

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021

## Parish Council Report

The Parish Council operates through our Facilities, Finance, Planning and Standards Committees and our less formal Working Groups, which are supported by our Chairs, Clerks, and Finance Officer.

Chairs, in particular, have a community leadership role beyond their legal duties to “chair meetings”.

I am especially grateful for the thousands of unpaid hours our Chairs and Councillors commit selflessly to Cottenham each year with the tireless support of our staff and Andrew King.

Over the two years:

We have seen the beginning of the first significant expansion of Cottenham in several decades as new residents move into Redland Grange on Oakington Road – welcome!

Cottenham’s Neighbourhood Plan, after 3 or 4 years of research, consultation, drafting and re-drafting went to independent examination, involving iterative refinement over several months. It is about to be tested by you at referendum in a few weeks’ time. If adopted by a majority, it will become part of the Local Plan helping planners make their decisions.

We also:

- got planning permission for a new Hall and Nursery, this time for separate buildings with higher costs due to separation and delays. CPC approved expenditure on detailed design through to competitive tendering.
- worked with the Ministry and Residents to get permission for a long-term loan to finance most of the build costs while agreeing a grant process with the County Council to channel s106 Early Years funds into the project. S106 will eventually fund more than 1/3 of the project costs.
- undertook a programme of value engineering with the lead bidder to bring project costs within reach of our funding without compromising the specification too much – although the Changing Places toilet will be missed by some.
- committed to a ~£4 million construction project, including Hall, Nursery and major improvements to the access road and car park.
- brought part of the Hall into limited operation to facilitate ongoing operation of Cottenham Kids Club when the Primary School re-opened in March.
- continued to identify and provide the necessary fixtures, fittings and facilities management services to bring the Hall into successful operation later this year as COVID-19 subsides.
- continued our search for a Nursery Operator despite COVID-19; the short-listed candidates will be interviewed shortly with a view to negotiating contracts and opening in the Autumn. The Nursery is a collaborative project with Cambridgeshire County Council providing specialist advice and much of the funding extracted from developers.
- managed our existing facilities through COVID-19 helping Kids Club, Ladybirds and the Primary School remain safe during the crisis and the construction programme.

There are often wide differences of opinion among residents on how to improve our road and pavement infrastructure. The traffic-calming we are allowed or can afford is often too limited for many and pressure to restore roads after developments or just fixing potholes is too slow.

We have had –and responded to – more than our fair share of flooding whether from highway gullies overflowing as a result of poor cleaning; mismanagement of the Northstowe balancing ponds leading to increased flows in the Lode forcing a reverse flow through our Flap Valve that protects Tenison Manor; or blocked field drainage causing flooding on Oakington Road and Histon Road. Our groups continue to identify the causes and find effective long-term solutions.

When there is a lack of visible law enforcement, families take steps to look after their own with long-standing family feuds breaking out. After several Police interventions, SCDC has finally commissioned a proper independent report into the planning situation at Smithy Fen. We will need to play a part in building better community relationships.

We continue to press SCDC to act on its other responsibilities, especially related to planning enforcement and fly-tipping.

SCDC reviewed the use of its Community Rooms in Cottenham and decided to keep them.

Planning issues consume a lot of Council time:

- Major developments – from their initiation, through planning, appeals, Judicial Reviews, Permissions, s106s, drainage, lighting and, eventually, Community Transport and, even Burial Ground improvements
  - of these, the evolution of the CCC application via This Land and now Kier has involved intensive work which may now be yielding a better outcome for everyone.
  - The Oakington Road developments continue to present issues, mostly by being allowed to continue ahead of infrastructure work.

Our Chair, Clerk and RFO may often be seen as a brake on how Council operates, but as a finger on the hand of HMG, we have to operate properly, especially when spending public money. This is checked each year by our independent Internal Audit which found that our business procedures continue to be lawful and effectively conducted.

And, after being suspended for over a year due to COVID-19, the Neighbourhood Plan goes to Referendum on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Community & Leisure Facilities Committee (CALF)**

With lockdown, it has been a year of limited community activity, but some notable achievements. The most obvious of these is the completion of the new Village Hall and Nursery and although the opening has been delayed by Covid, there is much anticipation in starting to use the new facilities.

During one of the breaks in Lock Down last summer, the Recreation Ground welcomed the Cottenham Tennis Club and the introduction of a new tennis court booking system. Between 26<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> August there were 271 bookings made, demonstrating the demand for tennis courts in the Village.

Following completion of the Nursery, plans are in place to re-install the toddler play area later on this year. Regular Health and Safety checks of the play equipment on the Rec are continuing to be carried out by members of CALF.

The availability of land at and around the Recreation Ground is slowly becoming clearer with the CCC/Kier development design nearing a conclusion. The current situation in terms of land ownership is summarised below:



Should fields G1 and G2 become part of the Recreation Ground, then there is scope for development of further facilities such as MUGA and all-weather playing pitches.

Arrangements are being made to hold regular skate and scooter training at the Skate Park and it is hoped the Connections Bus should make a return later on this year.

The defibrillator is now operational within the phone box by the war memorial and is inspected regularly by members of CALF.

Some minor victories have been achieved in grant applications, with four apple trees being planted in the Tenison Manor Moat area and funding for cycle racks at WARG Field, Fen Reeves and The Pound. A grant application has also been made for an outdoor pin pong table.

Peter Hewitt

Chair, CALF Committee

## Finance, Legal and Administration Committee (FLAC) Report

The responsibilities of the Finance, Legal and Administration Committee (FLAC) are to initiate, monitor, challenge and help implement all the financial, legal and administration aspects of the work undertaken by Cottenham Parish Council.

Clearly, over the past 12 months, the major topic has been the building, near completion and now use of our brand new two-level village hall. This successful venture is a credit to not only the Chairman of Cottenham Parish Council, Frank Morris, but also to our support staff: Jo, Debbie, Beth and previously Sam.

Every quarter, and increasingly every month, FLAC has been closely monitoring the building of the new village hall (VH) taking into account regular payments to contractors and advisers and making full use of cashflow projections. Every month our bank balances (spread over a number of banks and building society accounts) are checked as are borrowing facilities from the Government-owned Public Works and Loans Board. It provides cheap finance for local Government projects.

FLAC is also involved in considering the terms on which the NVH can be rented out to local amenity groups and residents. Recently FLAC has undertaken:-

- \* A general risk assessment for VH;
- \* Considered and updated a number of financial regulations;
- \* Reviewed internal financial controls;
- \* Discussed our Community Engagement Policy;
- \* Reviewed our complaints procedure as well as our child and vulnerable adult protection and safeguarding policy.

