

Subject: Welcome to the September 2022 Cambridgeshire Matters newsletter



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Cambridgeshire matters

Welcome to the September 2022 Cambridgeshire Matters newsletter

Welcome to the September edition of Cambridgeshire Matters, our monthly newsletter which aims to share good news, highlights and updates from across Cambridgeshire to help our network of district, city and community members stay informed.

It's been a month that no-one will forget across Cambridgeshire with the sad death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The country stood still for that time, but our county continued to support people across Cambridgeshire with a host of projects and initiatives.

Please enjoy this latest edition of Cambridgeshire Matters and find out about the great work which is taking place to support everyone in the county. Share this e-newsletter with your parish council colleagues and feel free to use any of the features in your own newsletter or social media.

Can you refer a friend to us?

Do you know someone who would make a great Foster Carer? Email their name and contact details to the [Fostering Marketing Team](#), and if they go on to be approved, we will give you £500 in vouchers of your choice.

This Refer a Friend incentive is open to all staff and will be paid once the carer you've nominated has been approved at panel.

For more information about fostering, visit the [Cambridgeshire](#) or [Peterborough Fostering website](#).



Next Step in the right direction!

The first of a new quarterly event in St Neots to support young people discover the opportunities available to them following their formal education and beyond.

On Sunday, 4th September, the "Next Step" event took place at Brook House in St Neots. The event was open to young entrepreneurs and school leavers aged between 16 and 24.



This event is part of a wider mission by Curious Entrepreneurs with the support of St Neots Initiatives to help young people discover the options available after leaving school. The event was well attended, with many attendees pitching their business ideas to a panel of judges for a chance to win a cash prize.

The panellists (local entrepreneurs Alex Hughes, Paul Oggelsby, Harrison Leigh and Simon Squibb) were impressed with the level of creativity and innovation displayed by the participants. Seven pitchers walked away with £350 to help them on their journey to becoming next-generation entrepreneurs.

Alex said: "It was a prime example of a community reaction to a requirement for more support for young people making decisions about their future. It was encouraging to see so much passion coming from the next generation"

The prize pool was built thanks to sponsors; Huntingdonshire District Council, Urban & Civic, RWE, Premier Plus, Click It Social, BIPC, Annafield, Fortus, Shift Momentum and The Purposeful Project. It was a huge community effort to make this event a huge success and is the start of a series of events that will take place quarterly.

The aim is to organise quarterly "Next Step" events so that young people can access assistance throughout the year. That way, many more can enjoy the support of their local community.

£670,000 funding won for rough sleeper initiative

A County Council project in partnership with district councils has won over £670k of funding as part of the national Rough Sleeper Initiative.

The Cambridgeshire Housing First project, delivered by Cambridgeshire County Council and developed in partnership with all of the county's district councils, puts people at the centre of its approach. It currently supports 37 former rough sleepers experiencing multiple disadvantage – and the new funding will mean it can now provide intensive support so that an additional 27 can benefit from Housing First. The project currently works with rough sleepers in Cambridge, Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough.

The £677,990 funding, awarded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities as part of their 2022-2025 Rough Sleeper Initiative funding programme will help to embed and develop the Housing First offer further. It covers a three-year period from April 2022 to March 2025 and complements long term funding the Council has made available to support the service.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Chair of the Adults and Health Committee, Councillor Richard Howitt said "Combatting rough sleeping is a huge challenge, not simply because of lack of national investment in building affordable homes, but in that many of the people affected experience multiple problems, including domestic abuse, family breakdown, mental health issues or drugs and alcohol dependency.

“The County Council’s Housing First project has already delivered huge benefits to those it has supported, enabling people who have experienced rough sleeping and years of these multiple disadvantages to begin to rebuild their lives and make positive, sustainable changes.

“The tailored support has helped people to maintain their own tenancy – in some cases for the very first time. We are immensely proud to be delivering this service alongside our partners and are delighted with the funding awarded to enable it to continue and expand.”

Action taken against premises

Several premises across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have had action taken against them for selling products to youngsters who are underage.



