

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Report to South Trumpington Parish Meeting January 2021

Covid 19

In the past week rates of the virus have stabilised across South Cambridgeshire although the number of people infected remains high. However, they are lower than both the East of England and England average. Hospital admissions for Covid-19 are still above the numbers seen in the first wave. At the time of writing, the rate of new cases per week in South Cambridgeshire is 407 cases per 100,000 population, which is a slight decrease on last week.

On vaccinations, there are 3 types of site for vaccinations:

- Acute Hospital Hubs (e.g. Addenbrookes, Papworth)
- Primary Care Networks (PCN - local vaccination sites, usually GP practices)
- Large Vaccination Sites (part of national program – not up in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough yet, though 2 in pipeline)

Initially the Hospital Hubs focused on the over 80s (because the Primary Care sites weren't open) but are now focused more on health and care staff.

GPs will contact patients to get vaccinated at PCN sites – primarily they will deal patients registered in the practices the network covers, but there should be some sharing of patients too. As more of the AstraZeneca vaccine is delivered more GP surgeries will be able to deliver from their own practices (at the moment PCN vaccination sites have to be able to deliver both the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccine).

Large Vaccination Sites are intended to 'mop up' where people haven't been contacted by either hospital or GP. When they go live in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough contact is made by generic letter and they can go online or ring up to book (much the same as the regional Stevenage site though a bit closer to home).

We have been asked to encourage people not to call their GP but to wait to hear from them, or (once open) the large vaccination sites.

The latest information on the vaccination program in our area, including a full list of sites and PCN's can be found here:

<https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/covid-19-national-vaccination-programme/>

Help for School children

Digitally-excluded children in South Cambs are to be given a helping hand to get online with funding from a package of grants. The District Council is using its £30,000 share of the grant pot allocated to the County to support local charities and community organisations, including Cambridge Online. The digital charity will help provide data packages or devices to children in families in the District who currently have no internet access, enabling them to get online to learn and keep up-to-date with school work and to socialise this winter. For more details, see www.cambridgeonline.org.uk, email to help@cambridgeonline.org.uk or call the Cambridge Online helpline on 01223 300407, quoting 'South Cambs Winter Support Grant'.

Cambridgeshire's District and City Councils, along with the County Council, received a total of £2.2 million in Government Winter Support Grant payments and are working in partnership to ensure the money reaches those most in need. Amongst other areas of help, it will pay for vouchers for all children in the county who receive free school meals to cover additional food costs during the Christmas holidays and February half term, with extra support offered to other families not receiving free school meals but identified by schools as potentially needing extra help.

South Cambridgeshire District Council is also using its allocation to help fund other schemes in the District, such as the provision of Christmas meals for disadvantaged families and elderly and vulnerable residents in many of its communities.

Grants to Community Groups

The District Council is also supporting Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service (CCVS) with a £5,000 grant and from Wednesday, January 6, South Cambs parishes and community groups will be able to apply to the charity for sums of up to £500 for local projects which provide food, fuel and essential supplies. More information can be found at <http://www.cambridgecvs.org.uk/home>

Shop Local Directory

The Council has launched a 'Shop local' directory to help local residents find alternative ways to get their shopping while also supporting local jobs and businesses. With a boom in online sales and takeaways during 2020, the new 'Shop local' directory will help residents who would prefer to spend their money supporting local businesses – rather than international retailers and chains – to do so more easily. The directory lists local shops, restaurants, cafés and pubs, and for each business sets out what safety measures are being taking during the pandemic. This might include new covered outdoor seating areas for people to meet up outside, or takeaway hatches or deliveries which are now available from eateries that previously only offered food on site. Or it could include an independent shop offering orders via Facebook for home delivery, or online gift ordering to collect at an allotted time.

The directory is live at www.scambs.gov.uk/local-business-directory and businesses can sign up via the same link.

EWR update

We hear through the grapevine that the consultation will launch early February, though nothing has been confirmed. We have also heard that EWR have promised a full internal review of approaches into Cambridge North, and that they will spend a full year on this. However, this begs the question of why they plan to proceed with the consultation next month on the basis of an approach into Cambridge South only!

Ian Sollom cllr.sollom@scambs.gov.uk

Tony Mason cllr.mason@scambs.gov.uk