

Minutes of Kingston Annual Parish Meeting
Held at 7.30pm on 11 October 2022 in the Village Hall

Present:

Sue Dalgleish, Chair of Kingston Parish Council, Chair of meeting

Miki Ellar, Councillor, Kingston Parish Council

Julie Conder, Councillor, Kingston Parish Council

Peter Reynolds, Kingston Parochial Church Council

Donal O'Donnell, Trustee, Kingston Poor Land Charity

Members of the public: Peter Stokes, Irene Heyman, Simon Draper, Pat Draper,
Keith Allison, Chris Allison, Mark Nichols, Linda Washington, Paul Wheeler.

The following reports were presented in summary. Where a discussion followed or questions were asked, brief details of these are also given. Full copies of the reports are attached as appendices.

1. Chairman's report written and presented by Sue Dalgleish (see Appendix A)

Sue reported on the fact that the Parish Council is in need of two new members to bring us to full strength and while we are in consultation with one person, we would welcome enquiries from anyone who might be interested. Mention was made of the three most pressing concerns for most villagers: East West Rail, aircraft noise related to Luton Airport and the potential loss of the No 18 bus service from 31 October 2022. While the PCC is keeping watch on all three, villagers are urged to make their own views known to either Tumi Hawkins our District Councillor or the agencies themselves.

2. Parish Clerk's report written and presented by Sue Dalgleish (see Appendix B).

This was given by Sue Dalgleish in the absence of Katie our Parish Clerk due to ill health. Grass cutting in the village raised some discussed as to cost. Simon Draper queried why there was a 20 per cent increase in the cost of Grass Cutting from the year 20/21. The Parish Council's contribution towards grass cutting in the churchyard was also discussed. Sue Dalgleish and Julie Conder explained that there had been an increase in costs from both Buchan Landscapes and the other grass cutting provider relating to the churchyard this year but that they would research the figures detailed on the 2021/22 invoices further with regard to possible frequency differences and come back to him to clarify the situation. It was reported that current parish council accounts balances are healthy.

3. Webmaster's report written and presented by Julie Conder (see Appendix C)

It was queried if all properties in Kingston are now connected to Fibre broadband. Julie Conder advised that although most properties had been connected, a few houses in outlying areas had not been connected in the initial phases however work had now been carried out. We are not currently aware of anyone having problems accessing broadband but would ask anyone with issues to get in touch.

4. District Councillor's report written by Tumi Hawkins and presented by Sue Dalgleish (see Appendix D)

The main topics from the report covered were increased aircraft noise from Luton airport and the proposed Cambridge Congestion Charge. Tumi has been in contact with and held a meeting with representatives from Luton airport. She highlighted several points of contact which would be used to report concern about the issue.

5. County Councillor's report written by Michael Atkins presented by Sue Dalgleish (Appendix E).

The topic of 20mph speed zones and LHI fund bid process was highlighted. The topic of the Cambridge congestion charge was also covered.

6. Village Hall Management Committee Report prepared by Paul Wright and presented by Sue Dalgleish (see Appendix F)

The report highlighted the achievement of CIO status for the village hall. It was reported that bookings were steady and there is a good level of support for pub nights and coffee mornings. Paul also thanked several people for their work over the past year to organise events held in the village which had been enjoyed by many. In view of the current settled status of the Hall, Paul mentioned that he is willing to continue as Chairman until a replacement comes forward.

7. Parochial Church Council report was made by Peter Reynolds

The PCC report was given by Peter Reynolds who was standing in for the church warden Torrie Smith. He thanked the village for their support and advised that the fund for the repair of the church roof now stands at £120,000 of the £140,000 needed. He mentioned however that work cannot commence until August 2023 as there is a colony of bats living in the church area and therefore work can only be carried out between the months of August and October in any year. He did however also mention that that the Church is in dire need of supporters and attendees and that there is the chance that the church could close without them. He highlighted that the PCC would like to see the church used for other community events such as concerts or meetings and this area will be considered further by the Parish Council.

