

Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2021

East Cambridgeshire Community Grant Fund

The District Council has launched the first round of applications to its community grant fund which supports community groups across the district. The Fund has two application windows each year, offering two opportunities to apply for support up to a maximum of £1,000. Applications for the first round of funding have now opened and will run until Monday 13 September.

Grants are intended to enable local community groups to provide new community services and initiatives, or develop existing ones, that improve the quality of life for residents of East Cambridgeshire. Previous applicants have used their grants to provide opportunities as diverse as youth group summer activities, online support sessions for parent carers, and Air Cadets projects.

Information including eligibility criteria and application guidance at <https://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/finance/east-cambridgeshire-community-fund>

Cycle route feasibility studies

The Council's Finance & Assets Committee has authorised spending on feasibility studies from Sustrans for five priority cycling routes in the district.

- Fordham—Burwell
 - Haddenham—A142
 - Little Downham—Ely
 - Littleport—Chettisham—Ely
 - Swaffham Prior—Reach—Burwell
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COVID Additional Restrictions Grant

In our July report, we expressed concerns at the Council's record in distributing COVID Additional Restrictions Grants. We were therefore pleased to hear that this is now included in the Council's internal audit programme.

Email outage

Mark has continued to press the Council for a more coherent explanation of its recent multi-day email outage—the third of the year so far. Mark asked about the January one at February full council, the early July one at the July full council, and now we have had the late July one. The Council's internal audit team will now be devoting a number of days to considering this issue.

Still waiting

At the time of writing we are still awaiting the Council's planning application for its crematorium at the Mepal Outdoor Centre.

We are also still awaiting any visible signs of progress in the Council administration's preferred option for parking enforcement—offering council staff as police volunteers. Their car parking motion proposing this course of action was considered at the October 2020 full council meeting, ten months ago.

East Cambridgeshire is one of the last ten councils in England where parking enforcement is still carried out by the police, and steps are being taken in most of those final ten to move to civil (council) parking enforcement, which is now the norm in almost every part of the country. East Cambridgeshire might soon find itself completely isolated in its stance.

Local events

Sutton Beer Festival

Congratulations to all involved in running a highly successful and extremely well attended Beer Festival last month.

Sutton Picnic in the Park

We sympathise with the organisers who have had to make the sad but prudent decision to cancel next month's Picnic in the Park, for reasons we all understand.

Sutton Scouts

Lorna was delighted to be able to attend the gathering at the Scout Hut at Sutton Gault to say farewell to the old hut before it was demolished. Fundraising for a replacement hut continues. Congratulations to the Scouts on reaching the finals of the Calor Community Rural Fund, with news expected this month.

Meet your councillors

We will be holding our virtual surgery via Zoom from 6:30 to 7:30PM on

- Tuesday 10 August 2021
- Tuesday 14 September 2021

Please contact Mark at mark@markinskip.org.uk to book your timeslot.

Cllr Lorna Dupré

Cllr Mark Inskip

District Councillors for the Sutton ward