

Cllr Bhattacharya District report for June 2021

Clean Air Day in Cambourne

District Council plans to mark Clean Air Day 2021, which is on Thursday 17 June. We hope to be able to do a short Facebook Live video next to the air quality monitoring station outside Cambourne's Monkfield Primary School.

Our Specialist Support Officer (Air Quality) Dan (cc'd) is in touch with the school as we make these plans. The thinking is that we have a discussion about air quality, its importance, how and why we measure it and, crucially, the local actions people can take themselves to contribute to cleaner air. This is likely to be first thing in the morning of Thursday 17 June.

For more query: Horn Tom Tom.Horn@scams.gov.uk

East West Rail feedback submission by Wednesday 9 June

Residents and communities are requested to submit their feedback to the consultation of East West Rail by **Wednesday 9 June**.

Aa reminder, you and your residents can submit your comments via the East West Rail 2021 Public Consultation Feedback Form https://communityhub.eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation-feedback/survey_tools/feedback

Alternatively, you can download and print a copy of our [feedback form](#) and send it to us at Freepost EAST WEST RAIL, or scan it and send a copy to consultation@eastwestrail.co.uk. You can also send your feedback directly to us by emailing consultation@eastwestrail.co.uk.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact us by emailing us at contact@eastwestrail.co.uk or calling us on **0330 134 0067**.

Sport England's new strategy and implementation plan – webinar for councillors with a portfolio or interest in sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing:

Sport England Webinar on 10 June at 10:30am

Thursday 10 June 2021, 10.30am - 12.30pm
Booking page <https://lgaevents.local.gov.uk/lga/1217/home>

This webinar is for Councillors with a portfolio or interest in sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing.

Uniting the Movement is Sport England's new strategy, which comes at a critical time for public leisure and activity services. The strategy acknowledges these challenges alongside the need to increase participation among less active groups, capturing and using data to inform delivery, and more effectively collaborating with the health and care system. This webinar will introduce councillors to the strategy and seek their contribution to the development of the longer-term implementation plan and investment programme, highlighting what support their communities need to be more active and relaunching our refreshed Leadership Essentials programme for elected members with a portfolio or interest in sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing.

Join the conversation with Tim Hollingsworth, Chief Executive Officer, Sport England to hear about the new Sport England strategy and to help shape implementation plans. Our other confirmed speakers include Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE, Chair, LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board and Leader, Portsmouth City Council.

Workshops on (1) History of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller and (2) Current Barriers for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers

I will be attending two more workshops next week

- 08 June 2021 12:00-13:30
- 10 June 2021 11:30-13:00

Cambridgeshire skills funded online zoom cooking

I was running a lockdown outreach activity for 14 months and the activity is recently awarded a grant funded by Cambridgeshire skills from Cambridgeshire County Council along with Somersham Timebank and Wyton on the Hill Community Activity Team in a joint application for this online healthy, home-cooking.

Staff member from Somersham Parish Council and Wyton on the Hill Community will look after the administrative side and I will be teaching the new cooking skills to the participants online.

<https://forms.gle/TPVYASYXJqQc15Y87> - This is form to register the interest for the Cambourne residents.

Shrobona Bhattacharya

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Covid-19 community update – 3 June 2021

Dear Members

You may have spotted that we didn't send one of these regular emails last week; we want to be led by how much information we have to share with you, and didn't feel there was a need to email you last week. It may be that we continue to email you less regularly in the coming weeks. This will again be led by whether there is information that needs to be shared with you and, if so, how timely the information is.

As always, if you have any questions or need any specific support, you should always feel free to email duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk at any time.

Volunteers Week

This week is [Volunteers Week](#). We would like to say a huge thank you to you all. You may not be as busy as you have been over the last year, but your commitment and time has made all the difference.

Joyful June

Action for Happiness is an organisation that brings together like-minded people from all walks of life and helps them take practical action, drawing on the latest scientific research. It has no religious, political or commercial affiliations and has a simple remit: to try to create more happiness in the world! It has created daily prompts for the month of June to help people find joy, even when things are difficult. Research has shown that experiencing positive emotions in a 3-to-1 ratio with negative ones leads to a tipping point beyond which we naturally become more resilient to adversity. The [Joyful June calendar](#) may be a useful resource for yourself, or to share with anyone in your community who might benefit from training their brain to find joy.

Promoting regular, rapid testing

About 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 do not have symptoms but can still infect others. Testing twice a week can help stop the virus spreading.

[Regular rapid testing](#) is one of the key ways that we can keep ourselves and others safe as restrictions continue to ease. The number of cases may be low currently, but it is still possible to catch the virus and to not know you've got it. Home testing kits can be posted to you or collected from a number of local pharmacies and other sites. These tests may help catch an asymptomatic positive case and avoid it being unwittingly passed to others.

