

## Stretham Ward December 2020

### Update from East Cambridgeshire District Councillor, Lisa Stubbs

#### Bus, Walk and Cycling Survey

Following the district-wide questionnaire carried out earlier this year to identify bus, cycling and walking routes residents would like to see delivered or improved, the next steps to progress the schemes have been agreed.

A draft 'New Bus Services for East Cambridgeshire' proposal has been created by ECDC's already established Bus Services Review Working Party and approved by the Finance and Assets committee ahead of its submission to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. ECDC will seek funding from the CA to trial new bus services, allowing them to become established and viable.

ECDC received 1,458 responses to the bus services questionnaire, these responses in addition to comments received by email and via the Climate Change Ideas Forum were used to inform the creation of the draft bus services document. Out of the 1,458 responses, 578 were from those who never use a bus. The main reasons given for this were because either service too infrequent, there is no service or car is more convenient or quicker.

383 new services were suggested, the top ten most requested were:

- Burwell to Cambridge
- Ely to Cambridge
- Burwell to Ely
- Isleham to Ely
- Bottisham to Cambridge
- Isleham to Newmarket
- Haddenham to Cambridge
- Isleham to Cambridge
- Littleport to Ely
- Newmarket to Cambridge

Councillor David Brown is the chairman of the Finance and Assets Committee summarised:

"It's clear that as a district there is a high reliance on private transport, and we must do what we can to find and lobby for services which provide our residents with a compelling alternative and reason to choose public transport.

"Bus use is in decline and that's a trend which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As part of our corporate plan, we have committed to supporting better bus services with more frequent and more rural routes. We hope that the work so far will put us in the best position to work with the Combined Authority and initiate bus service improvements which support our residents."

It was also agreed for the current Bus Services Review Working Party to become the "East Cambridgeshire Bus, Cycle, Walk Working Party". This group will also oversee the development of the East Cambridgeshire Cycling and Walking Routes Strategy as well as the Bus Services Review process.

Full details of the report findings:

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/agendas/15.%20Item%2016%20Bus%20Review%20Report.pdf>

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/meetings/finance-assets-committee-26112020>

## Stretham Ward December 2020

### Update from East Cambridgeshire District Councillor, Lisa Stubbs

#### 5 Year Land Supply - Reminder

The 5-year land supply remains intact despite a number of legal challenges and as such applications outside the settlement boundary would be refused.

#### COVID-19

East Cambridgeshire has been placed into tier 2 following the end of the national lockdown on 2nd December. East Cambridgeshire forms part of the wider Cambridgeshire and Peterborough tier, which has been categorised as tier 2:

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/press/east-cambridgeshire-be-placed-tier-2-2nd-december>

As reported before, the Council has a comprehensive Recovery Plan which it is following, working with Parish Councils, other public sector partners such as the Combined Authority, the County Council, the NHS and the Police.

#### White Paper Planning Reforms

ECDC has submitted its response to Central Government's consultation on a massive reform of the planning system. The consultation closed on 29<sup>th</sup> October and Richard Kay issued a briefing note to all Parish and Town Councils.

#### MoD Housing Site, Ely - Phase 2

The submitted planning application for 53 new homes at the old RAF site in Ely is being processed by ECDC planning team. ECDC purchased the site from the MoD in order to bring the empty properties back into use. The Council had to pay open market price for the site. If a private developer had purchased the site there would be no requirement to deliver any affordable housing from the existing homes that are being renovated, but the Council is delivering 15 shared equity homes from the renovation stage, which are reserved for local working people. Part of the contract with the MoD required the Council to submit a planning application for new infill housing on the site. 53 new homes are proposed with 30% being affordable, again reserved for local working people.

ECDC are keen to try to increase the 30% figure and if planning permission is granted will be applying for grant funding to convert more of the open market homes to affordable, again, reserved for local working people. We have to wait until after the planning application has been determined to do this, as the funding bodies require proof of "additionality" – the funding bodies grant funding in order to convert open market homes into affordable homes. This is a big project for a small District Council, but we felt that buying the site and bringing it back into use, whilst getting as much affordable housing for local people from the site as possible was the right thing to do.

#### More £100k Homes Approved

The first 8 £100k homes were available for eligible buyers to purchase in Fordham. The £100k homes initiative was brought forward by the Mayor, James Palmer and the Combined Authority and provides first time buyers with the opportunity to purchase 100% freehold a home for £100k.

4 more £100k homes were approved as part of an application on the footprint of the old Paradise Swimming Pool site in Ely. You can read more about the £100k Homes project and register your support for the idea, or register your desire to purchase a £100k Home here:

<https://www.100khomes.co.uk/>

## **Stretham Ward December 2020**

### **Update from East Cambridgeshire District Councillor, Lisa Stubbs**

#### **Waste and Recycling Christmas Collections**

East Cambs Street Scene, the company owned by East Cambridgeshire District Council to provide the Recycling and Waste service across the District have announced their Christmas and Bank Holiday Collection dates:

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/east-cambs-street-scene/bank-holiday-collections>

#### **Princess of Wales Hospital**

A Member Seminar will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> December to receive a presentation from representatives of Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust on the future redevelopment of the Princess of Wales site in Ely. Please find attached a document giving further details.

From 1-14 December 2020 you will be able to view the plans on their public website here:

<https://bit.ly/2TPtent> and send your feedback.

#### **GP Provision in Ely**

ECDC has earmarked £750,000 to the potential expansion of St Mary's Practice in Ely following approval at the Finance and Assets Committee meeting. The funding is allocated to the practice through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts which the council has received from housing developments that have taken place in North Ely. The £750,000 will specifically contribute to the physical infrastructure of the project, estimated to cost £3.11 million to deliver.

Lisa Stubbs, East Cambridgeshire District Councillor for the Stretham Ward

E: [Lisa.Stubbs@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.Stubbs@eastcambs.gov.uk)

M: 07930 506822