8. Kingston Poor Land Charity report prepared and presented by Donal O'Donnell (see Appendix G)

He reported on the charity's much improved financial situation due to a new tenant for their land. A great deal of work has been undertaken over the past year to restructure the tenancy agreement and also undertake the registration of the Charity's Ownership of the land with the Land Registry. Current funds stand at 8000.00 and they welcome approaches from the village with grant requests. Since the last report they have made 17 payment amounting to 1400.00.

9. Open Forum

Paul Wheeler suggested that green initiatives should be considered by the Parish Council – he suggested that perhaps they could look into whether there were any available grants etc to help reduce the costs of lighting in the village through the use of LED bulbs. It was agreed that the parish council would liaise with Paul further on this matter.

Keith Allison raised a concern about speeding through the village, particularly at the northern end. It was decided that we would carry out a period of speed monitoring in the village. The question of 20MPH speed limits was also discussed and it was agreed that the parish council would research further and report back.

The meeting finished at 21:00

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman's Report for Kingston Annual Parish Meeting

11 October 2022

It has been an interesting year for the Parish Council following the challenges faced with Covid. It is very nice to be able to hold the Annual Parish Meeting this year in person. Several issues have continued to develop over the past year including plans relating to the East West Rail project, the recent changes to the flight paths for Luton airport and the proposed cancellation of the No 18 bus service by Stagecoach.

We have had fewer planning applications within the last year and these have related mainly to individual properties. As we have an adopted Local Development Plan which forms the basis for development in the district, the Planning Committee at South Cambridgeshire can now reject Planning Applications not covered by the Plan and removes the threat of speculative development in our Village.

We are planning to commence work on a Village Design Guide over the coming year. This will be a document which is recommended by South Cambridgeshire County council and describes the distinctive character of a village and sets out guidelines for how this should be enhanced by any possible future new development requests.

The proposal for the new railway line being developed by East West Rail continues to cause concern for many in the area. We are actively involved in ongoing discussions and have attended several meetings with East West Rail to keep up to date with progress. The next scheduled meetings will be a drop in event at Haslingfield Methodist Church on Wednesday 12th October between 2pm and 8pm which two representatives from the council will attend. A further Zoom meeting for attendees from Parish Councils has been scheduled for the 26th October and we will report back to the village on the topics covered at these meetings. At the current time we are still awaiting details of the final route selection however a specific date for this announcement has not yet been made.

We have been advised of increased noise from aircraft flying overhead as a result of recent changes to the flight path of planes approaching Luton airport. We are continuing to monitor the issue and have passed our concerns to South Cambridgeshire County Council who are aware of the issue and its effect on communities in the area. A Public Enquiry into Luton airport's expansion plans has also recently commenced and we will continue to monitor developments.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their time and support over the last year and also for the help and guidance of our Parish Clerk, Katie Vickers who does a wonderful job helping to keep us up to date with the matters in hand.

Sue Dagleish
Chairman
Kingston Parish Council

Appendix B

Kingston Annual Parish Meeting 11 October 2022

Clerk's Report

I have attached a summary of income and expenditure for the year 2021/22, and will now highlight a few items from this.

1. Grass and Hedge cutting

Stuart Buchan Landscapes have again provided a satisfactory service so after agreeing a price increase, they are again our contractors this year. We continue to receive a payment from the County Council for cutting of grass verges within the village, and from Mrs Heyman for cutting an area of grass owned by her adjoining Field Row. Please let me know if you believe there are any problems with grass or hedge cutting.

2. Grants

Grants were made to the Parochial Church Council of £559.00 for churchyard maintenance, and £700.00 towards Parish Magazine costs. A grant of 260.00 was also paid to the Village Hall Management Committee as a contribution towards a loft ladder for the village hall. This money came from South Cambridgeshire District Council as so-called S106 money arising from two developments in the parish.

3. Communication

The Parish Council uses the magazine to disseminate information to residents. The magazine continues to be delivered to all households in the parish free of charge. Miki Ellar acts as our editor and does a wonderful job collating information each month about local events being held throughout the parish. I encourage you to have a glance through each issue as there may be something important or something of interest to you. The Parish Council also communicates through the emailing list – please let me know if you are not on this list and wish to be included.

4. Bank Balances

Our total bank balances at the end of the year stood at £18681.00. This is slight increase on last year's figure of 17339.00 and represents a healthy reserve. This total includes £685.00 representing the 'community facility' part of the S106 money described under 'Grants' above.

