# **Over Parish Council**

# 7.30pm Minutes Full Council E-Meeting – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**PRESENT** 

Chairman: Mrs A Griffiths
Vice Chairman: Mr G Twiss

Councillors: Mr A Tranter, Mr M Conlon, Mr S Couper, Mrs H Pletts, Mr R Robinson, (2 Vacancies)

Parish Clerk: Mrs M Pink

In attendance

County Councillor: None District Councillor: None Parishioners: 0

Item

### 2020/08-01 To Receive and Accept Apologies for Absence

County Cllr P Hudson, District Cllr B Handley, District Cllr D Percival, Mrs Hyde, Mrs Davies

## 2020/08-02 Members' Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

- Declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda Registered Interests received from Cllr S Couper, Cllr A Tranter Trustee of Over Day Centre
   Cllrs R Robinson, A Griffiths Trustees of Over Town Lands Charity
   Cllr A Griffiths Trustee of Over Community Association
- 2.2 Requests to Speak No requests received to speak on any items as declared above.
- 2.3 To receive requests for dispensations No requests received.
- 2.4 To grant requests received The granting of dispensations to be made by Full Council.

2020/08-03 Public Participation – No public in attendance – Comments submitted prior to the meeting to be recorded – Resident concerns over slippery surface at Overcote to be discussed at agenda item 7.4

#### 2020/08-04 Minutes

- 4.1 **To Approve Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting Dated 14**<sup>th</sup> **July 2020 RESOLVED**: It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the Minutes are approved. The Chairman will sign the Minutes at the next available Full Council Meeting. All actions have been
  - Chairman will sign the Minutes at the next available Full Council Meeting. All actions have been completed.

    ACTION CHAIR
- 4.2 To adjust Minute item June 2020/06 11.4 to change the Minute to read "Furloughed staff have volunteered to join the scheme managed by SCDC to provide hot meals to Village residents". The Council agreed that the Minute item noted could be changed to clarify the status of the furloughed staff in relation to the District Council's hot meals scheme.
  - **RESOLVED**: It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that the Minute item noted above is amended. The Chairman will sign the amended Minutes at the next available Full Council Meeting.

**ACTION CHAIR** 

### 2020/08-05 Planning – For Discussion and Approval

- 5.1 Application 20/02840/HFUL Charter Cottage, Horse Ware Addition of conservatory and heat pump. Amendments to openings to existing Application S/1883/18/FL
  - **RESOLVED**: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Council comments are noted as no objections
- 5.2 Application 20/02620/HFUL 54 The Lanes Demolish garage and conservatory, raising of roof and installation of front and rear dormers, 1.5 storey side extension with garage and single storey rear extension.
  - **RESOLVED**: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Council comments are noted as no objections
- 5.3 Application 20/02985/HFUL 16 Willingham Road Extension of roof to provide additional bedrooms. Resubmission of withdrawn application S/3975/19
  - **RESOLVED**: It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Council comments are noted as no objections
  - Planning for information only
- 5.4 Application 20/1667/TTCA The Vicarage Tree work Field Maple, Sycamore, Hazels

#### 2020/08-06 Finance

6.1 Approval of Payments

The Clerk requested that an invoice for £360.00 is added to the payments list for hedge cutting at the Doles from last Autumn. It will be officially listed as a payment in September

**RESOLVED**: To approve invoices and payments as listed to the sum of £4,099.95. The payment of £360 reported above will be made now and included in the payments list for September.

6.2 Receipts noted: None

### 2020/08-07 Village Matters

7.1 Weekly rubbish collection at the Community Centre to be approved

The Groundsman and Cllr Tranter have requested that the frequency of rubbish collection at the Centre is increased to a weekly collection as the Overcote area rubbish needs to be removed on a regular basis. The cost will be £17.56 per week.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Clerk can amend the rubbish collection frequency to weekly until further notice. **ACTION CLERK** 

7.2 Bus Shelter design for Mill Road, condition 3989 to be approved – The Clerk had received an email request for agreement of the Bus Shelter design for Mill Road as the provision of Bus Shelters is a section 106 requirement for this development. A series of designs have been provided by the designers and the Clerk had emailed the designs to the Council for consideration prior to the meeting. The Council discussed this item and agreed that the Neo design was the best design by consensus and that the best location will be closer to the junction with Mill Road and Willingham Road where the pavement is wider and can accommodate the design. It was felt that the design should be enclosed on three sides and should be situated so that it faced the road. This would give maximum coverage from the elements for all users.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed, seconded, and unanimously approved that the Clerk can provide the designers with the feedback as stated above. **ACTION CLERK** 

- 7.3 Broadleaf weed spraying for the Green Request from the Groundsman to obtain quotes. Further to the report emailed to the Council prior to the meeting the Groundsman would like to obtain quotes for the work as stated. The Council agreed that quotes could be obtained for this work ready to be agreed at the next meeting.