FLAC is also responsible for reviewing the Freedom of Information legislation, Equal Opportunities Policy, IT Security and IT Usage. We also review the register of all Parish Council assets as well as insurance cover for those assets as well as potential Public Liability. From time to time we also review the security arrangements relating to these assets. FLAC is also responsible for drafting the Parish Council annual budget for income and expenditure to the Full Parish Council to review and adopt for each future accounting year. FLAC also reviews grant applications received in compliance with grant application requirements and makes recommendations to Full Parish Council meetings.

Nigel Bolitho  
Chair, FLAC Committee

**CPC Unaudited Provisional Accounts  
2020/21**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	
<b>Precept</b>			
Main	168028	165598	Basic precept
Supplementary	123448	123058	£1/week per Band D supplement for VH
<b>Project Contributions</b>			
Loan inwards		2800000	Long-term loan to finance VH and N
s106 CommFac via SCDC	200098		To date s106 contributions; ~£150K more to come
s106 EY via CCC	309674		To date s106 contributions; ~£300K more to come
<b>Rec Ground Rentals</b>			
Ladybird	6629	6220	Annual rent
KidsClub	7652	10487	Reduced by COVID-19
Sports	2923	6791	Reduced by COVID-19
Other	1009	970	
<b>Other income</b>			
s106 Open Space	93053		To date s106 contributions; ~£150K more to come
s106 Bus Shelters	8385		To date s106 contributions
s106 Offsite Sports	25378		To date s106 contributions; ~£100K more to come
COVID-19 grant	10000		HMG business disruption grant
Other income	11962	9590	
	<b>968239</b>	<b>3122714</b>	

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	
Personnel & Expenses	65293	71337	Reduced following completion of CILCA courses
Office & Admin	19109	18456	Utilities, Insurance, Office Rent etc
Legal & Profesional	8413	6480	Advice on contracts, Audit fees etc
External Services	40209	40250	Mostly Groundsman services
Other Facilities Costs	29777	41091	Pavilion, Recreation Ground, old Hall costs
Donations	6302	9540	Mostly donations and Xmas concert costs
Local Projects	3432480	561211	Mostly VH/N project costs

Financial Costs	100723	43161	Mostly loan financing costs
Other	1255	-105	Minor maintenance costs
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>3703561</b>	<b>791421</b>	

<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash	386465	2962957	Cash held in multiple accounts
VAT debtor etc	32657	99865	Recoverable VAT
	<b>419122</b>	<b>3062822</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors	196725	105303	Inc. SEH French stage payment; 2.5% to go
Accruals & Tax	3333	3133	
	<b>200058</b>	<b>108436</b>	
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>219064</b>	<b>2954386</b>	

<b>Reserves</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	
Hall/Nursery	0	2848957	
General	86750	100000	"Rainy day cash" fund
s106 Reserves	130352	3536	Received s106 developer contributions
Environment/ZeroC	1961	411	Misc grants / donations
Other	0	1482	
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>219063</b>	<b>2954386</b>	

## Highways Committee

Cottenham Parish Council's Highways Committee meets quarterly and consists of: Cllr Derek Henderson; Cllr Peter Hewitt; Cllr Martin McCarthy (Chair until July 2020); Cllr Frank Morris; Cllr Michelle Stewart; Cllr Christine Ward (Chair since July 2020); Cllr Tim Wotherspoon. The clerk to the committee is Beth Fleetwood.

Traffic and transport matters are important to Cottenham residents, as confirmed by the Neighbourhood Plan survey. However, Parish Councils have very little power over highways issues which are primarily the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and enforced by Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Therefore, CPC Highways Committee's main role is to raise concerns and lobby on behalf of residents and our Clerk liaises tirelessly with CCC Highways on a variety of issues.

To give a flavour of what we have been involved in over the past year or so:

- We have successfully applied for Local Highways Improvement funding from CCC to introduce speed reduction measures on the approach to Cottenham on Oakington Road. These include a 40 mph buffer zone and a priority feature ('chicane') and should be installed later this financial year.
- We have continued to explore the possibility of introducing a 20 mph zone in the High Street and other central parts of Cottenham. In order for CCC Highways to approve such a project the average speed needs to be 24 mph or less. Recent independent speed surveys in High Street and Denmark Road proved that speeds were very close to 24 mph and unfortunately in one case above 24 mph. This has caused CCC to reject the possibility of a 20 mph but CPC together with County Councillor Tim Wotherspoon are still working on a possible solution. Progress is frustratingly slow.
- We were pleased to see that our pressure to have the roadside gullies cleaned out last autumn meant that the surface water flooding in December 2020 was much less severe than in the summer. We will maintain pressure on CCC Local Highways Officer to ensure that they will be cleaned more frequently in future compared with recent years.
- We have continued to lobby for cycle paths connecting Cottenham to Oakington (hopefully being installed later in 2021) and Waterbeach (still at the early planning stage). In addition, we have been involved in plans to increase the number of cycle stands around the village (to be installed later this year).
- Building on the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, we are developing a 4-year strategy listing projects aimed at improving the traffic and transport environment for pedestrians, cyclists, mobility scooters and public transport users. This can be viewed on the PC website, under Highways Committee, and comments are welcome. When COVID regulations allow, we hope to reinstate the Traffic and Transport Working Group to learn their views on the proposed strategy.

Christine Ward  
Chair, Highways Committee

## Planning Committee

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on local planning applications and a small group of Parish Councillors review and comment on every formal planning application. This process adds a local voice to decisions that are otherwise made by Planning Officers based in Cambourne in accordance with national planning policy, the Local Plan and, if it passes referendum on 6<sup>th</sup> May, Cottenham's own Neighbourhood Plan.

Recently the Committee has had all the larger planning applications to keep abreast of, often suggesting ways the proposal can be made more acceptable to local residents. We also identify and encourage enforcement action by SCDC where planning rules are ignored or broken.