5. Audit of accounts

Our formalities for the audit for the 2021/22 financial year are complete. The internal auditor has completed her report and found no problems. The external auditor was also satisfied. Anybody may request to inspect the Parish Council accounts and other documentation. Our AGAR (Annual governance and Accountability Return) includes our Accounting Statements and has been published on our village website.

<https://kingstonvillage.org.uk/parish-council/publication-scheme>

Parish Clerk

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2021/22

2021/22		2020/21
£		£
INCOME		
10,311	Precept	10,530
305	Grasscutting	305
0	Income from EWR	250
60	Kingston Oil Club	0
9	Interest earned	14
60	Allotment rent	90
0	VAT reclaim for previous year	635
10,745	Total	11,824
EXPENDITURE		
377	Insurance	373
60	Audit fees	53
2,911	Grass and hedge cutting (contract)	2,449
1,732	Clerk's salary	1,251
331	Footpath lighting	328
223	Subscriptions	341
0	Grants	670
1,288	Village Hall improvement project	1,288
559	Asset maintenance	1,079
700	Parish magazine	559
512	Miscellaneous	585
710	VAT (reclaimable)	540
9,403	Total	9,516
INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURE		
1,342		2,308
BANK BALANCE AT 31 Mar		
18,681		17,339
1,342	Change last year to this year	2,308

Broadband in Kingston

The report for our last Annual Parish Meeting came at the conclusion of a long process to bring fast “Fibre to the Premises” OpenReach broadband to Kingston. I believe that it is now available throughout the village, with the exception of a few households on the edge of the parish. It certainly proved its worth during the pandemic when we had so much enforced time at home. We are shortly expecting a second offering to be available from County Broadband, so there will then be a real choice of provider. This latest installation has the added benefit of bringing broadband to our village hall, and many thanks are due to the Village Hall Management Committee for their work in enabling the installation to be made and getting it set up and working.

Website and Facebook

We have a village website www.kingstonvillage.org.uk and a Facebook Page www.facebook.com/Kingston.village I do my best to keep these updated with matters of local interest and news of forthcoming events (and I apologise for any tardiness in maintaining these). Let me know of anything you would like added. The email address for general website matters is webmaster@kingstonvillage.org.uk.

There is scope to have a number of email addresses routed through our website and using the format xxx@kingstonvillage.org.uk. There is no cost to doing this, and it has the advantage of not relying on personal emails. If this would be a useful tool for any village organisations, please let me know.

Julie Conder

Kingston Parish Councillor and webmaster

7th October 2022

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

(comprises the Parishes of Caldecote, Childerley, Kingston, Bourn, Longstowe & Little Gransden)

Councillor's Monthly Report – September 2022

This report of previous month events is for all the Ward, so please be aware that some of the content may not be relevant to your particular Parish.

General

Please contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc. Don't fight on your own. I am available to help you to get the best outcome possible for your situation.

Check out articles on my facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi> and my blog <http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk>. What I post on there is my view and not LibDem or South Cambs official policy unless I state that it is.

Community & Wellbeing

Cost of Living

We are all beginning to feel the pinch of the cost of living crisis. The latest edition Autumn 2022 issue of South Cambs magazine on its way to you this month has a 2 page pullout of information that we hope will help. In addition, there is website content signposting residents to available support, such as with energy bills or ensuring residents check what they are entitled to (whether it be Universal Credit, help with childcare costs, Disability and Carers benefits etc) and then encouragement to claim entitlements – especially focused on Local Council Tax support and Discretionary Housing payment.

Support is also available from our partner agency, Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency. This includes highlighting grant funding available to replace a boiler for a homeowner whose health is impacted by a lack of warmth and is eligible for a grant. Check it out.

