



## **County Councillor Report- November**

Dear all,

Hope you are safe and well.

### **Education**

Announcement of Covid Winter Grant- The government announced investment into the £170m Covid Winter Grant Scheme to support children, families and the most vulnerable over winter. The scheme includes –

- £63m for councils to provide emergency assistance to families, pensioners and the most vulnerable with food, essentials and meals
- Extending free school meals support to those eligible when schools closed during lockdown
- Holiday Activities and Food programme to be expanded, covering Easter, summer and Christmas in 2021
- Healthy Start payments set to rise from £3.10 to £4.25 a week from April 2021

### **Commercial & Investment**

CCC is looking to extend their current rural estate with the addition of Lower Portland Farm in Burwell. A well-managed farm this will fit well within the existing estate and provide additional benefits for CCC. Commercial property investments continue to hold up well in the Covid-19 situation.

C&I have the Multiclass credit scheme investment underway, and are now looking at green investment opportunities for further capital investment opportunities. This is all about making revenue to support front line services investment.

The commercial team are working tightly now with the Environment & Sustainability team as they research innovative green energy solutions such as direct feed in solar fields for local businesses, and the creation of Carbon Credit solutions. This includes the creation of a second solar farm at Soham bringing approximately 34mw of green electricity to either the national grid or, to local users such as Business, Schools and even other E&S driven projects. (34mw of electricity is equivalent to the consumption of electricity by approx. 14,000 homes).

### **Trading Standards**

Avian Flu is now present in parts of the country. The Chief Veterinary Officer has declared a National Avian Influenza Prevention Zone country-wide.

This is a Defra responsibility, but our Trading Standards will be expected to help.

The Zone is a preventative measure to try to prevent the further spread of Avian Influenza. What it means is:

- it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers to follow strict biosecurity measures
- keepers with more than 500 birds will need to restrict access for non-essential people on their sites
- workers will need to change clothing and footwear before entering bird enclosures and
- site vehicles will need to be cleaned and disinfected regularly
- bird gatherings are prohibited



Cllr Lina Nieto  
Cambridgeshire County Council

**Representing**  
*Barton, Caldecote, Coton, Comberton,  
Harlton, Hardwick, Grantchester, Kingston,  
Madingley, The Eversdens, & Toft.*

## Environment

**Highway verges** – CCC is continuing to work on making changes to how it manages its highways verges for the benefit of the environment. A workshop has been set up with presentation from Dorset County Council who have changed the management regime of their road verge network to improve biodiversity, whilst at the same time making financial savings and/or generating other important benefits. CCC will look at how similar changes may be introduced to benefit Cambridgeshire.

**Climate change and environment** – Local Government Association Net Zero Innovation Programme – competition –successful application and now developing a project for delivery Jan-June 2021 and secured £18K grant towards costs. This project will be an opportunity to ensure Cambridgeshire continues to be at the forefront of net zero carbon projects and help inform government and other councils of the issues and opportunities that are identified with this joint project.

## Highways Projects & Road Safety

- School Streets-parking- implementation and monitoring. 7 temporary sites started beginning of September. Possibly up to 4 more after October half term.
- Implementation of new [Road Safety Partnership Strategy – Vision Zero.](#)

## Traffic Management

- E-scooter trial has commenced in Cambridge and they are looking to widen the scope to facilitate the next lockdown, linking Trumpington Park and Ride with the biomedical campus providing key worker scooters for free.
- The Experimental Traffic Order is ready to be sealed to allow electric cars and powered two wheelers to use Elizabeth Way bus lane as a part of the climate change action plan. We are just waiting for Skanska to give a target cost and them implementation programme for the signs.
- Autonomous vehicles have arrived to be tested in Park and Ride and West Cambridge site
- Winter service now commenced first countywide gritting run took place on 4th November.

As always, here to serve you and help in any way I can.

Yours,

Lina Nieto

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