Frank Morris  
Chair, Planning Committee

## County Councillor's Report

27 million people watched the Prime Minister announce the first lockdown on Monday 23 March 2020. Activating our regular emergency planning training, Cambridgeshire County Council immediately hit the "pandemic" button and converted itself into a social support organisation. I have not been comfortable trumpeting the county council contribution, preferring to emphasize the extraordinary team effort that resulted from all of us working together, regardless of background, organisation or affiliation, towards the sole outcome of making lives better: as one of the village volunteers put it perfectly, "bearing each other's burdens". The county council resumed holding meetings in May. It took some time for online meetings to settle down, with connections often failing.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership passed its Gateway Review, unlocking a further £200m of government funding, and resisted a hostile takeover bid by the Mayor. Having been almost a lone voice in criticising the county council's destructive approach to GCP over the past couple of years, I felt vindicated that the county council shifted to playing a leading role in the partnership – indeed the leading role, with Deputy Leader Roger HICKFORD becoming the new chairman of the Executive Board. A Conservative County Councillor could not also be chairman of the GCP Joint Assembly, so I relinquished that role. Our January 2020 meeting had been described by the leader of the City Council as the Joint Assembly's finest hour.

In February 2020, the Council adopted a fourth corporate objective to deliver net zero carbon for Cambridgeshire by 2050 and included a £16million Environment Fund in its budget to support delivery of commitments set out in the Climate Change and Environment Strategy approved in May 2020. On Thursday 25 June 2020 one of the items on the agenda of the Environment and Sustainability Committee was the Renewable Heating Programme, in which gas and oil boilers are to be replaced by Air Source Heat Pumps at twenty-five council-owned buildings, on which 15 of the 16 million pounds in the Environment Fund is to be spent, ideally before the Renewable Heat Incentive on commercial buildings is withdrawn in 2021. One of these is Cottenham Library.

In July the Secretary of State laid the national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England in parliament <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy-for-england--2> and Defra published their FCERM policy statement [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/903705/flood-coastal-erosion-policy-statement.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/903705/flood-coastal-erosion-policy-statement.pdf)

Two letters were sent by Simon CLARKE, a Minister of State subtitled the Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government, in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, to James PALMER, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and Roger HICKFORD, chair of the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board. Both letters refer to recent difficulties in working together and ask them to find a way forward. They also mention the Cambourne to Cambridge segregated high quality public transport scheme and await the outlining of proposed interim



solutions to bring forward development and protect the five-year land supply in South Cambridgeshire.

The Planning White Paper was published on Thursday 6 August 2020. In the Planning Advisory Service Planning Reform Overview session on 10 September the following aspects were highlighted:

Plans remain at the heart of a plan-led system; but they will look very different and focus on what matters most.

Three Land categories - Growth, Renewal, Protect.

New routes to permission - with design codes and pattern books being the community engagement focus.

A binding housing need based on market signals, allowing for constraint and based on where people want to build.

New timescales - shorter and stricter with a single test of sustainability and a reduction in evidence base.

Community engagement - to be frontloaded into plan making.

The digital agenda.

A quicker but enhanced environmental assessment process.

National Infrastructure Levy - to be broader in scope, but will generate more money and address the lengthy viability negotiations that currently exist.

Additional resourcing and skills will be needed to support these changes.

Tuesday 22 September 2020 OxCam Arc conference: The Cross Whitehall OxCam team is now reforming and have a particular focus on the Spatial Framework and proposals for four new Development Corporations, all in the Great Ouse catchment (Bedford, St Neots/Sandy, Cambourne and Cambridge).

12pm keynote speech by Robert JENRICK to the UK Onward (a think tank on which Anthony BROWNE MP is a member of the Advisory Board) and Create Streets conference "Creating Communities 2020". Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1D9uYrG4Ro> or read the draft here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/robert-jenricks-speech-on-planning-for-the-future>

Camcycle Webinar on LTN 1/20, the new standards for cycling infrastructure, presented by Phil JONES, one of the authors (who is also a member of the Cambridgeshire Quality Review Design Panel). The government's "Gear Change" had come as a bit of a surprise, because it was the first time in their experience that such a document had got stronger after it left the consultants. Heralding a step change in cycling and walking, and taking the unique opportunity provided by the pandemic, it brings £2bn of new investment, and Active Travel England with a new national cycling and walking commissioner. I asked about "Better Planning, Better Transport, Better Places" and getting away from a car mitigation first approach to transport assessment. The interesting reply was "The Planning White Paper is an opportunity to take a more holistic approach along the lines of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation document. Transport assessment guidance was withdrawn about 2012, never really adequately replaced by Planning Practice Guidance, but if we have to get much more done at the plan making stage there is an opportunity to get the planning and transport properly integrated up front."

Thursday 29 October 2020 At 23.45 the public consultation on the Planning White Paper, "Planning for the Future", closed after twelve weeks. I re-read all the "Summer Reading" pieces

that I had sent out during August. I had followed my own advice and taken the whole period to give the proposals serious consideration through open-minded contemplation. Having participated in many webinars with ministers, officials, and others active in planning and urban design, as well as contributing towards several collective responses, I found myself able to argue strongly both in favour of retaining the current discretionary system and for moving towards a more rules-based approach. However, the fact that much of the opposition had come from Conservative councillors and MPs helped me make up my mind.

You may recall that the first question in the public consultation on “Planning for the Future” was “What three words do you associate most with the planning system in England?” One of the most succinct responses was published by Robert CARNWATH CVO, who was a Justice of the Supreme Court from 15 April 2012 to 18 March 2020. He is with Landmark Chambers, which has supplied some of the most competent planning barristers we have ever faced, often in Gypsy and Traveller appeal public inquiries. Anyway, after a lifetime in practice his summation of the planning system in three words was “robust, but over-cluttered, and under-resourced”.

Monday 16 November 2020 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership is to relaunch as the ‘Vision Zero Partnership’, under a radical new Road Safety Strategy. The Strategy was created after a governance and partnership review, undertaken by independent road safety specialists Agilysis and Traject and funded by the Acting Police and Crime Commissioner, which sought views from partners, stakeholders and communities alongside reviewing best practice evidence. The new strategy is based on the principle that no human being should be killed or seriously injured as the result of a road collision, and sets ambitious targets for a 50% reduction in people killed and seriously injured by 2030 and working towards zero fatalities and severe injuries by 2040. The new strategy is available on the Police and Crime Commissioner’s website <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/accessing-information/cambridgeshire-and-peterborough-vision-zero-partnership/>.