South Cambs Magazine

The Autumn 2022 edition is on its way to all residents of the district and you should receive it by the end of the first week of September. It is a very informative copy – as usual. You can find the electronic copy on the council website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/south-cambs-magazine/the-south-cambs-magazine/>

Ukraine Guests

How brilliant the generosity and compassion of South Cambs residents is that we host the highest number of guests in the District under the “Homes for Ukraine” scheme. The most recent data shows that 668 Ukrainian guests are in South Cambridgeshire involving 70 parishes, of which 19 are in Caldecote, Bourn and Longstowe. Caldecote has additional 10 guests that came in under a different scheme. We celebrated this on 25th August as part of Ukraine Independence Day by flying the national flag at South Cambs Hall and with a press release showing art works by some of our young guests which made it onto the BBC website. I also posted a [short article on my facebook page](#) about it. SCDC Officers have now made 245 welfare visits and conducted 725 DBS checks.

South Cambridgeshire communities have done an immense amount to make our guests welcome so thank you to all of you. People who are hosts to Ukrainian guests and/or an have interest in SCDC's ongoing work in this area can sign up to the regular community updates by emailing duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk

Warm hubs

Local authorities are responding to the cost of living crisis by helping communities to set up “Warm Hubs.” These are places where people can find a safe, warm and friendly environment in which to spend part of their day and whilst doing so reduce their energy bills at home. Warm Hubs can run from any publicly accessible community building, such as community centres, village halls, churches and their halls, older peoples’ day centres, youth centres or community libraries. They will be run by volunteers, with support and training delivered by Cambridgeshire ACRE. It is expected that first of the community-led Warm Hubs will open their doors in October as the weather starts to get colder. The “Warm Hubs in Winter” project is being delivered in partnership by Cambridgeshire ACRE, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System’s South Place Partnership, South Cambridgeshire District Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council. Read more about it at <https://www.cambsacre.org.uk/introducing-warm-hubs/>

Passes to the Wimpole Estate for Community Groups

The Wimpole Estate, a National Trust property in Cambridgeshire are offering local community groups free admission to the estate and its facilities. Each pass issued under this initiative would provide free access for up to 16 people and may be used on any day except bank holidays and the weekends preceding bank holidays. Those intending to use the pass are asked to email wimpolehall@nationaltrust.org.uk or call the estate before coming, stating the name of the group, the number of people and approximate time of arrival. For more information visit <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole-estate>

The Action for Happiness theme for this month at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendar>. is **Self Care September**. This month’s focus is “Self-care isn't selfish, it's essential.”. Please look after yourselves.

Transport

EWR Update

The Cambridge City MP and Cambridge Ahead spoke out some weeks ago on the issue of EWR as you would have seen in the local papers. They also wrote to the Transport Minister Grant Shapps MP who had made some off the cuff comments during his failed bid for the Conservative Leadership role. I recently came across the response letter from Mr Shapps to Cambridge Ahead which you will [find on my blog and can download here](#).

City Access Consultation

A ‘Sustainable Travel Zone’ (STZ) road user charge has been put forward by Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) for private vehicles between 7am and 7pm on weekdays. The plans are part of a package to deliver improvements to public transport, reduce congestion in the city, and to help the environment through lower emissions. The proposals follow the GCP’s ‘Making Connections’ consultation, which the authority said showed the public was supportive of improvements to the public transport network, as well as its aims to reduce pollution and congestion.

A £5 congestion charge to drive into and around Cambridge is being considered as part of a “once in a generation” plan to shake up how people travel between 7am and 7pm on weekdays.

While driving in the city could get more expensive, the GCP has revealed plans to make buses cheaper. Flat fares have been proposed to be introduced; in Cambridge a ticket could cost £1 to travel in the city, with a ticket in the wider ‘travel to work’ area proposed to cost £2.

There is to be further public consultation following the discussion and potential adoption of the plans at the GCP Assembly meeting on September the 8th (or not). I will urge all residents of our Ward villages to please respond and if you can, watch the live stream of the meeting. You can also submit public questions by 10am on 5th September. Check this link for further details on the process <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKGCP/bulletins/3296f07>

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbett Dual Carriageway

The Secretary of State has given permission through a Development Consent Order (DCO) for this new piece of road to be constructed. The decision was announced on 18 August, and hit the press almost immediately. It is a brand new 10-mile dual carriageway, linking the Black Cat roundabout to the Caxton Gibbet roundabout just down the road from us. There will be a flyover at Caxton Gibbett over the existing and additional roundabout to be built there for local traffic. The notorious Eltisley turn will be removed too. You can read more about it on my blog at <https://tumiawkins.org.uk/planning-consent-a428-black-cat-caxton-gibbett/>

Luton Airport Flight Path and Airspace Deployment (AD6) change

I am continuing to receive emails from folks showing that many communities are continuing to suffer negative effects from the flight path changes. I was interviewed on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire in July and you can read about it on my blog at <https://bit.ly/AD6onBBCRad>. The SCDC Leader Cllr Smith is continuing to raise this matter with Luton Airport on our behalf recently meeting with the CEO of Luton Flight Operations.

