

County Council Report November 2021

Free rapid Covid testing kits from libraries

Residents will soon be able to collect free rapid Covid testing kits from libraries across Cambridgeshire.

From Monday 1 November, home testing kits will be available from seven libraries as part of a four-week trial.

The move comes as part of Cambridgeshire County Council's commitment to reducing the spread of Covid and ensuring that preventative measures, such as rapid testing, are readily available to members of the public. Covid rates in Cambridgeshire are continuing to rise sharply and remain above the regional and national averages.

To collect a home testing kit simply visit one of the following libraries:

- Huntingdon
- St Neots
- Soham
- Wisbech
- March
- Arbury Court
- St. Ives

Jyoti Atri, director of Public Health for Cambridgeshire, said: "We are extremely concerned by the high rates of Covid-19 in Cambridgeshire and will continue to work with partners to help reduce the virus spread. As part of this, we are keen that rapid testing remains easily available to residents, which this trial will help to ensure.

"Rapid testing is quick, free and easy. You can do it in the comfort of your own home and get a result within half an hour. With local virus rates being so high we recommend everyone takes a rapid test regularly, but especially those who are returning to offices, or mixing more with people indoors and parents of school children. If you do

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County Council Report November 2021

test positive and need to self-isolate, there is plenty of support available."

As well as getting home testing kits from libraries, residents can also order these online or from sites across the county. Find out more at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting

Extra powers, 20mph zones and HGVs

Extra powers, 20mph zones and HGVs are just a few key traffic topics that will be discussed at the Highways and Transport Committee on Thursday, 4 November.

Members of the committee will be hearing updates on various traffic management issues, including King's Parade. Whilst the replacement scheme of the King's Parade barrier is being worked on by the City Council, the joint administration is keen to look more widely at the terror threat in Cambridge.

Following a briefing session with the Counter Terrorism Security Advisor, who discussed the detail of the terror threat, risk assessment and the anti-terror plan, Cllr McDonald and Cllr Bird would like to review the terror threat in Cambridge as a whole. Once discussed at committee, this work will be carried out in partnership with the City Council and the police.

Another key topic is Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), a cross-party group of members will be reviewing the County Council's HGV policy, looking at best practice and what actions could be taken to address the issues across the county, which not only impact our roads but our villages and communities.

The group will also look at the criteria for Local Highways Improvement schemes or privately funded applications and the introduction of weight limits. The committee will hear how this HGV

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County Council Report November 2021

group will be working on a revised policy which will then be presented back to Highways and Transport Committee next year.

One agenda item is 20mph speed limits, the joint administration is keen to implement more 20mph schemes across the county and the committee will hear how they're proposing to do this. The council's 20mph policy and how the schemes are implemented will be reviewed working with the Vision Zero Partnership, which aims to halve road deaths and serious injuries by 2030 and to zero by 2040.

The committee will also hear how Cambridgeshire County Council could apply for powers to enforce 'moving traffic offences'. The county is looking to apply to the Department of Transport for powers relating to part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. This would only apply where there is a civil parking enforcement area, currently Cambridge City, and would involve enforcing moving traffic offences such as vehicles making banned turns and obstructing yellow boxes.

Papworth to Cambourne Equestrian, Foot and Cycleway

The long-awaited designated route will improve safety as well as increasing much needed equestrian, pedestrian and cycle links across the local communities.

The new route will be at least 2.5m wide and run from the Papworth roundabout over 1,480 metres south to the Iway Hotel alongside the A1198, known as Ermine Street South.

The new route will be a two way path and set back from the busy A1198 carriageway by half a metre to promote user safety. A temporary path will be put in place through to the Caxton Gibbet roundabout pending National Highways A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Road improvements which will see a route created across the junction.

County Council Report November 2021

The work is being funded by Cambridgeshire County Council and National Highways and will be carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council contractors, Milestone Infrastructure. Works are estimated to take until late spring 2022.

To ensure a safe working area, Ermine Street South will be single lane operation southbound only from 06.00-19.00 with overnight closures (19:00 – 06:00) of the whole road. Diversions will be put in place for those who need to access Papworth village from Caxton Gibbet.

In creating this new we are responding to calls from the Papworth community to improve access to neighbouring Cambourne. The works are taking place over the winter months so whilst we be at the mercy of the weather, we are confident the new path will be ready and open by the end of spring 2022.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption are proud to be participating in National Adoption Week (18 – 23 October 2021) by sharing real adoption stories to help find more adoptive parent(s) for local children and young people.

National Adoption Week is a nationwide campaign which plays an essential role in raising awareness of the number of vulnerable children who need adoptive families, dispelling myths about who can adopt a child, and promoting the types of support that are available to adoptive parents throughout their journey. This year, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption is sharing the experiences of three sets of adoptive parents and children to help show the diversity and broad range of adoptive families.

Some children in need of adoption have additional emotional, medical, or physical needs.

One adoptive parent, who welcomed two children with disabilities into their family, joining their three birth children, said: “Our children

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County Council Report November 2021

all have unique, close bonds. They argue and make up like all siblings do but guaranteed wherever one is, the others are never far behind.

“Ultimately, the journey to becoming a family doesn’t alter your feelings in the end. Birth or adopted, all of our children are so ours, equally cherished and adored.”

People of any cultural or ethnic background, gender identity or sexuality can adopt, as long as they can provide a stable, safe and loving home.

We spoke to two former secondary school teachers in a same sex relationship about their adoptive daughter.

“Being in a same sex relationship meant adoption was the natural step in starting a family,” they said. “We now have our daughter and know that we have made the best decision ever. We want her to own her journey, know how special she is and be able to live life confidently being proud of her identity and background.”
Adoptive parents can also be single, married or in a civil partnership, or in a long-term stable relationship.

A single adoptive parent said: “He has changed so much in such a little time - and is growing up too fast! I can see he is turning into such a lovely, warm, and kind soul who charms anyone he meets. He’s settled into his new family and is doing so well at home and at school. I’d fully advocate the adoption process to anyone thinking about it.”

Councillor Bryony Goodliffe, Chair of Cambridgeshire County Council’s Children and Young People’s Committee said: “This campaign is a fantastic way of highlighting that love and stability create a firm basis for a family, no matter what path the children or parents have taken to get there. If you are motivated, patient and committed, please consider adopting.”

County Council Report November 2021

To read more about these real adoption stories, please visit [the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption website's news section](#). To find out more about the National Adoption Week campaign, search for the hashtag #YouCanAdopt on social media.

If you believe you can adopt a child and provide a loving, safe and stable home, start your adoption journey with us by calling 0300 123 1093, by email at adoptionenquiries@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by visiting [the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption website](#).

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