Dozens of visits were conducted in July and August due to complaints/intelligence received by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Trading Standards, with almost a quarter allowing members of the Cambridgeshire Police Cadets to purchase an age restricted product (alcohol, cigarettes and vapes).

Action against those premises will now be taken in line with Trading Standards’ enforcement policy which can range from a written warning, a caution if they admit the offence or prosecution.

As well as the police, Trading Standards was supported by licensing colleagues from Fenland District Council, Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Peterborough City Council, with premises visited in all of these areas.

Peter Gell, assistant director for regulatory services at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: “We take the sale of age restricted products incredibly seriously due to the associated health risks.

“As these visits show, we will not hesitate to take action if we receive intelligence on premises breaking the law and we would urge anyone with concerns to report them to Citizens Advice so we can investigate.”

Val Thomas, deputy director of public health at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: “Restrictions on the sale of these products to young people are important as many adults who smoke and misuse alcohol start in their teenage years. For example, around 90% of adult smokers started before the age of 19 years.

“It is important to support and prevent young people from adopting these behaviours that have a high risk of them developing poor health as they grow older. We work with young people to alert them to the risks, but it is also important that these products are not easily available to them.”

Paul Hawkins, licensing officer at Cambridgeshire Constabulary, said: “These operations are carried out regularly to ensure premises are adhering to the law around the sale of age-restricted items, however, this recent activity was prompted by some concerns reported about alcohol, cigarette and vape sales to young people.

“Having participated in these recent operations I would like to thank our cadets who did a brilliant job. We are pleased to say that most premises passed the test and refused our

cadets the sale of age restricted products. However, there is still work to do and we would encourage anyone with concerns to report these to Citizens Advice.”

For further guidance on age restricted sales, visit <https://www.businesscompanion.info/> and search 'age restricted'.

To report a trader selling age restricted products to someone who is underage, contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133 or visit <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer>.

Project to transform libraries to community spaces moves on

An innovative project which will transform two Cambridgeshire Libraries by installing state-of-the-art community spaces has moved a step closer.

The county council has signed an agreement with Jan Kattein Architects to develop flexible and inclusive spaces at Cambridge Central and March libraries as part of the EverySpace project.

A public consultation will take place shortly to determine designs for the spaces and installation work will begin in spring 2023.

The move comes after galleries, museums, libraries and cultural venues across the country were awarded almost £50million earlier this year to improve people’s access to the arts, safeguard cultural assets for future generations and power economic growth through culture.

Cambridgeshire Libraries received £260,000 from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports, delivered by Arts Council England. The grant will be supplemented by £128,968 of Section 106 funding, which is funding provided by developers and will help deliver the EverySpace project.

EverySpace is centred around adaptable, co-managed spaces that enable the community to connect, share, create and discover. It follows the ‘kit-of-parts’ model, capturing the flexibility and inventiveness of a pop-up within a defined architectural system.

At Cambridge Central Library EverySpace will be on the third floor, with users taking a journey through the library to reach the space. In March Library, EverySpace is a natural fit with the Future High Street Fund which will improve access from the High Street. The design of both sites will be led by the needs of each individual community, with public consultation set to commence in the autumn.

Councillor Tom Sanderson, Chair of Cambridgeshire County Council’s Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee, said: “I am delighted that this exciting project is progressing. EverySpace will make a huge difference to the way the two libraries are used and benefit residents for years to come.

“EverySpace’s future-proofed design is multi-usable and can serve different groups with different functions, further supporting our priority of making our spaces accessible to all. We will start a public consultation soon which I would encourage residents to take part in.”

Gareth Marriott, Director of Design at Jan Kattein Architects, said: "As well as being about books, libraries are spaces for learning and sharing skills, spaces for interaction, spaces for warmth, spaces to enjoy. We are thrilled to be working with Cambridgeshire Libraries and local partners on the EverySpace project, on testing and expanding what each library can be for its local community.

Have your say on sustainable transport

Three new strategies setting the transport vision for Fenland and Huntingdonshire, and for active travel across Cambridgeshire will be going out to consultation.

The consultation for the Fenland and Huntingdonshire transport strategies and the active travel strategy for Cambridgeshire began in September and will run for six weeks until Monday, 7th November.

