



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



## Update from Councillor Anna Bailey, East Cambridgeshire District Council

### Let's Protect East Cambs – Give it what you've got, get the shot and test a lot

On 19th July, most legal restrictions to control COVID-19 were lifted, however we are not out of the woods yet. Guidance still remains in place for social distancing, the need to wear a face covering in enclosed spaces and washing hands regularly.

It is clear to see that COVID-19 rates will continue to fluctuate while we make our way through Step 4 of the Government's plan and East Cambridgeshire, like all other places, will be affected by this.

It is still so important for us to do all we can to mitigate the spread of the virus and I hope that you will help us continue to share this message with residents.

Whether that's getting the vaccine, undertaking regular rapid tests, or continuing to follow the guidance, your role in keeping the momentum going is fundamental in making the difference within our communities.

I have written a blog about this next step and what it means to the district on the ECDC website. [Read more.](https://bit.ly/3AkhzR8)  
(<https://bit.ly/3AkhzR8>)



### Downgrading the A1123 to a B Road

The A1123 road stretches from Soham to Huntingdon; the A1421 goes from Haddenham to Witcham Toll. As A roads they both form part of the strategic route network, but they run through small villages, many with houses and businesses fronting directly onto the street, and they are ill equipped to deal with the level and type of traffic that uses them, including large volumes of HGVs. Since the opening of the A14 there are more appropriate routes for drivers to choose when heading across the country.

While this is not the responsibility of the District Council, we have taken on a lobbying role. This includes passing a motion earlier this year to support a previous County Council motion to pursue downgrading both roads to B road status.

The motion at the County Council was incredibly well supported by Parish Councils, with Wicken, Stretham, Wilburton and Haddenham all supporting the idea. There is good evidence from elsewhere in the country that such an action can, over time, reduce traffic volumes. It also makes it much easier for villages along the route to pursue traffic calming and speed reduction measures through bids to the Local Highways Improvement fund.

The District Council is disappointed to hear that the new administration at the County Council, at its Highways Committee in July, voted not to downgrade the roads. The District Council will continue to make the case to the County Council for downgrading the roads to B status and for the introduction of measures to control traffic volumes and speed.



## Refresh of the Council's Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan is the document that sets out the work the Council is undertaking over a planned period to deliver the promises made by the administration during the election in May 2019 and ever since. At Full Council in July, a refresh of the Corporate Plan was agreed, focusing on five key areas.

**Investing in our hamlets, villages, towns and our city to rebuild confidence and provide a legacy for post pandemic times.** Investment, via Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds, into:

- Our NHS - GP surgeries and the Princess of Wales Hospital
- Community facilities in our parishes
- Sport and leisure
- Flood resilience and water management, through increasing capacity in the Internal Drainage Board infrastructure

**Providing genuinely affordable housing for those who live or work in our district, driven and designed by the community, not imposed on them** - through Community Land Trusts, through £100k Homes and the new, very similar, First Homes policy from Government. More on this in next month's newsletter.

**Addressing the climate emergency**

- £1m investment into home energy efficiency improvements
- £100k investment into energy efficiency at the Council's office, The Grange
- A focus on nature recovery

**Improving public transport, cycling and walking.** The Combined Authority publicly recognised the work of East Cambs District Council recently with our efforts on the [East Cambs Bus Prospectus\\*](#), and we have just agreed at the last Finance and Assets Committee to a considerable investment into feasibility studies by Sustrans into six cycle routes across the district. This will then help us to lobby for funding from Government and the Combined Authority for delivery of new cycling and walking infrastructure for routes between:

- Fordham – Burwell
- Haddenham – A142
- Little Downham – Ely
- Littleport – Chettisham – Ely
- Swaffham Prior – Reach – Burwell
- Wicken to Soham (update work from 2013 report)

**Keeping our businesses and their employees moving effectively around the area** - we will continue to work with our partners on the necessary road and rail infrastructure our district needs. [Read the Corporate Plan](#) (<https://bit.ly/3itNhVM>)

\*(<https://bit.ly/3jvExh3>)

## WHAT WE WANT YOU TO DO!

We want you to design the maze!

Whoever comes up with the best design for our new maze will get it planted at Ely Country Park.

Can you imagine seeing people trying to solve your planted design everyday of the week?!

### HOW MANY MAZES ARE BEING PLANTED OUT?

Two!

We want to do one larger maze, plus a smaller one next to it with a lower hedge cut aimed more at younger children.

You can enter your designs for just one or both mazes. Good luck!

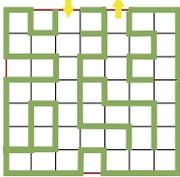
### WHEN WILL IT OPEN?

We hope to open it in Spring 2022.

### HOW MANY TREES?

Up to 5,000 will be needed!

### EXAMPLE MAZE



To complete the template, use a large felt tip or marker pen to draw over the lines in the grid.

Where you mark will be where we plant the trees!

### THE RULES

1. The maze has to be designed using the template provided. This will make sure that we have sufficient space to plant your design.
2. The maze needs to be designed using straight lines – no curves or bends please!
3. The entrance and exit to the maze are given on the template. Please don't change the location of these.
4. The competition is open from now until 12:00 on Wednesday 15th September.
5. All designs should be submitted to the Council at the following address: The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely CB7 4EE (your school or other club may wish to collect designs and send them all to the Council in one go – please check with your local school or club)
6. The competition only open to those aged 18 or under.
7. The winners will be announced on Friday 17th September and we will aim to start planting the maze before Christmas this year!

### TOP TIPS

Please use the template to make your entries.

Perhaps you could include a central area for someone in the maze to reach?

Or, perhaps you could create a few 'stops' you have to go through before completing the maze? Maybe you could collect a stamp, or find a

### WHAT SORT OF TREES?

We are going to use hornbeam trees to create the maze. This is because they are a safe tree to use, keep their shape well (even in winter) and are native to this country.

## Competition launched to find a-mazing design for new Queen's Green Canopy District Maze

The District Council has launched a very exciting competition for young people aged between 5 and 18 to design two new mazes to be planted at Ely Country Park. There will be two tree-based mazes, one fully grown and the other a junior maze for little ones, forming part of our celebration of the Queen's Green Canopy, as well as helping to combat climate change and boost local nature.

The competition is available to all young residents in the district. Budding designers can apply by submitting their ideas to the Council before September 15th.

The two new mazes form part of our newly approved Environment Action Plan for 21/22, which not only looks at what we can do to reduce our carbon emissions, but how we can give back and boost our natural environment.

Find out more about the competition in the graphic to the left and on the [ECDC website](https://bit.ly/3Ah9fBn).  
(<https://bit.ly/3Ah9fBn>)

## Grant fund open for community groups in East Cambridgeshire

The District Council has launched the first round of its community grant fund initiative which aims to support local community groups across the district.

The grant funding is available to allow local community groups to provide new or develop existing community services and initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents living in East Cambridgeshire.

Previous grant applicants have used the funding to provide youth group summer activities, online support sessions for parent carers and air cadets projects.

Community groups can apply for a maximum grant of £1,000 and applications will run until 13th September.

More information about the grant can be found on the [ECDC website](https://bit.ly/3jt3tpy).  
(<https://bit.ly/3jt3tpy>)