I also met with and chaired a meeting with Head of Luton Airport Operation – Noise enquiries, a Community Noise Executive - LLA Noise Enquiries together with two co-founders of RELAS in mid August. I had requested it in order to make sure that LLA understood the real, not imagined or modelled impacts of the AD6 change on all the villages in the Ward. It went well in that we were able to clarify a number of points and agreed to work together during this Post Implementation Review (PIR) period to collect the right sort of data and information that would be used for analysing the effectiveness or not of the AD6 by CAA after the PIR ends on 31st May 2023.

The important point to note is anyone who is being disturbed should continue to complain to Luton during this post implementation period (PIR). Please join the facebook RELAS group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/relas.ad6> for more information, updates and share your experiences. **I suggest where possible make a video recording on your phone of the flight event that caused the disturbance as part of your record keeping.** Send it to Luton airport by email noise.enquiries@ltn.aero or noise@ltn.aero. When you do, copy me in, your Parish Council and also the South Cambs MP. You can use the airport complaint site at <https://bit.ly/Ad6Complaint> but make sure you notify us too. All the reports will be data that will be used to assess the success or otherwise of the deployment at the end of the PIR.

I have written a number of blog articles that will help with a clearer understanding, so please check them out.

Planning Policy & Delivery and Building Control

Planning Compliance (formerly Enforcement):

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS) is updating the policies that support implementation of planning applications. What is known as Enforcement is now called Compliance. The GCSPS has published guidance on what is and what is not a breach of planning at <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/planning-applications/planning-compliance/>.

It includes a helpful, explanatory video. Where it appears there is a breach of planning control, complaints can now be submitted using an e-form. It enables documents and/or photographs to be uploaded which will help the compliance team with their investigations. I will provide more updates as the updates come on line.

Parish Council Survey

The GCSPS carried out a survey of Parish Councils in South Cambs (and Resident Associations in the City) to ask about service provided, the quarterly Area Parish meetings and topics the PCs would like to see discussed in future. The response rate was disappointingly low but the Planning Service is thankful to those PCs that were willing to engage helpfully and took the time to respond. The comments that we received gave an indication of what those PCs felt was important. We will make the results known in due course.

Environmental Services

Recycling of electrical items

South Cambs has installed eight new recycling banks (the pink ones) for small electrical items like hairdryers, toasters and phones. Closest to us are at Morrisons car park in Cambourne, Tesco car park in Bar Hill. Please take your small broken/unusable electrical items there instead of putting them in your black bins. There are also existing pink electrical recycling banks at Milton and Thriplow Household Recycling Centres. Small appliances can also be handed in for recycling in-store at Curry's on Newmarket Road in Cambridge.

Casework

Please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. I will help as best I can

You will find the current and past reports on my blog at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/caldecote-ward/reports/monthly-reports/2022-23-monthly-reports/>. Feel free to read, share and/or download.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
1 September 2022

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
Twitter:	@CouncillorTumi
Facebook	@itsCouncillorTumi
LinkedIn	TumiHawkins
Call me on:	07802 323269

Report: County Councillor (Hardwick div.) District Councillor (Harston & Comberton) Cllr Michael Atkins September 2022

Highlights

- County Council: cost of living crisis response, Madingley active travel scheme
- GCP: C2C busway and City Access Proposals
- District Council: warm hub centres, free entry to Wimpole Estate
- Contact details

Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

We are all deeply saddened to learn of the death of the Queen. Details of a period of national mourning and significant events will be publicised over the following days. Please check the district council and county council website for further information:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

<https://www.scamb.gov.uk/>

Parental leave

I will be taking a six-week period of parental leave from mid-September through to the end of October (approximately). In my absence, please contact the following councillors for assistance with any urgent matters:

- District council business – Lisa Redrup and Ariel Cahn will continue to also cover the H&C ward
- GCP business – Bridget Smith has kindly agreed to deal with any urgent issues
cllr.bridgetsmith@scamb.gov.uk
- County council business – divided as follows:
 - Children, education, schooling.: Maria King Maria.King@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
 - Highways: Brian Milnes Brian.Milnes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
 - Other matters: Philippa Slatter Philippa.Slatter@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Thank you for your understanding!

