

# **COTTENHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022**

**ANNUAL REPORTS**

## **Chairman's Report 2022**

Good evening everyone! It is a pleasure to see you all here after two years of upheaval. Since our last face to face Annual Meeting held in 2019, we have been extremely busy and I am indebted to all our Councillors and Parish Council staff (both past and present) who have put in the time and effort to achieve what we have. This report covers all areas of the parish council including the work of committees and working groups.

This year Councillors will have completed their 4-year term in public office. All but one has decided to stand again and we thank Councillor Ian Young for his 8 years of service. With only 13 people standing this means that the election is uncontested. We very much look forward to welcoming Anne Moller, Rachel Myer and Alison Wedgbury onboard in May. This still leaves us short of 2 councillors; we would love to see some more new faces as we seek to represent better the diversity within our community. If you are interested and wish to know more about becoming a Parish Councillor, please have a chat with our Clerk, Jo, later or contact her via the usual methods.

Over the past year the Parish Council has also said goodbye to long-term stalwart Councillor Tim Wotherspoon. We thank him for all his hard work and dedication during his very many years with the Council. In addition we said farewell to Councillors Michelle Stewart and Zack Faulker, both were involved with much of our youth work, and Councillor Frank Morris who was instrumental in getting our Neighbourhood Plan to referendum.

We are extremely grateful for Councillor Derek Henderson who has stood down as a Councillor to become our volunteer Village Hall Caretaker (we aren't able to pay Councillors until 12 months after their resignation). We have lost a good Councillor and gained an overqualified caretaker!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for what has been another difficult year. Everyone has seen a shift in their roles, particularly in helping get the Village Hall up and running, and we thank them for their assistance and perseverance.

### **So what have we done over the last year?**

Our Highways Committee has met with Cambridgeshire County councillors and officers to discuss the Council's new policies regarding 20mph zones (due summer 2022), together with highway and footway maintenance. Liaison meetings take place with our County Councillor and Local Highways Officer quarterly, to raise maintenance issues, discuss options for longer term projects, and learn more about Highways processes and policies. A site visit was made to review plans for upgrading the roundabout at Oakington Road/ Rampton Road and to identify opportunities to provide safe crossings on Rampton Road for pedestrians travelling between the new housing developments and the primary school.

Working with District and County councillors, it has continued to lobby for implementation of a segregated cycleway between Cottenham and Oakington and raised proposals for a cycle path between Cottenham and Waterbeach/ Landbeach. Other groups the committee have worked with include Speedwatch and Cottenham Primary School.

2020 and 2021 saw two years of severe disruption to all our lives with the Covid pandemic affecting all areas of our society. We are extremely proud of the way our community has worked together to support their fellow residents at a time when many have been unable to spend time with family and friends. To all volunteers who have helped in any way, a massive Thank You.

Our Community and Leisure Facilities Committee has worked on a variety of projects. One long term project is the New Life on the Old West scheme for biodiversity improvements at sites across the area. The project is being headed up by Cambridgeshire ACRE and involves schemes at Broad Lane, Fen Reeves and WARG Field. We are very grateful to the volunteers who have got stuck into coppicing, planting bulbs and apple trees and digging ponds. Thank you to our village Scouts for building bird boxes for Fen Reeves and WARG Field.

A persistent problem we face is ASB at the Recreation Ground and particularly in the vicinity of the Pavilion. It has been disappointing to note the amount of damage done to the sports equipment stored in this area. We are working with the various clubs on solutions to this issue.

One major project spanning into 2022 is the redevelopment of the toddler playground. Following on from work undertaken by former Councillor Stewart, Councillor Mary Kidston has taken up the reins and is forging forward with a group of volunteer residents. It is envisaged that the playground will be installed this autumn.

Looking further ahead at the Recreation Ground, we are in discussions with the County Council regarding their land-locked field and its possible usage. Additionally, following discussions with Tilia Homes, it is anticipated that in autumn 2025 we will be given some land adjoining Rampton Road which could potentially house a MUGA/hard tennis courts and provide further open space.

Over the past 12 months our Planning Committee have provided feedback on numerous applications, applying local knowledge and ensuring that our Neighbourhood Plan is adhered to, as well as attending SCDC Planning Committee meetings. One large success is the commitment by Tilia Homes to install a pedestrian footpath between their development and the recreation ground (this is outside of their planning application). It is hoped that this will shorten journeys particularly to the Primary School and nurseries from the development as well as take pedestrians off main roads. We remain concerned about the number of mature trees being lost in the village and strongly encourage residents rethink felling and to replant where possible. To relieve time constraints for both Councillors and staff the meetings are now held monthly.

**Other notable achievements include:**

- Opening of the new Village Hall and Chestnut Nursery with much work undertaken by the Village Hall working party and particularly our very own Peggy Mitchell, Councillor Christine Ward;

- Another clean bill of health in our internal and external audits;
- Organising the annual Remembrance Parade;
- Hosting a bigger than ever Carols on the Green event.

**Moving forward Cottenham Parish Council will be working towards:**

- Redevelopment of the toddler playground with assistance from resident volunteers;
- Progressing traffic calming and road improvements on Oakington and Rampton Roads as part of the developments;
- Installation of cycle racks at the sports pavilion and across other areas of the village;
- Working with the Cricket Club on the installation of cricket nets;
- Our Local Highways Improvement scheme on Oakington Road, joint funded by the Parish Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. This will include a give way feature and additional road markings aimed at slowing traffic.
- Liaising with CPS to support a scheme encouraging more parents and children to walk, scoot or cycle to school, to reduce congestion on Lambs Lane.
- Developing revised alternatives for 20mph zones once the County Council policies have been published.
- Assisting the Dissenters Cemetery trustees on expansion of the burial ground.
- Hosting Jubilee celebrations at the Recreation Ground; and
- Continuing to serve our community to improve the quality of life for residents of the village.