  ACTION CLERK & DB
- 7.4 Resident request re positioning of safety belts at Overcote Clerk to obtain quotes for consideration. The Clerk emailed three quotes for a life belt station to be purchased for the Overcote development. She was also informed of the current promotion by the Fire Service for the installation of an emergency throwline board which could possibly be provided for free by the Fire Service. The quotations obtained were discussed by the Council and Cllr Twiss stated that a 60cm life belt and an 8mm, 30m line would be sufficient if the Council wished to provide this facility. The Clerk advised that signage would need to be provided stating "use at your own risk"

The Council asked the Clerk to further investigate the emergency throwline board and to report back at the next meeting.

ACTION CLERK

The Council also discussed the surface of the Slipway. Cllr Tranter has investigated the resident claims that the surface was slippery and due to the warm weather algae had accumulated on the part of the slipway that was underwater and this could possibly be a concern for some elderly or less infirm users. However, the slipway had been constructed with a rippled surface as opposed to a flat surface to help to alleviate this problem. It was decided by the Council that Cllr Tranter would sweep away any accumulated algae when he attends site to collect litter from the area.

ACTION AT

### Agenda items for Information only – Reports emailed prior to the Meeting

## 2020/08-08 Matters of Interest from County and District Councillors and PCSO

- 8.1 County Council Emailed report from Cllr P Hudson circulated prior to the meeting. Noted
- 8.2 District Council Emailed report from Cllr B Handley circulated prior to the meeting. Noted.
- 8.3 Police No report

### 2020/08-09 Village Matters

- 9.1 To receive Village Handyman Report and consider any maintenance items Report noted
- 9.2 To receive Groundsman Report re the Green Report noted

| mvoices for approval to a     | ate - 1st August 2020                        |        |        | _                 | _                 |                                    |                 |
|-------------------------------|--|--------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Village                       |  |        |        | Total<br>Payments | Total<br>Receipts | Powers                             | Type of payment |
|                               |  |        |        |                   |                   |                                    |                 |
| Direct Debits:                |  |        |        |                   |                   |                                    |                 |
| British Gas Lite              | The Pavilion - Electricity                   |        | 9.78   |                   |                   | LGHA 1972, s.133                   | DD              |
| Invoices received:            |  |        |        |                   |                   |                                    |                 |
| D Bridgman:                   | Handyman tasks, July - Village               | 364.00 |        |                   |                   |                                    | online          |
|                               | Handyman tasks, July - Pavilion              | 350.00 |        |                   |                   |                                    | online          |
|                               |  |        | 714.00 |                   |                   | LGA 1953, s.4                      |                 |
| Clerk's Salary - July 2020    | Gross £1220.61                               |        | 924.98 |                   |                   | LGHA 1989, s.7                     | SO              |
| HMRC                          | PAYE and NI July                             |        | 363.06 |                   |                   | LGHA 1989, s.7                     | online          |
| R Burrell                     | Village litter clearing July                 |        | 32.84  |                   |                   | Litter Act 1983, ss5,6             | online          |
| R Fenwick                     | Grass Cutting                                |        | 75.00  |                   |                   | OSA 1906, s.10                     | online          |
| Eon                           | Street Lighting Energy Apr - June            |        | 148.12 |                   |                   | Parish Councils Act<br>1957, s.3   | online          |
| Create Signs                  | 2 x Pavilion Toilet Signs                    |        | 84.00  |                   |                   | LGA Misc Prov 1976, S.19           | online          |
| The Bin Shop                  | 2 x bins Overcote                            |        | 361.46 |                   |                   | OSA1906, s.10                      | online          |
| Viking                        | H&S items for the Pavilion                   |        | 319.39 |                   |                   | LGHA 1972, s.133                   | online          |
| Jakes Plumbing Services       | Plumbing work at the Pavilion                |        | 63.30  |                   |                   | LGHA 1972, s.133                   | online          |
|                               | Total Payments for the Village:              |        |        | 3,095.93          |                   |                                    |                 |
|                               |  |        |        |                   |                   |                                    |                 |
| Costs relating to The Gree    | n (Registered Charity 300418)                |        |        |                   |                   |                                    |                 |
| D Bridgman:                   | The Green, July maintenance work             |        | 418.26 |                   |                   | LGA 1953, s.4                      | online          |
|                               | Total Payments for The Green:                |        |        | 418.26            |                   |                                    |                 |
|                               | Total Payments to be made for July           |        |        | 3,514.19          |                   |                                    |                 |
| Daymant made by D Cand        |  |        |        |                   |                   |                                    |                 |
| Payment made by D Card Amazon | Hand Sanitizer dispensers for the Pavilion   |        | 35.78  |                   |                   | LGA 1972, s.133                    | Dcard           |
| HP Store                      | Laptop Computer for the Clerk                |        | 550.00 |                   |                   | LGA 1972, s.133<br>LGA 1972, s.226 | Dcard           |
| TIF Stole                     | Laptop Computer for the cierk                |        | 330.00 |                   |                   | LGA 1972, 3.220                    | Dearu           |
|                               | Total Payments already made for the Village: |        | 585.78 |                   |                   |                                    |                 |
| Receipts                      |  |        |        |                   |                   |                                    |                 |