News from the County

Cost of living crisis

The Council is collating helpful information and advice on a single webpage. This includes information about schemes the Council is running or administering, as well as schemes run by others. More information will be added as it becomes available.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-withthe-cost-of-living>

The Council is also reminding residents of the household support fund to increase uptake from eligible people of pensionable age. The Council is producing a leaflet on this fund for distribution

through faith and community groups and at foodbanks.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-supportfund#support-for-pensioners-who-are-struggling-financially-0-0>

Climate challenges

The exceptionally hot, dry weather this summer has presented challenges to the fire service in Cambridgeshire. July saw the two busiest days ever for local crews, and August placed similar demands on the service. More information about outdoor fire safety at www.cambsfire.gov.uk/community-safety/outdoor-safety/

Meanwhile water companies are asking residents to use water wisely and reuse wherever possible to help keep taps running this summer. A drought was declared in East Anglia, and restrictions on irrigation put in place on the Ely Ouse system, but (to date) no hosepipe bans for domestic residents.

Active travel

An experimental traffic order will shortly be introduced to make Cambridge Road, Madingley, one-way and increase the space in the road for cyclists to use. This will also hopefully reduce incidence of rat-running which I know is an issue in the village. If the scheme is successful and has the support of residents it could be made permanent in the future.

20 mph and LHIs

I know many villages are waiting for details on the next round of LHI bids, and how they can apply more easily for 20 mph zones. Work on both of these issues is progressing, and more detail will be shared after the October meeting of the Highways & Transport committee.

News from GCP & Combined Authority

C2C Busway

The proposals for the C2C busway have been finalised and will be brought to the GCP board next month. Decisions on key issues are roughly as follows:

- Hardwick: pursue the bus gate on St Neots Rd in favour of an off-road solution
- Coton: off-road route remains the proposal, some small adjustments around the old waterworks sight and the Orchard.
- Madingley Rd: potential short term improvements have been rejected (again) as lacking sufficient additive benefit over the main scheme for their cost (which has risen)

As local politicians, we have been advised by officers that the delivery of the proposal (including the off-road sections) is crucial to delivering agreed housing on the outskirts of South Cambridgeshire, and that any alternative would significantly endanger the Local Plan and encourage and/or enable speculative development across the district. This is a sufficiently worrying prospect that there is no longer any political appetite to oppose the scheme or push for alternatives.

I will discuss with the affected parishes how they may wish to continue to engage with the scheme over the next twelve months.

City access: public transport & congestion charge

The GCP have published draft proposals for addressing public transport in the greater Cambridge area. These were considered by the GCP Assembly earlier this week, will next go to the board, and then to public consultation.

The core proposal is to establish a revived bus network with significant public subsidy, £1 or £2 bus fares, and at least hourly services to rural villages. This would be rolled out over the next few years, and then ultimately sustained via a congestion charge from 2026/27 on private cars driving into the city centre 7am-7pm Mon-Fri.

This has unsurprisingly generated a lot of media and political attention, and will be of interest to most residents. There is still a lot of detail to be worked out, and much of that will be gauged via future consultations, so please engage with the plans as they emerge. Just to highlight a few issues where there is some misinformation doing the rounds:

- The improvements in the bus services will be brought in over several years *before* the congestion charge will be introduced
- The Park & Ride sites will not be covered by the charge, so this will remain an option where journeys are too complex to easily replace with public transport.
- The inclusion of the Addenbrookes site will be subject to further discussion. It is worth noting that staff are already heavily discouraged from driving and parking (unless working shifts, which would be outside the congestion charge times anyway). Patients too ill to use public transport would be exempt.