Publication of a batch of evidence papers underlying preparation of the forthcoming Greater Cambridge Local Plan, to 2041, examining three levels of growth and eight strategic spatial options. Consultants were commissioned to examine implications (both positive and negative) of the resulting two dozen scenarios. Anthony BROWNE MP has been arguing that no allocations should be made for any more housing than required by the formula of the standard method in Planning Practice Guidance. This would not be enough to accommodate even the growth in employment already in the pipeline, which has been much faster than that catered for in the current Local Plans 2011 - 2031. By contrast, he is silent about the two development corporations envisaged by both Rishi SUNAK and Robert JENRICK, one at Cambourne and one at Cambridge, “which includes plans to explore the case for a New Town at Cambridge”, whatever that means. The only mention of planning in the Spending Review highlighted Treasury interest in our area above all: “an additional £12 million to take forward the government’s radical planning reform agenda and £4 million towards its ongoing Oxford-Cambridge Arc programme, building on the government’s commitments to accelerate housing and infrastructure delivery”.

On Tuesday 17 November 2020 the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership hosted launch of the Economic Prospectus for the Oxford Cambridge Arc. Bridget SMITH, Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council and lead of the Environment Workstream, gave an inspiring speech on branding it the Green Arc. She played brilliantly on the homonymous notion of a Green Ark, as an international exemplar for zero carbon living and environmental net gain, taking us through to a future no longer threatened by climate change.

At the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board meeting on Thursday 10 December 2020 I attacked James PALMER's interference in the Cambourne to Cambridge scheme, which had delayed the project by two years and wasted even more years of my life, as "a failure of governance".

At the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 15 December 2020 we voted to seek the reclassification of the A1123 from St Ives to Soham as a B road, with the intention of gradually reducing the number of HCVs using this route instead of the much improved A14, to which it had in effect functioned as a bypass. This ought also reduce HCV movements along the B1050 from Earith through Willingham (and possibly through Rampton), as well as those along the B1049 from Wilburton through Cottenham.

The Highways and Transport Committee is setting up an HCV working group to assess movement of traffic across the whole road network. Is the advisory freight map still relevant in the era of sat-nav and other route-finding apps?

We received up to 55mm of rainfall, in various locations, in less than 24 hours between 23 and 24 December 2020. [The Environment Agency declared water levels their highest since 1998.]

On Tuesday 19 January 2021 the Highways & Transport Committee unanimously approved issuing the draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for public consultation.

Wednesday 27 January 2021 Release of selected site 3 (Honey Hill) for Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation by Anglian Water. The Development Consent Order submission is scheduled for mid 2022.

Friday 29 January 2021 It was unusual for an outline planning application to reach determination by the South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee with an extant objection from the county council. The Local Highway Authority had not been persuaded that the permission as framed provided adequate mitigation of impacts on the road network of the 4,500 houses on the RLW part of Waterbeach new town. Resolution to grant, subject to relocation of the railway station and a link road to the A10, received six votes in favour, five against (including all three Conservative members).

Saturday 30 January 2021 The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government launched public consultation, closing at 11:45pm on 27 March 2021, on revision of the National Planning Policy Framework to implement policy changes in response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission "Living with Beauty" report, slight amendment of the National Design Guide and release of the National Model Design Code. A fuller review of the Framework may be required, depending on the implementation of the government's proposals for wider reform of the planning system.

Tuesday 2 February 2021 Natural Cambridgeshire Board Meeting – its governance review had completed transition to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 8 January. Discussion of measuring natural capital and the metric for applying biodiversity net gain policies. With perfect timing, during the meeting the Royal Society had hosted publication by the government of the final report (a mere 610 pages) of the Independent Review on the Economics of Biodiversity, led by Professor Sir Partha DASGUPTA (Frank RAMSEY Professor Emeritus, University of Cambridge). The Review examines and highlights the institutional and systemic changes required of the private

and public sectors, in order that balance can be restored to the natural world, of which we are all a part and upon which we rely to prosper. Our knowledge-based economy is in competition with other parts of the world. A recent survey by Cambridge Ahead of under-40-year-olds had identified close access to green space as a top priority for those who live and work in the area.

Wednesday 3 February 2021 An extraordinary meeting of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Flood and Water Partnership allowed all flood risk management authorities to share accounts of the flooding that we had experienced since 23 December and what we might be able to do better next time. We had received over 750 reported incidents in Cambridgeshire with just over 300 involving water inside homes.

Sunday 7 February 2021 After another 11mm of rainfall overnight, ground saturation reached the highest levels witnessed in living memory. The temperature plummeted, and during the afternoon we did another four pavement gritting runs in Cottenham (High Street, Rooks Street, Margett Street, Broad Lane and the street called Tenison Manor) before the snow fell.

Tuesday 9 February 2021 At the county council budget meeting, the Leader Steve COUNT proposed an amendment to the jointly agreed base budget (covering the coming four years) along these lines:

- £20 million extra for footpath maintenance
  - £2.73 million extra for flood attenuation and improving our biodiversity
  - £6.97 million in improvements to the B1050
- (starting with £170,000 for design work in the 2021-2022 financial year).

You can watch the Leader propose the £7m expenditure on the B1050 from 1:03:35 to 1:04:03 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1cWwHra2vA&t=905s>.

Thursday 18 February 2021 Publication of Oxford Cambridge Arc spatial framework policy paper, and launch of the Oxford Cambridge Arc Development Corporations Programme.

Friday 19 February 2021 I urged Countryside to live up to its name in achieving far more than the minimum 10% planning policy compliant biodiversity net gain, especially in light of the Doubling Nature strategy recently adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council. The first 500 houses of the 3,500 at Bourn Airfield gained resolution to grant outline planning permission from the South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee, by six votes to five, with all three Conservatives voting against.

Friday 26 February 2021 Collectively we finally achieved a pedestrian link through to Rampton Road, sparing pedestrians from having to walk along Oakington Road from the "Redland Grange" development. I still lament the lost opportunity of achieving comprehensive development of the Bellway, Persimmon and Redrow estates, in particular providing a vehicular through route linking Oakington Road and Rampton Road, thereby allowing vehicles with origin or destination on the development to avoid loading the junction of Oakington Road and Rampton Road.

Thursday 11 March 2021 Luke HALL, Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government, wrote to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board Members about the £100million housing programme: "I have concluded that the programme has made insufficient delivery progress and that the value for money being achieved is below our expectations. I will not be extending the timeframe or continuing to fund the programme on its current basis." This is

really galling, because Stephen HILLS, the South Cambridgeshire District Council Housing Director who negotiated this part of the devolution deal, would have put this money to good use in accelerating “affordable housing” delivery in South Cambridgeshire. (And Peter TOPPING, Leader at the time, was the initial CPCA Housing Portfolio Holder, until he was sacked by the Mayor.)