Next meeting dates: Full Council E-Meeting – 7.30pm Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 8:24PM These minutes are unadopted

Signed & dated Chairman

Report to Over Parish Council August 2020

New regulations for Parish meetings

From 1 August new regulations also came into force that enable a number of committees and bodies to conduct meetings remotely, including Parish Meetings.

These amendment regulations correct an earlier omission, which was an accidental oversight due to the speed at which the Coronavirus Act 2020 had to be drafted. Parish Meetings can now be held remotely to agree draft accounts before the extended deadline of 31 August.

Update on Mobile/Community Wardens Scheme

As reported earlier, the Covid pandemic has delayed the roll-out of the Mobile/Community Wardens Scheme agreed by OPC at the end of last year, as council officers were redeployed onto Covid response duties and with

Age UK, who will be running the scheme, also seriously affected. Things are starting to get back to some kind of normal now and it is hoped that the Over scheme will be rolled out in November. Let's hope that we don't have a second spike of the disease that might push things back again.

Solar Together

SCDC is partnering with Cambridgeshire County Council to give residents the opportunity to take part in a group-buying scheme for solar panels. Called 'Solar Together Cambridgeshire' the scheme's aim is to help homeowners feel confident they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from a pre-vetted installer which will boost local renewable energy generation. The scheme is free and there is no obligation to install panels. Homeowners will be able to register their interest in the scheme from 1 September. Pre-vetted installers will compete to provide the best price for high quality systems, after which those who registered will receive a personal recommendation. They will then have until 11 December to decide whether or not to go ahead. Eat Out to Help Out – local listings

Our Business Support and Communications Teams have worked together to collate and publish a list of restaurants in South Cambridgeshire that have signed-up to participate in the Government's 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme. No Over businesses are participating but Willingham Auctions Café is.

https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/eat-out-to-help-out-in-south-cambs/

Bill Handley and Dawn Percival, August 2020

# <u>County Councillor report July 2020</u> <u>Virus update</u>

#### 1. Key points

Confirmed Covid-19 cases - overall and in care homes

- **74 new lab-confirmed Covid-19 cases** were detected in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in the latest reporting period, 20 26 July (as at 29 July).
- The cumulative rate of Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population in **Huntingdonshire (507.5) and**Peterborough (713.3) are statistically significantly higher than the national rate (464.0) (data at 29 July).
- The **7 day rolling average of confirmed cases** for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, and each of the Cambridgeshire districts, shows a **declining trend overall** in Covid-19 cases. However, confirmed cases have increased in Cambridge (plus 8), Fenland (plus 1), and Huntingdonshire (plus 1).
- According to CQC data, 3 care home outbreak in Cambridgeshire was reported in the last reporting period.
- Directly age standardised rates (DASR) of all-cause and Covid-19 related deaths have been published by
  ONS for deaths occurring March-June 2020. For the combined 4-month period the DASR's for
  Cambridgeshire are below the England average for all-cause and Covid-19 related deaths. For the same
  period Peterborough has a DASR similar to the England average for all-cause deaths, and below the
  England average for Covid-19 related deaths.