- [Find out where you can collect home test kits](#)
- Or [order online to be delivered to your home](#)
- Or order by calling 119

Covid-19 vaccine efficacy

On 22 May, Public Health England (PHE) published a new analysis showing that [two doses of the Covid-19 vaccines are highly effective](#) against the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant first identified in India. Analysis also suggests that vaccine effectiveness after two doses against symptomatic disease from the B.1.617.2 variant is similar to the B.1.1.7 (Alpha/Kent) variant. PHE expects to see even higher levels of effectiveness against hospitalisation and death.

The study found that, for the period from 5 April to 16 May:

- the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 88% effective against symptomatic disease from the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant two weeks after the second dose, compared to 93% effectiveness against the B.1.1.7 (Alpha) variant
- two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine were 60% effective against symptomatic disease from the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant compared to 66% effectiveness against the B.1.1.7 (Alpha) variant
- both vaccines were 33% effective against symptomatic disease from B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, three weeks after the first dose compared to around 50% effectiveness against the B.1.1.7 variant (Alpha).

Connecting Communities Volunteer Conference 2021

Hunts Forum and Connect Cambridgeshire are hosting the [Connecting Communities Volunteer Conference 2021](#). We thought some of the sessions may be useful.

1. Redesigning Recruitment

Tuesday 8 June // 10:00 to 11:30 am // Zoom Webinar. With speakers from The British Red Cross, Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and Food Cycle Cambridge. [Book here](#).

2. Reviewing Retention

Wednesday 9 June // 10:00 to 11:30 am // Zoom Meeting. With Rob Jackson, expert on volunteer management. Presentation followed by breakout rooms with questions and reflections from Rob. [Book here](#).

3. Re-examining Volunteering

Thursday 10 June // 1:00- 2:30 pm // Zoom Webinar. Panel discussion with Laura Hamilton, volunteer management consultant, who will chair a panel of local voluntary and third sector speakers, discussing the topic: *Can we make volunteering a realistic option for everyone?* [Book here](#).

ARC newsletter

The Ox-Cam Arc Leadership newsletter for May is attached.

Briefing from Val Thomas: Acting Director of Public Health

Please find attached the latest weekly member briefing on Covid-19 rates within Cambridgeshire, from the Acting Director of Public Health and Cambridgeshire County Council. The document also contains an update on the work going on to control the spread of the virus.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Consultation

Cambridgeshire County Council has begun [a consultation](#) on the creation of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Cambridgeshire. They have asked to pass this information through to District Councillors as they are interested in your feedback on the initial proposals.

This Plan is an early stage policy document which seeks to outline new and existing walking and cycling routes and consider which routes should be created or improved, as and when funding becomes available. In many cases, it may be several years before monies come forward for these projects and works can take place. However, identifying the best routes and putting a Plan in place means that the County will be in the best position to bid for future Government funding and progress new cycling and walking routes.

[Please take a look at the proposals.](#) Are these the right routes for the local area? Are there alternative routes which we should consider? Please let the County Council know your thoughts [via the survey](#). The consultation is available through to the end of the day on Tuesday 13 July 2021. Respondents are invited to complete the survey and/or mark cycleways and footpaths they would like to see created or prioritised on our map. This information will then be analysed and presented to the County Council's Highways and Transport Committee for their review.

Reminder: Twice weekly rapid COVID-19 testing

[Regular rapid testing](#) is a key way that we can all keep ourselves, as well as our friends and family, safe as restrictions continue to ease. Anyone who does not have symptoms can now get regular rapid lateral flow tests to check for COVID-19. With that in mind, we're especially asking for your help in sharing our social media posts that focus on how people can easily obtain and take these tests.

Home testing kits can be collected from a number of sites across Cambridgeshire, with more locations regularly joining the list.

- [Find out where you can collect home test kits](#)
- Or, if you are unable to collect, you can [order online to be delivered to your home](#)
- Or by calling 119

When you see messages on these topics appear on our social media – please do share them within your local groups. A reminder of our social media accounts is below.

[South Cambridgeshire District Council Facebook](#)

[South Cambridgeshire District Council Twitter](#)

[South Cambridgeshire District Council Instagram](#)

[South Cambridgeshire District Council LinkedIn](#)

Pride 2021

This month is Pride 2021, celebrated both nationally and internationally. The Council supports Pride and would like to encourage staff to check out the LGBTQ+ resources on our [webpages](#). We have talks, training, book and film recommendations and links to local Pride event organisers.

We also continue to support Encompass Network locally, and further information about their work and activities can be found on their [website](#) and [social media](#).

Some events nationally

[London Pride](#) - has been moved to September due to COVID restrictions.