Monday 15 March 2021 The government revealed its bus strategy and promised to support the proposals to the tune of £3billion.

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Independent Commission on Climate Change published its interim report: carbon emissions per head in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are 25% higher than national average (excluding peat), and falling more slowly than the rest of the UK. We have six years to get on track with the science-based trajectory that we (the Conservative government) set ourselves towards achieving net zero by 2050. Maximum temperatures have been rising almost one degree per decade since the 1960s. The word “peat” appears 212 times, either on its own or as part of “peatland”. Ben SZRETER, of the Behavioural Insights Unit, repeatedly stressed the importance of devising policies that work with the grain of the way people think and act, rather than ways other people might like us to think and act.

Check your air quality: enter a postcode and house number at [addresspollution.org](https://addresspollution.org) and get a report on levels of three pollutants: fine particulates known as PM2.5, larger particulates called PM10, and NO2.

Cambridge Biomedical Campus launched its 2050 vision, to be up there with Kendall Square in Boston Massachusetts.

Monday 22 March 2021 Highways England members briefing for Cambridgeshire County Council on the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements, for which the Development Consent Order application had been submitted on 26 February. They expect the examination to be 2 August – 31 January 2022.

Last week the Department for Transport had announced cancellation of the OxCam Expressway project, that is to say the Oxford to Milton Keynes length, because Milton Keynes to Cambridge is already there, with this piece to plug the gap.) After completion, its name will be changed to A421 (ie continuing the numbering from the west of the Black Cat) all the way to the A14 junction. Quite a few questions about the interrelationship with East-West Rail and development corporations in the corridor. The modelling had not yet been agreed with Cambridgeshire County Council. It indicated a significant negative impact on the single-lane A428 link into the Girton interchange. There was a chorus of dismay from all of us, that we had said all this at the time of the A14 DCO, namely that intentions at that time for an Oxford-Cambridge expressway would significantly increase the loading on the Girton interchange, and wouldn't it make sense to make it an all-ways junction in one go? At that point, however, there was twice as much traffic on the A14 as on the A428, entering the junction from the west, which is why in dropping from five lanes to three between Girton and Histon they gave two to the A14 and one to the A428. DfT is exploring the case for including an all-ways junction at Girton as part of Roads Investment Strategy 3.

Tim Wotherspoon

## **South Cambridgeshire District Councillors (SCDC) Report**

This report covers the last 12 months of activity by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). The year has been dominated by the coronavirus pandemic and SCDC has been very active as part of the local government response to the pandemic. Indeed, SCDC responded quickly and flexibly to the changing circumstances. Significant numbers of Council officers have been redeployed from their usual duties to those dealing directly and urgently with the Covid response, such as the Business Recovery team. All of this while adapting to working from home. Although this has meant some disruption to normal council services, most have been delivered in a timely way and hopefully local residents have not been too severely affected. In particular, the Greater Cambridgeshire Shared Waste service has been outstanding in continuing to deal with our waste in spite of the constraints of social distancing and periods of self-isolation. In recognition of this, the Princess Royal visited the Shared Waste Service at the Waterbeach Depot and thanked them for their hard work during the pandemic.

### **Covid related grants to businesses and discretionary/hardship grants**

The Business Support Team at SCDC has been supporting all local businesses, big and small, through our website, our business newsletter and by direct contact by our expert business support team; we have advised a staggering 2,000 businesses over the past 12 months. We have paid out a total of £10,570,066 in Government business grants to 4,447 local businesses since last November and £3,550,204 in discretionary/hardship grants. We are awaiting details of what further monies we can expect and hence what activities and businesses we will be able to help going forward. As Local Councillors we were active in ensuring that eligible businesses and organisations were aware of the grants. For many businesses, the swift deployment of these grants provided significant support through lockdown.

The SCDC has also announced an extension to the Community Chest grants to support organisations that are recovering and re-establishing their activities after the lockdown.

### **Community Volunteers**

One of the most heartening things that has come out of the pandemic has been the terrific volunteer community response. It was estimated that, at the height of the Covid emergency, over 4,500 people were engaged across South Cambridgeshire in helping their fellow citizens get through the worst of the crisis. Cottenham has been served by an excellent group, which we at SCDC thought was an exemplar – well organised and effective. This organisation was led by a group made up of Parish Councillors, District Councillors and residents. The response to a call for volunteers was spectacular with some 240 residents signing up to help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and generally helping with the impact of lockdown on isolated and vulnerable residents. We would like to record our thanks to all involved for their excellent work.

Now that there appears to be an end to the lockdown and the vaccination programme is reducing the infection risk to us all, SCDC is looking forward at how the community response might be continued into the recovery period. In the coming weeks, council officers will be contacting volunteers to ask them for their views on this. It is appreciated that many will be very tired and looking forward to a break and this is understandable. It may be that a different set of residents step up and continue the work. Whatever the volunteers decide, SCDC will support them in whatever way it can.

SCDC also organised the provision of lunches that were funded by Countryside. Every Wednesday approximately 24 meals were provided to the Cottenham Day Centre team who then delivered the

meals to elderly residents in the village. It provided valuable interaction with these residents throughout lockdown.

### **Mobile/Community Wardens**

In the last 12 months SCDC has increased the number of district Mobile/Community Wardens schemes by 7 and 20 are now operating across the district. This builds on the success of the existing Mobile Warden schemes in villages such as Cottenham. By supporting people in their homes, the wardens help people to live in their own homes for longer. Cottenham's Mobile Warden scheme led by Pat Robertson (Tel. 01954 200080) was able to take on new residents during the March 2020 lockdown, adding to the provision for vulnerable and elderly residents who would otherwise have experienced loneliness and isolation. Information about the scheme can be found here:

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-development/mobile-warden-scheme/>

### **Flooding**

Although the Covid response has played a huge part of all our lives in the last 12 months, there have also been other very notable events, as well as the 'normal' casework. One of these notable events was the flooding that we experienced over the Christmas period and early part of 2021. The exceptional amount of rain that fell during this period tested the drainage systems of our villages to the limit and beyond. Whilst the local authority response to the emergency worked as planned, as one of the category 1 responders SCDC is in talks with Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, the County Council and Internal Drainage Boards and parish councils to see how our joint response can be improved. There will also be a review of riparian watercourses to make sure that they are not obstructed and an impediment to drainage. SCDC will seek to facilitate local emergency plans that tap in to local knowledge including that of Parish Councils.

