

CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL
District of South Cambridgeshire

Inclusive Developments

Council Meeting 5th September 2023

To receive an Update from Phil Priestley of Inclusive Developments regarding his work in Cambourne. This will reflect on the work since the beginning of the new term. Attached is Phil Priestley's report on his work.

It is
RECOMMENDED to receive the report.

Cambourne Town Council Report

Introduction

A change of structure within the contract has delineated the time I spend between the Village College and the Primary Schools more clearly.

Overall I will be spending 0830hrs until midday with the Village College and the time from Midday onwards until the close of school hours with the Primary schools of The Vine, Jeavons Wood, Monkfield Park and Hardwick and Cambourne.

The role that I am taking at the Village College is more focused on external relationships now – which includes supporting local businesses and assisting with issues around ASB and low level crime/disorder from a minority of students.

I have continued to work with a smaller cohort of students inside the college who has specifically wanted to maintain their mentoring.

September 2023 – New term

At the time of writing we are coming to the close of week 4 in schools. Over the course of this period I have:

- Begun visits with local retailers to provide my contact information in the case of any incident that require identification of persons wearing school uniforms.
- I have started building a directory of local businesses that in the fullness of time can be held by the Town Council and if appropriate listed on the Town Council website to support the local economy. Having a directory of contacts will certainly help me to maintain my role – but has a lot of positive implications for helping local employers and traders to develop.
- I'm working to assist the Village College in promoting work experience opportunities for students in Year 10. We have a deficit of positions and need to grow the portfolio of opportunities so that all of our students can find placement.
- **The Vine** – I have visited the Vine twice, I have met the new Head Teacher (Pete) and already started doing some work with the Year 6 classes (Pearl and Opal classes) on behavioural expectations and the journey to secondary school.
- **Jeavons Wood** – I have visited and we have follow up meetings planned to look at key individuals who will be needing support prior to secondary transition from Year 6. Last year I worked with a cohort of six boys who are now at the Village College – which has enabled me to offer them early support in their new environment.
- **Monkfield Park Primary** – Meeting with Principal has taken place. We have identified four boys in need of behavioural diversion and mentoring. We are creating something bespoke around them involving computers and technology. We are planning a school field trip to Cambridge to a computer games developer named Jagex as a reward for the year.
- **Harwick & Cambourne Primary** – I have visited twice and delivered an input on tobacco, smoking and vaping. There is a huge growth of vaping – not merely in Cambourne but everywhere (literally) that I work. I have a presentation about the dangers of vaping that will

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be rolled out across all of the primary schools, H&C Primary is the first to have received this content and the delivery was successful and well received.

The community has also received the very sad news of the passing of a young man in Cambourne. This bulletin/report needs to consider the community impact issues around this event, which has had a significant impact on young people in the town and has witnessed a genuine outpouring of concern.

The young man is Edgaras Kaslauskas (17) and his family are reporting that he died on Monday night following an overdose of an unknown substance.

Edgaras (or Ed) is someone that I knew well and that I supported while he was at Cambourne Village College (he finished his GCSEs just over a year ago). His girlfriend is a member of the Cambs Youth Panel – a group that I run. She reached out to me with the news on Monday evening shortly after it had happened.

The family have crowdfunded the burial and memorial service for Ed and within hours of the appeal being posted it has raised close to £5,000 with messages of condolence and support from members of the community.

Very sadly this is one of a growing number of teenage suicides in the UK and statistics show that between 2021/2022 (the most recent and available Home Office statistics) this trend has increased 35%. Adolescent suicide is now the number one cause of death in the age category 14-19 years.

The Town Council might wish to consider whether it wants to recognise what has happened or how it might choose to respond.

Phil Priestley