockdown began on 23 March, Cambridgeshire County Council's registration team had to make some huge changes - death registrations were carried out over the phone for the first time in history and birth registrations and ceremonies (including marriages, civil partnerships and citizenship) had to be put on hold. This resulted in a backlog of appointments, and now birth registrations

and ceremonies have resumed, the team have been working hard to catch up as quickly as possible. The process of carrying out death registrations via telephone appointments has worked exceptionally well for all those involved – especially bereaved families, who now do not have to travel to come into an office in Cambridgeshire to register a death. This is something the service is campaigning to keep for the longer term.

Regarding marriages and civil partnerships, the team have dealt with at least 30,000 customer queries as government guidance has been updated and changed. The 73 Approved Venues across the county have also been kept informed throughout. The team has been travelling the world via Skype for some ceremonies, with one live streaming going to a bride's parents in China.

County Hub reflects on its success!

Since March the County Covid-19 Coordination Hub has been staffed by volunteers and council workers who have been seconded from their normal day to day roles in order to help look after the vulnerable in our county.

At the start of the pandemic we identified 19,040 people who required our help. All were contacted by letter and phone and from this the hub has been in regular contact, mainly weekly, with 7,812 shielded people.

People asked for help in many ways; we had 7,763 direct phone calls for help and responded to 5,737 direct emails asking for help. Help came in all kinds of forms. For example, the hub delivered 3,312 food packages and we referred 806 people for befriending support via the Red Cross.

Initially the hub was geared up for practical hands on support such as food packages and delivery of medication, but it quickly became apparent that mental health and loneliness and isolation were additional concerns and the service quickly responded to this. The support officers were invaluable in reaching out on a regular basis to the shielded community. Throughout July support officers worked with the community to help them with transitioning out of shielding. So far 6,185 people who have been receiving regular calls have been supported to learn new skills and processes ensuring that they are able to access food and medication for themselves.

Whilst the hub has paused there is still lots of information for people who have been shielding on the website of Cambridgeshire County Council. As well as information about the support that is on offer now the national programme has paused, people can find support available where they live via the Cambridgeshire Online Directory, which provide residents and families with information on organisations, services and events across Cambridgeshire. For more information visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cambridgeshire-online-directory

Community projects awarded £5m

Community projects across Cambridgeshire have been awarded a total of £5m as a special fund set up by the County Council comes to a close. A total of 6 initiatives will receive funding in the latest round of applications - the allocations were agreed by the County Council's Communities and Partnership Committee, which met on Thursday (3/09/2020). The Community Capital Fund, which aims to create opportunities and improve lives and skills across the county, was launched by Cambridgeshire County Council at the start of April 2020 with the first recipients announced in May. The fund may contribute up to £500,000 capital funding for projects which can address issues which are a specific priority for the local community, address inequality of access to services or activities, and implement community involvement in delivery or design of the project. Since its launch 63 applications have been received, requesting a total of £9,753,587 with 35 projects have been granted funding totalling £5m from a £5m budget.

Some of the projects granted funding by the committee are:

- £198,000 to extend the Community Hall in Gorefield
- Up to £10,000 for new audio/visual equipment at Hilton Village Hall
- £20,000 for new playground equipment for Eversden Parish Council
- Up to £150,000 for Market Place enhancements in Wisbech
- £88,855 for Hauxton Village Hall
- £50,000 for the Brampton's Men's Shed
- £12,000 to refurbish the Youth Centre for Stapleford and Shelford Youth Initiative
- £15,000 for outdoor equipment for Christchurch Community Centre
- £81,000 for a stable block conversion at St Mary's Church, Bartlow
- £65,000 for the Melbourn Village Hub
- £275,000 for the extension of the pavilion in Girton
- Up to £75,000 for improvements to West End Park, March
- £25,597 for the Overcote Rd project in Over.

Peter Hudson
County Councillor
Over, Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, and Westwick

Hot food scheme extended

The volunteer food scheme being run by SCDC in association with Over Day Centre and C3 Churches (Waterbeach) to provide nutritious meals to some of our more vulnerable residents during the Covid-19 pandemic has been extended to the end of October. The extension has been made possible thanks to a £1,300 grant from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.

The return of public access to South Cambs Hall

From 15 September, residents who need to talk to a Council officer face to face will again be able to do so at South Cambs Hall. However they will need to [make an appointment first](#) and conversations via phone / Teams / Zoom etc will remain the favoured route into the Council. The office will initially be open to the public for a limited number of days each week, and with shorter opening hours. We are offering appointments between 10am to 3pm on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and a great deal of work has gone into making South Cambs Hall as Covid-secure as it can be.

Covid volunteers

As Lead Member for Sustainable Communities, Bill has been contacting lead community volunteers to thank them for their considerable efforts so far during the pandemic. It is hoped that the voluntary effort will continue and evolve, and a series of forums will be held in the coming weeks to share knowledge and experiences and to promote continuing best practice. Whilst aimed at the community volunteers, parish councils are very welcome to take part if they wish.

Planning White Paper

There is a great deal to digest and consider in this document. Greater Cambridge Planners are working through it and a digest will be discussed by SCDC. A response (jointly with Cambridge City Council) will be submitted in due course. If OPC has any points they would like us to convey to South Cambs, let us know, although I expect you will be submitting your own response.

Local Plan 'Call for Sites'

The list of sites submitted for consideration for the emerging Local Plan will be released early next week. Please do not be alarmed by the list and ignore any political mischief because it is always very long and speculative and contains many sites that will quickly be shown to be unsuitable, and rejected, for a variety of reasons.

Bill Handley and Dawn Percival, September 2020

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