

County Councillor Report to Stow-cum-Quy Parish Council

1. ADC the county council's contractor for clearing surface water road drains has been working in our Division. If you see a green spot on a grating the drain has been cleared, but a green cross indicates it needs special attention and has been reported for a works order to be raised by the highways team. If a drain has no green marking then in all probability there was vehicle parked over it or near it preventing the ADC vehicle from accessing it. These drains will be dealt with once the schedule of work has been done. As to repairing potholes our contractor for this Skanska is working but with a reduced workforce owing to sickness and self-isolation. The highways team for South Cambridgeshire is currently fully staffed, but may be used to provide cover elsewhere where there are staff shortages.

2. The County Hub which is co-ordinating the local response to Covid 19 has now a team of staff and volunteers keeping in touch by telephone with those on the NHS Shielded List. The County Hub has a pool of volunteers to organise food parcels and the delivery of medicines. Should Shielded people require more assistance they are putting them in touch with the appropriate organisation including the local voluntary groups. There are now over 15,000 people on the registered shielded list across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and around a third of this group have told us that they have no support in place and will need our assistance. Around 5,000 shielded people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are receiving a national food delivery. The County Hub is also using its volunteers to knock on the doors of those who have been identified by the NHS as needing to isolate but who have so far not registered for the Shielded List. South Cambridgeshire staff are also helping with this. If you think that someone should be included on the Shielded List you can contact the County Hub through the Cambridgeshire County Council website.

3. The county's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) opened on Monday 11 May for residents who have essential waste that cannot be stored safely at home. The recycling centres will be open for their usual summer hours, which can be found on the Cambridgeshire Online Directory. And you must bring proof of your address (utility bill, council tax bill, driving licence or similar) in case you are asked to provide it.

Only visit if it is essential and if you cannot minimise your waste, store it at home safely, or use alternative kerbside or bulky waste collections. Further Government advice is available on GOV.UK (paragraph 1.1). You must not bring any waste which could be infected with Covid-19. This includes disposed of PPE waste or general household waste if you have been suffering from Covid-19 symptoms. These bags should be tied securely, placed into another bag, tied securely and kept separate from other waste. This should be put aside for at least 72 hours before being disposed of in your kerbside collection. Do not attend if you or your household are suffering from Covid-19 symptoms - If you or anyone in your home have related symptoms or are suffering from Covid-19 you must not visit any of the Household Recycling Centres under any circumstances.

Vans/trailers/permit holders - There will be a delay before we are able to accept vans and trailers that require a permit, this includes current permit holders. This is in place to stop large loads from coming in and slowing down the operations. It will be reviewed after two weeks. Please don't use the Household Recycling Centres until you are advised to do so.

4. The County Library service is on line with The Library Presents. There is something for all ages across a range of art forms including; Music, Storytelling, Theatre, Radio Drama, Visual Art, Magic, Animation, Poetry and Craft. Over the coming weeks there will be a mixture of live streamed performances, live workshops, videos, downloads for families and a collaborative activity where everyone can participate. To find out more about The Library

Presents... in your house programme, visit our Library Presents webpage or Facebook @TheLibraryPresents.

5. Organisations across Cambridgeshire have come together to launch The Wellbeing Plan, as part of the national 'Now We're Talking' mental health campaign, to get people talking and beat loneliness while self-isolating during the coronavirus outbreak. Led by the county council, NHS and third sector, the campaign helps people find where they can get increased mental health support. The Wellbeing Plan is available on the Keep Your Head website. A video to accompany the plan is available to watch on our YouTube channel. The wellbeing plan includes eight boxes which the individual can fill in themselves. These boxes include 'things I can do to relax and calm myself down', 'things I can do to distract myself' and 'fun activities I can do'.

6. While social distancing is in force for Covid-19, formal committee meetings of Cambridgeshire County Council are now taking place using the Zoom software platform. They will be livestreamed on the council's YouTube channel for members of the public and the media to watch - with the exception of confidential items - which will be discussed in private as usual. Public questions can be submitted in written form and will be published on the council's website prior to the meeting taking place. Meetings will be recorded to allow people to watch them afterwards if they can't log on during the event itself. The protocol will allow the council to continue to conduct the vast majority of its democratic decisions remotely, while adhering to the Government's social distancing guidelines - and follows legislation which came into force on 4 April 2020.

A list of decisions to be taken at formal meetings has been prepared for the next three months by officers in consultation with the chair of the committee, and the urgency of each decision will be marked as either: high, medium or low – only decisions marked as high or medium will be taken to committee. The list does not include monitoring or information items, as these will be circulated to committees via email.

John Williams
18 May 2020