### **Traffic and speeding**

The other big issue in Cottenham is the heavy, and often speeding, traffic that flows through the village. This makes up a good proportion of the complaints received from residents. Although this is the responsibility of Cambs County Council Highways Department and not SCDC, we are very aware of the inconvenience and irritation that this causes, especially the numbers of HGVs travelling through the village. We will continue to support mitigation measures such as a 20mph speed limit.

### **Cottenham Community Liaison Group**

Cottenham Community Liaison Group, set up by the District Councillors, meets once a quarter and brings together District Councillors, representatives of the Parish Council, SCDC Planning Officers, SCDC Enforcement, representatives of the developers building homes in Cottenham: Bellway, Persimmon and Redrow, soon to be joined by Keir Construction. Other agencies attend the meetings as required. This includes County Council Highways, Anglia Water etc. Officers from SCDC provide the secretarial service for these meetings and they have been highly successful at resolving issues arising from the building works.

The ability to get all these organisations together in one meeting cuts down considerably on the time that would otherwise be spent trying to resolve issues through email exchanges and telephone calls. Most recently, this group was able to secure a temporary pathway through the Redland Grange (Persimmon) construction site so that residents have a safe walking route to the village pending the building of a permanent footpath along Oakington Road. This group has also been able to secure the co-ordination of roadworks to cause the least disruption to residents. The success of this group has

led to the creation of similar groups in other South Cambridgeshire villages that are experiencing similar levels of development.

### **Construction of new council housing**

We have a policy of increasing the number of council properties available for people on lower incomes and, we have built 66 new council homes in the last 12 months (the target was 50). These are built to a high specification and some of the properties have solar panels and air-source heat-pumps. Renewable energy sources help towards the SCDC aim to be carbon neutral.

### **SCDC 5 Year Housing Land Supply and Developments**

Local planning authorities, like SCDC, must demonstrate that they are on track to deliver the minimum number of new homes (in the projected five-year period) that the national government has set. Widely known as the 5-year housing land supply (5YHLS) the failure of the previous Conservative administration to demonstrate one led to developers bombarding the council with speculative applications, many of which got approved at appeal and Cottenham was one of the villages that suffered because of this failure. We are delighted to be able to report that the 5YHLS figure for Greater Cambridge (South Cambs and Cambridge City) has recently been reassessed and it now stands at 6.1 years.

This means that we can apply our Local Plan policies for affordable housing, standards, sustainable locations, green belt and place-making without less fear of speculative and unsustainable development.

In Cottenham, the Reserved Matters application for This Land was not approved by the SCDC Planning Committee. We supported the Parish Council in opposing a scheme that was unacceptable in many ways. This Land has now appealed.

### **Being 'Green to our core'**

One of the priorities for the present administration at SCDC is a commitment to being 'Green to our core'. In early 2021 we released details of our 'Doubling Nature' strategy in which we seek to increase wildlife-rich habitats and the tree canopy and improving access to green spaces. Some of the other projects that we have in the pipeline have, inevitably, been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic but we have still delivered on most of our commitments, such as:

All SCDC street lighting is to be replaced by low energy LED lights. This is nearing completion and should give a reduction of 60% of energy usage and a commensurate saving in parish councils' street-lighting energy bills.

We have completed an audit of the energy efficiency of existing council housing stock and will soon begin a campaign of improvement, beginning with enhanced insulation for the poorest performing properties. This will have the dual benefit of reducing carbon emissions and helping council tenants with their fuel bills. Where possible, Council House refurbishment will include air or ground-source heat pump systems, accompanied by better glazing.

The 'greening' of South Cambs Hall is the main project that has been delayed by Covid, but it should be completed in the coming year. This will retrofit renewable energy generation and energy-saving measures with the objective of reducing by up to 50% the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> used to heat and light the council's home (with commensurate cost-savings too).



We have purchased an electric bin lorry – one of the first local authorities to do so – and with an option to purchase others. The performance of the vehicle is still being evaluated but, so far, it has exceeded expectations. These vehicles have a much higher upfront cost but running costs are considerably lower and should be cost neutral over the vehicles' lifespan. We shall be considering other greener vehicle options including hydrogen fuel-cell, and there are plans to install a solar generation park (planned 2021-22) as a renewable source of electricity to charge the vehicles, which will add to the financial case as well as the considerable environmental one.

Our Zero-Carbon Communities Grant scheme has been very successful. In the last year, almost £100,000 of grant funding has been made available to 17 parish council and community group projects to help them with carbon reduction and energy efficiency measures. The scheme for 2021-22 opens on 10 May 2021 and funding will be available for community buildings, tree Planting and other initiatives to reduce carbon emissions. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/nature-and-climate-change/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/>

We are very much looking forward to resuming our usual monthly surgeries once the Covid restrictions are lifted but we are always available on the phone or by email and we try to respond quickly.

Eileen and Neil

Eileen Wilson and Neil Gough, April 2021 [eileenwilsoncrw@gmail.com](mailto:eileenwilsoncrw@gmail.com) and [neilgoughcrw@gmail.com](mailto:neilgoughcrw@gmail.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CottenhamRampton>

## **Fen Edge Community Association Report**

For FECA, 2020 was a year that presented many challenges but equally some highlights. Many of our member organisations' activities were suspended during the lockdown and we are very conscious of the potential need to support these groups as they seek to re-establish their normal activities.

In terms of the Covid-19 support, I will forever remember the time that our Treasurer (Bob Turner) identified that he could re-purpose the Fun Run online entry platform to a kitty system to support shopping for shielding residents. The system has processed £10,000 worth of shopping. Something of which FECA is very proud.

We are also proud of the grants that continued through the year including the largest grant that FECA has even given to the Village College towards a new audio-visual system. In total, during 2020/21, grants of just over £8,000 were made.

We suspended membership fees in 2020/21 for our member groups. A very small gesture in recognition of the financial pressures. But our membership is now at 71. That is double the number of members from 3 years ago and reflects the increasing value and profile of FECA in the community. The editorship of the Fen Edge News undertaken for each issue by Adrian Stephens is a more difficult task for each issue when the submitted copy exceeds the space in the magazine. During lockdown, we were unsure as to whether we could continue the Fen Edge News, as members had less to report. However, we went ahead and our members helped out by providing background and insightful articles in place of the more usual meeting schedules. We were glad for this support as the publication of this magazine is one of the funding sources which is ploughed back into the community as member grants.