The consultation will involve in-person events across Cambridgeshire and a short online survey.

Since 2017, responsibility for producing a Local Transport Plan (LTP) has passed from the county council to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. The LTP sets the overarching transport policies for the area.

The Combined Authority has recently consulted on its refreshed LTP, the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) which is being developed with input from the county council. These three new strategies will sit under the LTCP. The council will use the strategies to decide investment priorities and ensure effective implementation of the LTCP. They will also support and compliment the Local Plans, which shape land use.

The active travel strategy aims to make active travel the 'go to' option for local journeys. Active travel investment can have an all-round positive impact in terms of increasing the number of journeys travelled by foot or cycle, improving the environment, improving air quality, and improving the health and wellbeing of the community. Active travel is one of the steps individuals can take to help reach zero carbon targets.

The transport strategies for Fenland and Huntingdonshire will provide the strategy and an action plan of schemes to address the transport challenges facing those districts, whilst also looking at sustainable access to services and a safe and healthy environment.

Cllr Neil Shailer, vice-chair of the Highways and Transport Committee, said: "It's important people get involved in these consultations, we want to hear from everyone about active travel – it is more important than ever as we aim to reach our ambitious target of the county becoming carbon net zero by 2045.

"We want to put the health and wellbeing of our residents at the centre and that is why active travel is one of the Joint Administrations' top priorities. This strategy will go a long way to making Cambridgeshire a healthier, cleaner and more inclusive place to live and work in.

"We also want to hear from those in Fenland and Huntingdonshire about providing sustainable access to key services, supporting growth and overcoming those transport challenges – the strategies will consider everyone, we understand there will need to be different approaches between urban and rural areas."

The consultation surveys are available here <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com>

The draft strategies, the survey and the opportunity to speak to staff from the transport planning team will be available at the following events:

- Ramsey Market: Saturday 1 October, from 10am until 1pm
- Tesco superstore Huntingdon: Saturday 1 October, from 2pm until 5pm
- St Neots Market: Thursday 6 October, from 10am until 1pm

- Waitrose St Ives: Thursday 6 October, from 2pm until 5pm
- March Market: Wednesday 12 October, from 9am until midday
- Tesco superstore Chatteris: Wednesday 12 October, from 2pm until 5pm
- Whittlesey Market: Friday 14 October, from 9am until midday
- Wisbech Market: Friday 14 October, from 12.30pm until 3pm
- Grafton Centre, Cambridge: Wednesday 19 October, from 10am until 3pm
- Ely Market: Thursday 27 October, from 10am until 3pm

There will also be information located in libraries across the county, so residents who are unable to access the internet or cannot attend an event can view hard copies of the draft strategies and complete the survey.

Following consultation, a programme of schemes for future funding bids and delivery will be finalised, aligning with the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The final strategies will be published in spring 2023.

The strategies, once adopted, will be used when developers submit planning applications, with schemes assessed to ensure they contribute to the vision and objectives of each strategy. There will be a focus on improving more sustainable access to services and key destinations, they will support tackling the climate emergency and improving the health and wellbeing of Cambridgeshire residents.

Updates from Think Communities

Cambridge City - Wellbeing Wednesdays

Three very sunny days in August provided a perfect opportunity for residents across Cambridge to meet with a wide range of organisations that are involved in supporting people's health and wellbeing.



The events provided lots of fun activities for attendees, with feedback including: "I came to this Wellbeing Wednesday for socialising and I have a chronic illness, the activities for the children have also been good."

Another quote: "It's nice to get the kids out somewhere that doesn't cost a penny and the sports and painting have been enjoyable."

The opportunity for organisations to meet and share ideas and information with other organisations working in this space was an additional bonus. This collaborative model of working has proved successful, and there are plans to replicate it for other themes over the coming year.

Fenland - The Fenland Community Uniform Wardrobe project

This project takes into account financial difficulties people are facing. It aims to support families who are not comfortable using such schemes when administered by school; supports schools who do not have staff to administer to it, and to coordinate a project across schools.