If residents have immediate concerns they are welcome to contact me to discuss at their convenience. The political groups of which I am a member have not yet agreed a position on these proposals, and will do so once these proposals are finalised

News from the District

Warm Hub Centres

Local authorities are responding to the cost-of-living crisis by helping communities to set up “Warm Hubs”. These are places where people can find a safe, warm and friendly environment to spend part of their day and so reduce their energy bills at home.

Warm Hubs can run from any publicly accessible community building, such as community centres, village halls, churches/church halls, day centres, youth centres or libraries. They will be run by volunteers, with support and training from Cambridgeshire ACRE.

South Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire District Councils have partnered with Cambridgeshire ACRE to work with interested communities to:

- Identify a suitable publicly accessible community building
- Support the recruitment of volunteers
- Deliver training and support to volunteers
- Promote and publicise the Hub.

More information, including contact details to suggest a community facility, is available here:

<https://www.cambsacre.org.uk/introducing-warm-hubs/>.

Small electrics recycling

Items such as hair dryers, kettles and toasters can now taken various recycling points across the city and district, as well as the household recycling centres. Check www.recyclenow.com/recycling-locator to find your nearest recycling point.

Free entry to Wimpole Estate for community groups

The Wimpole Estate, a local National Trust property, are offering local community groups free admission to the estate and its facilities. Each pass issued under this initiative would provide free access for up to 16 people and may be used on any day except bank holidays and the weekends preceding bank holidays.

Polly Ingham-Watts, the General Manager of Wimpole Hall, is passionate that everyone can enjoy all that Wimpole has to offer and recognises that National Trust membership or the standard admission charges are not accessible to everyone.

Those intending to use the pass are asked to email wimpolehall@nationaltrust.org.uk or call the estate before coming, stating the name of the group, the number of people, and the approximate time of arrival. For more information visit <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole-estate>.

Four-day working week

Desk-based staff at the district council will take part in a four-day-week pilot in January 2023 for three months. As part of the trial, the district council will also extend the hours it is open to the public via a new webchat service and remote video calls. Service levels to the public will be carefully monitored and, if adversely affected, the idea will not be taken further.

The ambition is to improve the council's ability to attract and retain staff, which has proved difficult in recent years, and reduce reliance on agency staff, who typically cost the council twice as much as permanent staff. Residents could also benefit from dealing with a more stable, engaged and happy workforce.

Contact Details

Councillors and residents are welcome to contact me on any issue which is concerning them:

<p>Cllr Michael I. Atkins matkinslibdem@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/cllrmichaelatkins 07968 264637</p>

KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN. REPORT 2021-2122

The great achievement of the year has been our adoption of CIO status, which is the Charity Commission's and ACRES's preferred method of governance for community halls. Importantly, it absolves individual trustees from legal and financial liability. We are grateful to Chris Reid for seeing us through the process and for Louise Beaton's and ACRES's expert guidance.

John Easy has left the committee, but remains as a friend and we are grateful for all the work he has put in. We are very pleased to welcome Neil Campbell as a full committee member and trustee.

Bookings have remained steady, with a wellness group, ballet classes and karate and a number of private events. However, the ballet class is moving to the larger hall at Caxton as class sizes have grown, but a yoga group has recently made weekly bookings. We should consider advertising more widely as we still have plenty of availability

With the installation of WiFi, erection of the fire screen around the oil tank, repairs to the leaning oil tank fence and a new door handle, we can honestly say our refurbishment programme is complete.

Cromwell Fire have carried out their annual inspection of extinguishers and alarms and Peter Stokes performed the stress test on the emergency lighting. The boiler has been serviced.

We have focused recently on energy saving, with a timer put on the hot water controls in the boiler and LED lights in the large hall. It seems we cannot install LED bulbs in the small hall, as the fittings are incompatible. In view of the rising energy costs, Jill has volunteered to undertake spot checks that lights and heating are turned off between hirings.

We have gambled on a temporary dip in the cost of oil to fill our tank to the full and hopefully this should see us through to the spring if we monitor its use carefully. Our electricity price is fixed so we know where we are with energy costs until well into 2023.