All cause and Covid-19 deaths<sup>1</sup> – all settings and in care homes

- Numbers of all cause deaths have increased in week 29 for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined (105 all cause deaths compared to 101).
- The **trend in all cause deaths** since the Covid-19 initial peak in deaths is **down overall** in **Cambridgeshire** and its districts. However, **Cambridge** (plus 3 deaths), **Fenland** (plus 5) and **Huntingdonshire** (plus 7) have seen increases in numbers of all cause deaths between the last two reporting weeks.
- No Covid-19 related deaths occurred in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in week 29.
- In week 29, the number of all-cause deaths is below the 2014-18 average for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Numbers in East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire are above the 5yr average.
- For week 29, the number of all-cause deaths in care homes is below the 2014-18 average in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and all districts except one. It is above in East Cambridgeshire.

The cumulative numbers and rates of lab-confirmed cases of Covid-19 reported at 29 July 2020

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes provisional weekly deaths data – it is important to note that the deaths data are retrospective and not as up to date as the dates for the confirmed cases numbers.

| Avoc                 | Total cases | Rate per | 95% CI   |          |  |  |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|--|--|
| Area                 | Total cases | 100,000  | Lower Cl | Upper Cl |  |  |
| Cambridge            | 339         | 269.6    | 242.4    | 299.8    |  |  |
| East Cambridgeshire  | 194         | 217.1    | 188.6    | 249.8    |  |  |
| Fenland              | 490         | 482.8    | 442.0    | 527.4    |  |  |
| Huntingdonshire      | 900         | 507.5    | 475.5    | 541.6    |  |  |
| South Cambridgeshire | 373         | 236.8    | 214.0    | 262.0    |  |  |
| Cambridgeshire       | 2,296       | 352.4    | 338.3    | 367.1    |  |  |
| Peterborough         | 1,434       | 713.3    | 677.4    | 751.0    |  |  |
| East of England      | 24,641      | 397.4    | 392.5    | 402.4    |  |  |
| England              | 259,722     | 464.0    | 462.2    | 465.8    |  |  |

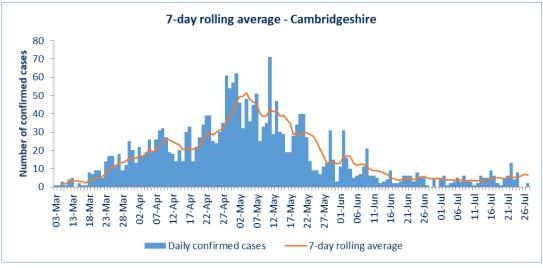
Notes: Rate per 100,000 resident population, crude rates calculated using mid-year 2018 population estimates Last updated on Wednesday 29 July 2020 at 4:03pm. Figures are from pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing.

Statistically signficantly better than England
Statistically similar to England
Statistically significantly worse than England

Source: Public Health England (PHE), https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/

#### **Key points:**

- The cumulative rates of confirmed cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 population are statistically significantly lower in Cambridgeshire (352.4) when compared to the England average (464.0).
- Of the Cambridgeshire districts, the cumulative rate of confirmed cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 population in Fenland (482.8) is statistically similar to the national average, whilst in Huntingdonshire (507.5) rates are statistically significantly higher than the national average. The rates in Huntingdonshire and Fenland are largely related to cases in particular settings, such as care homes, hospitals, schools and workplaces, and these have been actively managed locally, working with partners and Public Health England.
- The cumulative rate of confirmed cases in Peterborough (713.3) is statistically significantly higher than the national rate. The higher rate in Peterborough has been, in part, driven by the testing completed under pillar 2 since late April. This is part of an ongoing management arrangement with Public Health England and partners. The situation is also considered in daily surveillance and outbreak management meetings and appropriate action is being taken in settings and impacted communities.



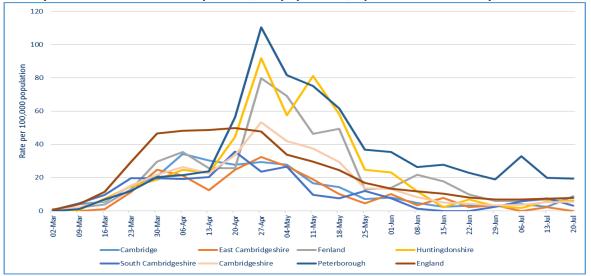
Notes: Last updated on Wednesday 29 July 2020 at 4:03pm. Figures are from pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing.

Source: Public Health England (PHE), https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/

# **Key points:**

• The 7 day rolling average of confirmed cases for each areas across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough show a declining trend since the respective peak in Covid-19 cases overall; there is a slight upturn in the recent days for Cambridgeshire, and Cambridge, Fenland and Huntingdonshire districts (data not shown).