We also had to cancel the Fen Edge Festival that would have taken place this June. It was just too difficult to make the commitments and plan the event against the backdrop of such uncertainty. There is every hope that the deferral will just be a year and the event will take place in June 2022 with planning starting later this year.

Overall, not a year we will remember with any fondness but FECA remains a very active and entity that is proud of its success in supporting local organisations, groups and charities.

## **Cottenham Bowls Club Report**

### **Looking back on 2020**

#### **Outdoor Bowls (mid-April to mid-September)**

It would be an understatement to say that 2020 was a unique year in the club's 81-year history.

All our 100+ league and cup games were cancelled, so to give our members some Covid compliant bowling we organised an internal Covid Cup singles and pairs competition.

The cancelling of the league games ended up as a bit of a blessing in disguise as vehicular access to the bowls club was at best restricted and at times closed which would have presented us with significant problems with our home games. (Every cloud has a silver lining!)

#### **Indoor Bowls (Short Mat) (mid-October – mid-April)**

In order to play indoors we had to comply with the stringent requirements of the English Short Mat Bowling Association and thankfully the procedures that we put in place meant that we were added to the Covid 'Safe Club' approval list. Sadly, we could only bowl for a few weeks due to the Government Covid restrictions.

### **Looking forward to 2021**

#### **Outdoor Bowls (Covid compliant in accordance with our National Governing Body, Bowls England)**

Provided the Government roadmap stays on track we are looking forward to a full league season of outdoor bowls from mid-April to mid-September.

This means that our six different league teams will be playing 50+ Home and 50+ Away fixtures with additional Cup and Friendly Games. Games are played during the afternoon and the evening.

Teams will come from villages across the Cambridge and Ely areas.

During the season there will be 1200+ players using the bowls green. (Unfortunately, due to Covid car sharing restrictions, there will be more cars parking, so its lucky that we have the new spacious car park).

### **What the Bowls Club has to offer**

We are a friendly club with around fifty bowling members and thirty-five social members. There are plenty of opportunities to bowl competitively at different levels in the afternoon and evening. Social members can participate in the internal club competitions and cup games, or just have a roll-up with other members.

Social activities usually include a fish & chip supper combined with a race night, a quiz night, and weekend BBQs, but due to Covid safety these are unlikely to take place this year.

Full membership is £40 per year and no joining fee. (There is an additional £20/£10 fee for short mat bowls)

Social membership is £10 or £5 depending on whether you want to bowl in the club competitions and cup games or just enjoy the social side of the club.

We welcome new members and can provide bowls to give you a chance to try and see if you like it. (Contact our Secretary Dave Parrack at [cottenhambowls@btinternet.com](mailto:cottenhambowls@btinternet.com) if you are interested).

We are holding two Open Days to give people a chance to try bowls out. There is no need to book, just come up to the green and someone will look after you:

Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm – 4.00pm

If you need more information please feel free to contact myself or our Secretary Dave Parrack.

Glen Clarke

Chairman – Cottenham Bowls Club

[glen.clarke@uwclub.net](mailto:glen.clarke@uwclub.net)

## **Cottenham Cricket Club Report**

It seems such an age ago now when we were really hoping that, after England's brilliant 2019 World Cup victory, followed by an exciting Ashes series, 2020 was going to be a year when our youngsters and, indeed, our not-so-young cricketers would have been really enthused about getting back into their cricket. Sadly, of course, it wasn't to be. Covid 19 came along and everything was cancelled. We did actually manage to get one game in right at the end of the season – which we lost narrowly with no preparation at all – and that was that! Also it wasn't quite cricket as we know it – ball cleaning every 20 minutes, regular hand sanitizing, social distancing, batsmen running in defined areas, no teas provided etc, etc – but at least it was something.

And now, after an awful year and a long, cold winter, we are looking forward to a full season of cricket although there will, of course, be some Covid restrictions as before, at least to start with. We are planning to run our two adult men's sides, as usual, and also a junior team at u-15 level, playing in the school summer term. Our pre-season has been pretty much lost again because of lockdown restrictions but, if the road map out of the pandemic remains intact, the season itself will hopefully proceed as normally as possible. And while we are talking about our young players, I just want to say we are very keen to offer more coaching to youngsters from the age of 5 up to 15, going forward. However, we do really need some help and support in doing this. So, if anyone has a cricket-mad child or grandchild who would love to improve their skills and have some fun – or even if you haven't and would simply like to get involved – please get in touch with any one of us at the Club so that we can work together to get our local youngsters playing and enjoying this wonderful game. They are the future.

As well as this, of course, we're always keen to reach out to all local cricketers not currently playing for Cottenham to join us in our efforts to keep our Club, one of the oldest in the County, progressing and providing the opportunity for all ages to take part in our great game. We've been competing and representing the village since 1852 and that tradition gives us a huge incentive and responsibility to keep the Club progressing. We feel this is so vitally important, especially after the

extremely difficult times, and the lack of opportunity to play, that we have had to endure since March last year. So please do get in touch – you'll be most warmly welcomed.

Just check our website – Google Cottenham Cricket Club and you'll see our Play Cricket site - and the Club contacts are all there. And they can also be found in the Cottenham Newsletter and Fen Edge News booklet where you'll see our regular articles.

So all I can say in conclusion is let's hope for lots of fine weather coming up and a full summer of cricket to enjoy!

David Partridge  
President, Vice Chairman and Joint Junior Teams Coordinator  
Cottenham Cricket Club

## **Cottenham United Colts Report**

Cottenham United Colts was formed in 1978 to provide footballing opportunities For All in the village. As the village has grown, so the club has! We have been promoted from an FA Charter Standard Club to a FA Charter Standard Development Club and are working to gain the highest grassroots accolade of a Community Club. Along the way we have won a number of awards from The FA gaining our FA Development Club status and being awarded FA Eastern Region Project of the Year for our work to increase female participation. Despite the last 2 seasons being affected by the pandemic we have won another award from The FA, gaining Club of the Year for Cambridgeshire and Living Sport Community Club of the Year. We have grown our girls side through our FA Wildcats Centre and FA Living Sport sessions at CVC. We now have 18 teams in total, with the last 2 seasons seeing the first U17 and U18 age groups who are now transitioning into the seniors. So, we now have a pathway from U6 directly into mens football. One reason why we have been recognised by Cambridgeshire FA and been made a Hub club. This being a handful of well-run clubs within the county to which others aspire to in their football offerings. And ALL of this done by volunteers. We are not a business! From coaches through the committee and all supporters, no one is paid a single penny or takes expenses. For most of us, it costs money! The club supports us with training courses and all the first aid and safeguarding requirements but our biggest outlay is pitch hire. With the virus impacting our annual tournament which was our main fund raiser to cover these costs, we have turned to Grants to help sustain us. We remember football is FOR ALL, no matter your background and is still the country's number ONE physical activity. Here, we must thank Cambridgeshire FA, The Football Foundation and Fen Edge Community Association for their wonderful support. How we continue to sustain that with a second annual tournament cancelled is a huge challenge. To a degree, we are victims of our own success!