Libraries and Children's Centres have come on board as drop-off and collection points along with Tesco Extra in Wisbech.

One grandmother asked for help; she would usually help her daughter who is a single mum of four. However, her husband had recently passed away and she was not able to help – so she was extremely grateful for support.

A family lost everything in a caravan fire, so they were supported with school uniforms; this will be continued in the future for things such as winter coats.

East Cambridgeshire - Carers Coffee Morning

Caline has been working with the Older People's Coordinator in Littleport to respond to community interest in developing a time and space for informal carers to meet, socialise and access advice and support.



A great partnership was formed, led by the parish council, together with Alzheimer's Society, the local surgery, Caring Together and CCC (Think Communities), to trial a coffee morning. It was warmly received, with nine people attending who enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere. One couple came along who hadn't attended anything in the village in all the 37 years they'd lived here.

The plan is to hold another one in November, testing a new room layout. The social prescriber has already found more carers keen to join in and potentially found a local resident who may be interested in running future meetings.

Think Communities has also designed a booklet to continue to support integration for people from Ukraine, with the picture above showing activities from the Thursday hub over summer.

South Cambridgeshire - Bar Hill Craft Shed

The team was connected to Bar Hill Craft Shed, who unfortunately have been asked to leave their current premises.

The Men's Sheds were introduced to support men to address their mental health by providing a place to meet, be creative and as a result reduced loneliness and isolation.



TC has been working with the trustees to look at other local options and also liaising with the local district councillor.

An area has been identified which is owned by the county council, and the team has been working with facilities management to investigate leasing the land.

Work is now underway alongside the trustees to put together costings for their own modular building and other associated costs.

Huntingdonshire - Huntingdon Community Garden

Huntingdon Community Garden is part of the Huntingdonshire Community Centre, a CCC-commissioned day provider for adults living with learning disabilities.

During this month, Ann has been making links with the community centre and created a meeting with a colleague from Co-Op who is keen to support local organisations.

The relationship built by Think Communities and the Co-Op has resulted in an ongoing agreement for the Co-Op to donate their unsold plants to the community nursery as part of their effort to get their community shop back up and running again.

They have also been able to organise a donation of a large gazebo, trolleys and baskets, which will help those regularly volunteering to transport larger plants, compost and soil and support customers to collect what they need during their visit.

A long-term aim is to explore having regular supported work opportunities in Huntingdonshire stores, after several discussions about the difficulty for individuals to progress from their volunteer opportunities into paid employment.

Autumn Covid Booster and Flu Vaccine - reminder

People in Cambridgeshire are reminded to get their COVID-19 **and** flu vaccinations to give themselves the best possible protection against these illnesses this winter.

For COVID-19 and flu, everyone aged 50 and over, people with certain health conditions that put them at risk, frontline health and care staff and household contacts of immunosuppressed people will be offered a vaccine.

At present, children aged 2-10 years old (up to Year 6) will be offered a nasal spray flu vaccine. The NHS will let you know when it is your turn to come forward for your COVID-19 vaccine.

Not up to date on your vaccines? Everyone aged 5 and over can get a first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. You can book your COVID-19 vaccine using the National Booking Service www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-vaccination or by calling 119.

If you are not sure who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, visit www.nhs.uk/covidvaccine.

To check eligibility for the flu vaccine and how to access it visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine.

Free influenza vaccinations for people aged 50 years old or over who are not in an at-risk group will begin in mid-October.

NHS Health Checks

Residents aged 40-74 are being encouraged to take up the offer of free NHS Health Checks where they can find out how likely they are to get heart or kidney disease, diabetes or have a stroke in the future and if the likelihood is high, advice on how to reduce this. Those aged over 65 are also told about the signs and symptoms of dementia. Call or visit your GP to book.

Stoptober

This Stoptober, join thousands of people who have quit smoking. If you are a smoker, quitting is one of the best things you can do for your health, allowing you to start moving better, breathe more easily - and giving you more money to spend.

Support is available through Stoptober <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/> as well as the Healthy You Service who offer 12 weeks of free individual support <https://healthyyou.org.uk/sign-up>.