[UK Black Pride](#) - Friday 2nd July - Sunday 4th July

[London Trans Pride](#) - 26th June

[Bi Pride \(BiFI Festival\)](#) - 20th June (virtual)

Update from Dr Carolyn Wilkins OBE, NHS Test and Trace

New Travel Guidance for Areas with Higher Levels of Variant

As you're all aware, there was some confusion earlier this week over travel guidance concerning areas with higher levels of the B.1.617.2 variant, which we worked quickly to resolve. The latest guidance has now been published in full [HERE](#), and provides more clarity on the preventive measures we can all take to limit the spread of COVID-19. The new variant spreads more easily from person to person and the government is advising that, in the affected areas, you should still meet outside rather than inside where possible (unless you have formed a [support bubble](#)), maintain a 2-metre distance from people you do not live with or are not in a support bubble with, and minimise travel in and out of the area. As well as this guidance, the government is encouraging people to [get tested](#) twice a week, work from home if possible, and get vaccinated when offered.

We are working through with colleagues in the Cabinet Office to finalise the package of support including communications advice in Enhanced Response Areas, and will be in touch with further details next week.

Pilot Launched to Support People to Self-Isolate

On Monday, the government [announced](#) the launch of 9 pilots across England to test new ways to help ensure people stick to self-isolation rules in areas with higher prevalence of infection, including from new variants. In partnership with local authorities, the government is backing the pilots with £12 million which will be used for a range of initiatives including providing alternative accommodation for people in overcrowded households, social care support, and language communications support. The areas that will receive funding for these pilots are: Newham; Yorkshire and Humber; Lancashire, Blackburn & Darwen, Blackpool; Greater Manchester; Cheshire and Merseyside; Royal Borough of Kingston; Hackney; Peterborough, Fenland and South Holland, and Somerset.

Updates from MHCLG

First Homes

On 24 May, the Minister for Housing, Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP, published a Written Ministerial Statement in Parliament on First Homes, a new scheme which provides homes for first-time buyers at a discount of a minimum of 30 per cent. The Planning Practice guidance has also been updated to provide further information on First Homes and their implementation. The statement and the guidance updates include detail on the First Homes definition and the qualifying criteria, eligibility criteria, and the role of plan-making and decision-making.

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/first-homes>

Written Ministerial Statement:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2021-05-24/hlws48>

Collection:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

Together for Our Planet campaign and toolkit

Ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow this November, the government has launched a new campaign to encourage UK small businesses to join the fight against climate change. The Together For Our Planet Business Climate Leaders campaign encourages small and micro businesses to commit to cutting their greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030, and to net zero by 2050 or sooner. The campaign is the latest phase of the government's UK-wide Together For Our Planet campaign, which is encouraging everyone to do their bit to cut carbon emissions and help reach net zero by 2050. The government has

produced a toolkit to help councils to promote and invite local small businesses to join the campaign. BEIS has made available pre-written social media posts and visuals to help councils with local communications and to use in their own social media messages, newsletters, and emails. The toolkit can be used to promote the campaign alongside any locally available support schemes or green business networks in your area to help businesses to take action on climate change.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/calling-all-small-businesses-to-lead-the-charge-to-net-zero>

Campaign:

<https://businessclimatehub.org/uk/>

<https://beis.frontify.com/d/GsFSAG4sV5D2/together-for-our-planet>

Toolkit and resources:

<https://beis.frontify.com/d/GsFSAG4sV5D2/together-for-our-planet#/stakeholders/promoting-the-campaign>

Webinars and videos for organisations that trade with the EU

Webinars and videos about trading with the EU are available for councils to share with local stakeholders and businesses.

Topics covered in the webinars include importing and exporting goods, moving goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland and details of the government's cross-border trade forum, designed to help businesses and traders find answers to questions on the new rules on trading with the EU.

Businesses can now access a calendar of upcoming webinars and sign up.

The following live webinars are taking place in early June:

- Exporting: what you need to do to keep your goods moving (3 June – 11:45am-12:45pm)
- Customs Import Declarations: an overview (8 June – 11:45am-12:45pm)

Sign-up:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/307162178772281358?source=December-HMRC-GOV> (3 June)

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/720124453729590542?source=February-HMRC-GOV> (8 June)

Webinars and videos:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-your-business-trades-with-the-eu>

Calendar and sign-up:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/organisations-that-trade-with-the-eu-webinars-calendar>

How the world should prepare for the next pandemic

The government has, today (2 June), published an article written by Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance, first published in the Financial Times.

In the article, Sir Patrick writes about an aim of the international community to have vaccines and therapeutics available at scale within 100 days of any future pandemics being declared.

He confirms the government is bringing together experts from industry, academia, governments and organisations like the World Health Organisation to look at the practical steps that the international community can take to make it possible to meet the 100-day ambition.

Article: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-the-world-should-prepare-for-the-next-pandemic>