As the village expands, being a majority sport, we expand with it! We now find ourselves struggling to find playing pitches and training facilities and slots to satisfy the requirement of all teams. Even more so, as we look to restart the season now and run through until June. And it will only get worse! We look forward to working in partnership with our facilities providers to overcome these issues in a way that does not take away the basics of what our role in the community is. To provide footballing opportunities FOR ALL!!!

Thanks  
David Burkett  
Lead Coach

## Cottenham United F. C. Senior Football Report

We are continuing to run our two adult men's teams, a 1<sup>st</sup> team in the Kershaw Senior A League and a Reserve side in the Kershaw Div 3B League but with the expected growth of the village we are considering restarting a 3<sup>rd</sup> team with the seniors.

A delayed 2020/21 season started way back in September'20 and we were just getting into a good run when we had a month's enforced break for the lockdown in November. The 1<sup>st</sup> team then got off to a decent restart in December with a draw away at the League leaders but, of course, the season soon came to yet another abrupt halt with the January lockdown.

The Government has now given the go-ahead for grass-roots football to re-start again from March 29<sup>th</sup> but the Cambs FA and the local league Clubs decided to void the 2020/21 season due to such a backlog of remaining games still to play.

Instead, a Senior League and Junior League Cup competitions have been organised to run from April to early June which both of our teams will compete in.

The 2020-21 limited season we have had would not have been possible without the commitment of the coaches and players of Cottenham Utd FC and the help, advice and encouragement we've received from the Cambs FA to restart grass roots football when it was safe to do so after meeting the government COVID guidance and satisfying the requirements of Cottenham PC. This huge effort by all gave a massive boost to the physical and mental well-being of everyone connected with the Red and Blacks village team by simply being able to play some football in these extremely abnormal times, so a big thank you to all who helped make this happen from the players and coaches of Cottenham Utd FC. And, of course by the time you read this report we will have restarted grass roots football in the Cambs FA cup competition and will already be planning for the start of a new season in August'21.

Training sessions for both squads started again from March 29<sup>th</sup> but it has been quite difficult fitting all our sessions in because of the myriad of sports and other activities competing for the small spaces available to train on along with access to pitches, a difficult task for the PC it has to be said to try and satisfy all the different clubs.

All are most welcome to join us at training where you can be assured of a very friendly reception, so please do come along if you're interested in playing football for your village as we'd love to see you.

We can be contacted by email at [cottenhamunitedfc@hotmail.com](mailto:cottenhamunitedfc@hotmail.com) . And please do also check out our website, <https://www.cottenhamunitedfc.co.uk> , for our Twitter, Instagram and Facebook links.

After the Cup competition ends there will be another short break before preparation gets underway for the 2021/22 new season. We sincerely hope this will be able to start as planned and that, Covid and its variants permitting, we can look forward to a 'normal' season of competitive football, which is what we are all actively striving to achieve and if interested then you too could be part of that venture.

Thank you.

Ian Stuchbury  
Chairman, Cottenham United FC.

## Cottenham Tennis Club

### Who are we?

- We are a growing, friendly club run by volunteers
- Around 60 members
- Age 3 – 80 years
- All abilities from beginners to competitive players
- Open to all local residents and anyone from surrounding villages
- New members very welcome
- We have links to local schools and other community groups
- We are very relaxed, inclusive club
- No need to have fancy kit or clothing
- A group of people who love playing tennis
- A club devoted to increasing participation in tennis
- A club who believes you are never too young or too old to play tennis

### What do we do?

- Offer good value membership
- Provide opportunities to play tennis locally in a variety of ways:
  - Socially
  - Club night
  - Coaching
  - Competitive doubles matches in local leagues
- Provide professional term-time coaching for groups and individuals
- Provide holiday camps for children
- Arrange tennis breakfast club at Cottenham Primary School and support tennis in the curriculum
- Encourage non-members to play by:
  - Offering short courses, holiday camps, tennis for free, cardio tennis where membership is not required
  - Opening up a booking system for the Parish Council to increase use of the community grass courts
  - Encouraging people to book and play at the Sports Centre by increasing their profile through the club
- Enable teenagers to work with coaches for work experience, leadership skills and pocket money!
- Provide volunteering opportunities for Duke of Edinburgh participants
- Encourage members to take their LTA coaching qualifications
- Work with local partners to arrange discounts on membership and coaching, making the sport more accessible

### How to get involved

- Book a court and just play
- There is no need to be a member to play tennis at Cottenham Sports Centre or the Grass Courts
- Become a member if you decide you want to play or learn more.
- Come for a free trial at Club Night (adults 16+ when Covid restrictions allow) at Cottenham Sports Centre
- Sign up for a short course, holiday camp or school club

- Contact our coach, Toby Jackson at Game Set Tennis, 2018 Cambs Coach of the year
- Look at our website [www.cottenhamtennis.co.uk](http://www.cottenhamtennis.co.uk) for benefits of membership, coaching etc
- Check out our latest offers: Half-price junior membership and funded Tennis Xpress courses for adults

## **CONTACTS:**

### **Cottenham Tennis Club:**

Club Secretary – Louise Cooke – [info@cottenhamtennis.co.uk](mailto:info@cottenhamtennis.co.uk)

Membership Secretary – Beth Robinson – [membership@cottenhamtennis.co.uk](mailto:membership@cottenhamtennis.co.uk)

Club Website – [www.cottenhamtennis.co.uk](http://www.cottenhamtennis.co.uk)

**Game Set Tennis:** – [toby@gamesettennis.co.uk](mailto:toby@gamesettennis.co.uk) and [www.gamesettennis.co.uk](http://www.gamesettennis.co.uk)

**Cottenham Sports Centre:** – [www.cottenhamsportscentre.co.uk](http://www.cottenhamsportscentre.co.uk)

## **Cottenham Covid 19 Team**

Report to follow