Weekly rates of Covid-19 cases per 100,000 population, up to week 20-26 July, data extracted 29 July 2020



Notes: Rate per 100,000 resident population, crude rates calculated using mid-year 2018 population estimates Last updated on Wednesday 29 July 2020 at 4:03pm. Figures are from pillar 1 and pillar 2 testing.

### **Key points:**

Since the peaks in April, data shows an overall declining trend for the weekly rates of confirmed Covid-19
cases per 100,000 population across each area. However, Cambridge, Fenland and Huntingdonshire
districts have had a slight increase in the rate of Covid-19 positive cases in the most recent reporting week.

Covid-19 outbreaks in care homes – Care Quality Commission Data Number of COVID-19 outbreaks in care homes (most recent 6 recording periods)

|                               | Week starting |        |        |        |        |        |                   |                      | Percentage of                                   |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| Area                          | 08-Jun        | 15-Jun | 22-Jun | 29-Jun | 06-Jul | 13-Jul | All<br>outbreaks* | Number of care homes | care homes that<br>have reported an<br>outbreak |
| Cambridge                     | 0             | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 12                | 15                   | 80.0  |
| East Cambridgeshire           | 0             | 0      | 1      | 0      | 0      | 1      | 9                 | 21                   | 42.9  |
| Fenland                       | 0             | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 1      | 14                | 28                   | 50.0  |
| Huntingdonshire               | 1             | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 1      | 19                | 34                   | 55.9  |
| South Cambridgeshire          | 0             | 0      | 0      | 0      | 1      | 0      | 19                | 33                   | 57.6  |
| Cambridgeshire                | 1             | 1      | 1      | 0      | 1      | 3      | 73                | 131                  | 55.7  |
| Peterborough                  | 3             | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 22                | 36                   | 61.1  |
| Cambridgeshire & Peterborough | 4             | 2      | 1      | 0      | 1      | 3      | 95                | 167                  | 56.9  |
| East of England**             | 17            | 25     | 12     | 8      | 7      | 5      | 808               | 1,679                | 48.1  |

<sup>\*</sup>All outbreak figures include the total number of outbreaks in care homes from the week starting 9 March 2020 until the week starting 13 July 2020. The week starting 9 March was the first recording period available for this dataset.

Notes: Each weekly total refers to reports in the period Monday to the following Sunday. This dataset includes management information describing the number of care homes reporting a suspected or confirmed outbreak of COVID-19 to PHE, together with the cumulative proportion of all care homes that have reported an outbreak. Care home data weekly updates: 23 July 2020.

Source: PHE: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/covid-19-number-of-outbreaks-in-care-homes-management-information">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/covid-19-number-of-outbreaks-in-care-homes-management-information</a>

#### **Key points:**

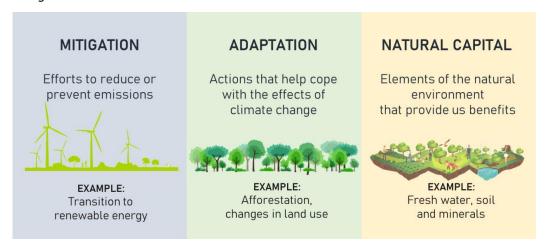
- In total 95 out of 167 (56.9%) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough care homes have reported a suspected or confirmed outbreak of Covid-19 to CQC since early March 2020. This compares to 48.1% in the East of England.
- For the week starting 13 July, there were 3 reported Covid-19 outbreak in the care homes in Cambridgeshire.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Government office region

Once a suspected or confirmed Covid-19 outbreak at a care home is reported, the care home is added
to this dataset. Once added, it is not removed. Therefore the data has limitations. For example, a
suspected outbreak may be confirmed as negative through testing, but the care home will remain on
the dataset. Similarly, if a care home were to report a second suspected or confirmed outbreak this
would not be captured on this dataset.

### Council shortlisted for top climate emergency award

Cambridgeshire County Council's work to respond to the climate change emergency has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award. The County Council's Climate Change and Environment strategy has been shortlisted in the *Leadership in responding to the Climate Emergency* category of the MJ Awards 2020. The Council agreed in May 2019 to make a declaration of a Climate Emergency and through its collaboration policy research exchange programme with Cambridge University produced an evidence base of carbon emissions across the county. A carbon footprints was developed, which included all greenhouse gas emissions that occur in the county (excluding peatland) broken down across key sectors such as transport, domestic buildings and commercial services. The council used this evidence to develop its draft Climate Change and Environment Strategy and a vision 'to deliver net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050 in partnership with all stakeholders, whilst supporting our communities and Cambridgeshire's biodiversity and environmental assets to adapt and flourish as our climate changes'.



