

# District Councillor Report January 2022

## Happy New Year 2022 to everyone

A Happy New Year to you! I hope you all managed to take a well-deserved break over the festive season.

## 'Vaxi Taxi' scheme to support transport to vaccinations

If residents are not able to travel to a vaccination appointment, please signpost them to [Cambridgeshire County Council's 'Vaxi Taxi' scheme](#), where the County Council will cover the cost of the taxi journey. Passengers are being asked to ensure they have booked an appointment or, if it is a walk-in clinic, that they know the date/time is correct at their nearest centre before booking the taxi.

## Requests for food and other support are increasing

More requests for support for food as case numbers have increased. Should you come across residents in need of such support, please refer them to reach via emails to Communities Duty [Duty.Communities@scamb.gov.uk](mailto:Duty.Communities@scamb.gov.uk) if possible or call 01954 713070.

The [County Council COVID-19 coordination hub](#) is still operating and District Council is working closely with them, please feel free to refer any residents to the hub too if any support is needed.

## Stagecoach Tickets Update:

Stagecoach have made some changes to tickets across the East from **Tuesday 4th January 2022**

### Some of these changes include:

- Flexible tickets available across the East
- Youth tickets for under 19s and students
- Expanding the boundaries for Bedford and Bedfordshire zones
- Two group ticket options
- Removing return tickets and simplifying single tickets
- Changes to some town zones

## COVID community update on Lateral Flow Tests – 7 January 2022

As you will be aware, the Omicron variant of COVID-19 has meant there has been a huge surge in demand for Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) and demand is currently outstripping supply at times. Although this is expected to be a temporary problem, obtaining test kits is currently not as straight-

forward as it has previously been, especially since the most convenient source - local pharmacies - have not had a regular supply of test kits since the rise in demand.

For most people this will simply mean some extra patience when <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> The national system refreshes the delivery slots available every 30 minutes, so if you visit the website and no tests are available, try again in 30 minutes.

For those who urgently need tests and are able to travel, an alternative is to visit one of the rapid testing centres from where kits can be collected. In South Cambridgeshire there is a regular pop-up session in Cambourne, but all the details about the locations of these sites can be found on Cambridgeshire County Council's

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-community-testing>

## COVID community update – on 13 January 2022

### Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow test results

From 11 January in England, [asymptomatic people who receive positive lateral flow test \(LFT\) results for COVID-19 are no longer required to take a confirmatory PCR test](#). They should report their LFT result online at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) and self-isolate immediately. This is because, whilst levels of COVID-19 remain so high, the vast majority of people who test positive on a lateral flow test can be confident that they do have COVID-19. **People with COVID-19 symptoms should still take a PCR test in the first instance, rather than a LFT.**

Please note, however, that there are exceptions to this revised approach and people who are eligible for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment will still be asked to take a confirmatory PCR if they receive a positive LFT result, to enable them to access financial support.

### Stay at home guidance for households with possible COVID-19 infection

The self-isolation advice for people with COVID-19 has changed. It is now possible to end self-isolation seven days after the date of their initial positive test if they receive two negative LFT tests, taken 24 hours apart, on days six and seven. The first LFT test should not be taken before the sixth day. [See: COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.](#)

### COVID-19: guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk

On 24 December, the UK Health Security Agency and Department of Health and Social Care updated the [guidance for people aged 12 and over whose immune system means they are at higher risk of serious illness if they become infected with COVID-19](#). The guidance includes new information on keeping safe, eligibility for additional vaccine doses, and eligibility for new NHS COVID-19 treatments if they become infected

## Find help and support if you have long COVID

On 24 December, the Department of Health and Social Care also updated the [guidance for those who have long COVID](#). The guidance has been updated with advice for those who have signs and symptoms of long COVID, those who have long COVID and are unable to work, those who have long COVID and need support to find, return to or stay in work, and for those who have a child with long COVID.

## Update from the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group: “Help us help you and your family stay well”

NHS wants to make sure you receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time. There are simple steps you can also take, that will not only help you to stay well, but will help to ease pressures on your local NHS services. Locally, a new <https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/help-us-help-you-and-your-family-stay-well/> is now available that explains what you can do to look after yourself and your family, what local services are available and how to contact the NHS if you need to. The booklet is also available to [download](#) in the following languages - Polish, Romanian, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Urdu and Punjabi. You can see a copy of the booklet attached, as well as graphics which you're welcome to use on your social media if helpful.

## Changes in the way we will structure officer support

Earlier in the pandemic, District Council had a number of different 'Patch Officers' who were responsible for supporting the COVID-19 response in particular areas within the district and we encouraged you to contact your relevant patch officer direct. The level of demand is now much lower than it was during the height of the pandemic and so we are no longer operating this system. Instead, we will coordinate any enquiries centrally through our [duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk) inbox. Please use the [duty.communitie@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:duty.communitie@scambs.gov.uk) going forward for any support you need in your work in the community.

## Resumption of green bin collections

[Green bin collections have resumed](#) in South Cambridgeshire, from Wednesday 12 January). Waste crews will empty as many bins as possible but, depending on staff availability, may not be able to reach every home. Check your collection date or read <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/return-of-green-bin-collections/>

## Flood Action Campaign

The Flood Action Campaign is based on the Environment Agency's 'Prepare. Act. Survive.' flood guide, which helps people in flood risk areas to know what to do in a flood and plan to help reduce the impact of flooding. The Environment Agency is urging people to check their flood risk online, <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings> and, if they are at risk, <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/plan-ahead-for-flooding>

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