With Covid restrictions being phased out in the past year, our coffee mornings and pub evenings are back to normal. We must thank Miki, Jill and other helpers for the coffee and all the committee and the Easys for the pub evenings.

The Christmas Fair raised over a £1000, which was a magnificent achievement. We must thank Suzy and her the hardworking team of stallholders, Miki, Pat, Peter, Kay and Jill, and to all Kingston villagers who supported the Fair so magnificently.

Katherine Stalham took on the organisation of the January quiz, which was great success as an online social event and fund-raiser. Meanwhile, Pat and several of the committee have successfully enlisted enthusiastic volunteers from the village to organise the September BBQ. This is as it should be, as we exist to facilitate social events through efficient management of the hall; as distinct from being a social committee. The latter role was, since the hall was acquired in 1977, performed by the, now defunct, Neighbours' Group. At the forthcoming CIO AGM, maybe we should suggest to the village that something similar is resurrected, either as a sub-committee or a separate body.

I did say that I would be prepared to step down as chair if someone wanted to take over. However, with all refurbishment completed, and with a supportive committee, the task is not arduous so I am happy to stay on until a willing and suitable replacement is found.

So, I would like to thank the whole committee for their support over the past year and, in particular, Chris Reid as treasurer, Sarah Wright as secretary and Peter Stokes as unofficial clerk of works.

Paul Wright

Kingston Pools' Land Charity

Annual Report 2022

There have been several significant changes to the charity since our last report in 2019.

The first change is that Joan Reynolds retired as a trustee in April 2021. She had been a trustee for over 12 years. Throughout this time Joan's contribution to the Charity has been invaluable. She was particularly skilled at identifying people in the parish who needed help so she is greatly missed.

In September 2021, Peter Reynolds was appointed by the Parish Council as her successor.

The second significant change is we have a new tenant. For many years the charity land was rented by Philip Crow who used it for various outdoor leisure activities as part of facilities associated with his golf and leisure business. We now have a new tenant, Alexandra Weissova, of PAUS (Bathing Under the Sky Ltd). The main enterprise, as many will already know, is outdoor hot tub bathing but there is also a sauna, a barefoot walking trail and a bistro. They also plan to grow organic vegetables for use in the bistro and to extend the available activities as the business develops. Alexandra is committed to a low impact, wildlife friendly, sustainable use of the land. Visitors are welcome (see www.paus.life for opening hours and further information). They have created a peaceful haven which is well worth seeing.

We took the opportunity of the change in tenancy to regularise several aspects of the way the charity operates. This included:

- An independent review of the rent which was conducted by Cheffins.
- A formal tenancy agreement to protect the interests of both the charity and the tenant.
- Agreements for essential access rights across adjacent land including utilities.
- Registration of the Charity's ownership of the land with the Land Registry.

Under the new agreement the rental for the land will increase in steps from £800pa to £4500pa from 2024 and will be regularly reviewed every 5 years in line with RPI. So, although we have had to spend some of our reserve funds on legal fees (£6410) these expenses will be paid back in full from the increased rental.

Income and expenditure for the last three years is as follows:

	Deposits	Payments
1/4/19 to 31/3/20	£809.21	£520.00
1/4/20 to 31/3/21	£2.27	£600.00
1/4/21 to 31/3/22	£6613.73	£6690.40

The unusual fluctuations are due to the changes we have been going through. The figures for 2019/20 reflect a normal year when we aimed to only make payments within our annual income. The low income for 2020/21 is the transition year between the old tenant and the new tenant. The rental arrears from the old tenant were collected the following year as part of the final agreement between all parties. The large income for 2021/22 includes these arrears, some new rental payments and a deposit of £3000 we are holding on behalf of the new tenant. The large expenditure in 2021/22 includes the legal fees. We expect the effect of the new higher rental to be reflected in the figures for 2022/23.

During all these changes we have continued to operate as a charity. Since our last report we have made 17 payments, amounting to £1400,

to school leavers and families in need. The total funds in the bank at 30th Sept 2022 was £8225

The outcome of these changes is that the income from the land has increased significantly and the charity is now more secure, legally and financially.

The charity, as always, is ready to help (in confidence) anyone in the village who needs financial help.

Donal O'Donnell & Peter Reynolds
Trustees