This vision has already started to be translated into real action. The council has added a specific priority into its Business Plan which concentrates on helping Cambridgeshire reach this net zero carbon target by 2050 and set up a £16million Environment Fund to take all the Council's offices it owns and occupies off fossil fuels by 2025 and cut its organisational carbon footprint by 50% by 2023. The Council procures £450million of services every year for Cambridgeshire communities and it will be working with its supply chain to reduce carbon emissions. Cambridgeshire County Council has been leading the way in prioritising climate and environment issues for some time. Through its initial energy investments the Council has set up a self-financing unit to focus on energy project delivery. Initially this covered schools and a solar farm, but has now been extended to cover battery storage and smart-grid development. Since then the authority has invested £11m in schools to improve energy efficiency, resulting in energy bill savings of £910,000 a year.

In 2018 the Council won the British Renewable Energy Awards' pioneer category and in 2019 became a signatory to UK 100, to lead solutions for rural communities and commit to securing the shift to 100% clean energy by 2050. As a result, Cambridge County Council was asked to set up a Countryside Climate Network of rural authorities to work to share best practice across the country and develop nature based policy solutions to climate change. This

excellent strategy is already a key part of the council's contribution to the Countryside Climate Network and is sure to be used by other authorities as they work together to tackle climate change and secure a cleaner future. Its shortlisting proves that Cambridgeshire's work is recognised on the national stage. The County Council also launched a Plastics Reduction Strategy - to eliminate single use plastics to protect the biodiversity of our oceans and marine life - and was also named 'East of England Council of the Year' at the 2019 Energy Efficiency Awards. A virtual awards ceremony will be held by the MJ on 2 October when the winner of the *Leadership in responding to the Climate Emergency* category and other winners will be announced.

## Community renewable energy project backed by county council wins £2million grant

A community renewable energy project has been awarded a £2.146million grant to provide sustainable heating to homes in Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire. The Heating Swaffham Prior project, which Cambridgeshire County Council is developing with Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust, will help the village move away from using oil for heating and hot water. Instead, heat extracted from the ground and air will be used, saving thousands of tonnes of carbon emissions over the project's lifetime. The grant was awarded by the Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP) which is supported by the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The community heat project has been under development since 2017, driven forward by Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust and Cambridgeshire County Council. The aim of the scheme is to allow all households to make the 'green choice' by replacing their existing often large, floor, oil boilers with a smaller wall mounted heat exchanger and removing their oil tanks from their gardens. The planning application for the project was submitted on Friday, 17th July. If successful, 130, 200m deep boreholes will be drilled into the ground to extract heat which will be distributed to homes across the village via a series of pipes called a heat network. A large air source heat pump will supplement the energy extracted from the ground and solar panels will also provide renewable electricity to run the heat pumps at the energy centre. Of the 300 households within the village, 166 have expressed their interest in joining the renewable heating network from the start. It is hoped that over time the whole village will choose to connect to use the system. The project has been supported by funding from Cambridgeshire County Council. The grant funding just received from HNIP will contribute £1.79 million to the construction of the heat network and the balance will be used to set up the contracting arrangements for the project. The county council could invest up to £5.2million into the project, and this decision will be taken in late autumn once all the legal and financing arrangements are clear. If approved, construction could begin late this year and continue throughout 2021

# County Council's support for their Armed Forces Community is awarded Gold

On the 30<sup>th</sup> July, the Ministry of Defence unveiled that Cambridgeshire County Council has received the Employer Recognition Scheme G**old Award**, for outstanding support to our armed forces community.

2020 marks the seventh year of the awards scheme and the County Council's success builds on the work carried out since being awarded the Silver award in 2018. To win the Gold award the County Council had to demonstrate that it provides ten extra paid days leave for Reservists and have supportive HR policies in place for Veterans, Reserves, Cadet Force Adult Volunteers along with Spouses and Partners of those serving in the Armed Forces. They also advocate the benefits of supporting those within the Armed Forces community encouraging others to sign the Armed Forces Covenant and to engage in the Employer Recognition Scheme. The Council's flexible working, remote working policies and leave policies all help to support our armed forces community alongside specific reservist policies which offer additional leave for reservist employees to attend training. HR policies have

been amended to include a specific policy for military spouses, who are often financially penalised when posted during maternity leave, to ensure those in that situation do not have to repay their contractual maternity pay.

Peter Hudson County Councillor Over, Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, and Westwick.