

# Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

## MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2021

### Mepal crematorium applications

Two planning applications have now been published in respect of the council leadership's crematorium on the site of the Mepal Outdoor Centre.

21/01054/DEM is an application to demolish all buildings at the former Mepal Outdoor Centre. The application is made by a demolition firm in Nuneaton. It was submitted on 16 July, when it was envisaged that the demolition would take place in the first half of August. However, the application was not published until late in August, and now has a determination deadline of 22 September.

Meanwhile, 21/01216/F3M is an application for 'construction of a crematorium and associated service and administration building, function building, memorial garden, natural burial areas, pet cemetery, car parking, new vehicular access from the A142 north of the site and landscaping'. The original planning statement prepared by the applicant's agent, Nexus Planning, stated that the applicant was East Cambs Trading Co Ltd, the council's trading arm. Mark questioned this and it was hastily changed to East Cambridgeshire District Council. Once again, the council leadership has shown how blurred the boundaries are between the Council and its commercial trading arm.

The consultation expiry date for the construction application is Tuesday 21 September and the determination deadline is Thursday 18 November.

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### 65 High Street Sutton

A planning application (21/01178/FUL) for the former Deli@65 in Sutton's high street for 'Alterations, new ducting system, odour control measures to existing café, and alterations and additions to form first floor flat, access, parking and site works' looks very much like an attempt to kit out the premises for use as an Indian takeaway, but without the change of use application. The application also seeks to change the opening hours of the premises to 12:00-23:00 every day including Sundays and Bank Holidays, which does not sound like the usual arrangement for a café. The deadline for comments is Monday 10 September, and the deadline for determination is Monday 4 October.

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### Civil parking enforcement

Attempts by the council leadership to find ways to avoid implementing civil parking enforcement continue to founder. Almost everywhere else in England, 'civil' enforcement of on-street parking is carried out by the council not the

police—but East Cambridgeshire’s current leadership is adamant it will not take this on. To avoid introducing CPE like everyone else, the leadership has tried

- offering to pay for a designated PCSO to enforce street parking enforcement—but this was vetoed by the Chief Constable following the recent cut in PCSO numbers.
- using the national Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) to give police powers to accredited individuals including council staff—but legal advice to the council said that if any council staff were involved this could create a conflict of interest.

These were already obvious issues which Mark had raised at the time these ideas were proposed, and it has taken a year to get nowhere. Instead the council leadership is now proposing to use community ‘Police Service Volunteers’, incorporating Speedwatch, to issue fixed penalty notices, and spend £250 a head to train them and give them a uniform.

Meanwhile, the Government is proposing to give councils power to enforce moving vehicle offences such as breaching weight limits—but only if they have implemented civil parking enforcement, Lorna has been told. So East Cambridgeshire is likely to lose out again.

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## Waste collection issues

Like many other organisations in the UK employing drivers of heavy vehicles, the District Council has been experiencing difficulties—most evidently in the week beginning 6 September, when disruptions affected waste collections in villages including Sutton, Little Downham, Wardy Hill, and Coveney.

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## Meet your councillors

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

- Tuesday 14 September 2021
- Tuesday 12 October 2021

Please contact Mark at [mark@markinskip.org.uk](mailto:mark@markinskip.org.uk) to book your timeslot.

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**Cllr Lorna Dupré**

**Cllr Mark Inskip**

District Councillors for the Sutton ward