Finally, money!

Clearly, over the past 12 months the major topic has been completing and furnishing the new village hall (NVH). More recently the Parish Council has started to obtain a stream of income from renting out facilities in the NVH for a variety of events. Quite recently the hall hosted its first couple of wedding receptions and last week saw our very successful comedy night. Great credit is due in this second phase of the development to the Village Hall working party.

Our Finance Committee not only monitors the financial progress of the NVH but also makes 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 (which provides cheap finance for local Government projects on a fixed interest basis).

Our budget and precept were agreed at the meeting in January. All the information can be found on the parish council website. The precept request of £319,855 was sent to South Cambridgeshire District Council in January. Based on our workings, we believe this is an increase of 3.15% on a Band D property. We have attempted to keep the precept as low as practically possible by reducing the number major projects we are looking to undertake during the 2022/23 financial year. The draft version of our year end accounts is available in the next section of these reports.

Peter Hewitt, CPC Chair

**DRAFT SUMMARY OF YEAR-END ACCOUNTS**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>PRECEPT</b>		
MAIN	157,436	168,028
SUPPLEMENTARY	141,838	123,448
<b>PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>		
LOAN INWARDS	50,000	-
s106 COMM FAC VIA SCDC	-	200,195
s106 EY VIA CCC	183,023	309,674
<b>REC GROUND RENTALS</b>		
LADYBIRDS	6,620	6,629
KIDS CLUB	10,603	7,628
SPORTS	4,975	2,923
OTHER	28,697	1,009
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
s106 OPEN SPACE	-	93,053
s106 BUS SHELTERS	-	8,385
s106 OFFSITE SPORTS	-	25,378
S106 MONIES - MUGA	77,549	-
S106: BURIAL SPACE SCDC	27,320	-
S106: SPORTS FROM SCDC	64,510	-
COVID GRANT	1,493	10,000
OTHER INCOME	12,653	11,862
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>766,717</b>	<b>968,212</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
PERSONNEL & EXPENSES	74,549	65,293
OFFICE & ADMIN	7,893	19,109
LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL	8,798	8,413
EXTERNAL SERVICES	47,750	40,209
OTHER FACILITIES	52,549	29,776
DONATIONS	14,487	6,302
LOCAL PROJECTS	45,543	3,432,480
FINANCIAL COSTS	142,211	100,723
OTHER	-	1,255
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>393,780</b>	<b>3,703,560</b>
-		
<b>NET INCOME/EXPENSES</b>	<b>372,937</b>	<b>(2,735,348)</b>

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		
CASH	601,815	386,465
VAT DEBTOR ETC	4,724	32,633
CREDITORS	10,990	196,725
ACCRUALS & TAX	3,573	3,333
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>591,977</b>	<b>219,040</b>
<b>RESERVES</b>		
HALL/NURSERY RESERVE	187,740	-
GENERAL RESERVE	100,000	86,726
BAR RESERVE	937	-
CUSSC TV DONATION	700	-
GRANT FOR COVID SCREENS	1,493	-
S106 RESERVES (SEE NOTE)	298,231	130,352
ENVIRONMENT RESERVE	24	411
ZERO CARBON RESERVE	1,550	1,550
OTHER RESERVE	1,302	-
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<b>591,977</b>	<b>219,040</b>

## Village Hall Working Group – Annual Report 21/22

Consisting of Cllrs Bailey, Hutchison, Jones, Ward and Young plus Parish Clerk Jo Brook and Assistant Clerk Beth Fleetwood, this group is responsible for taking the completed village hall building through to full and preferably profitable operation. There have been some challenges!

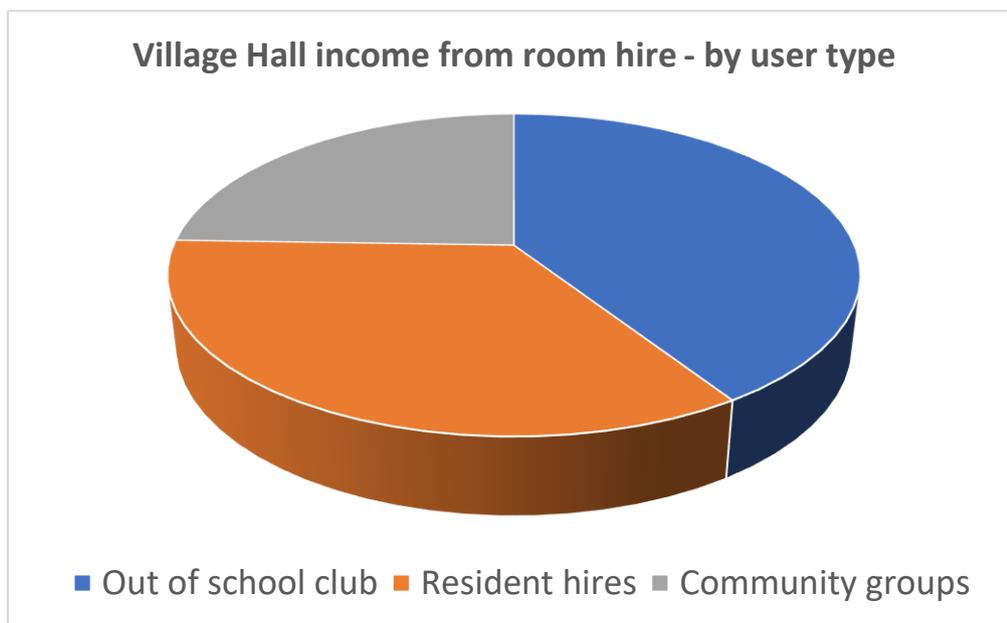
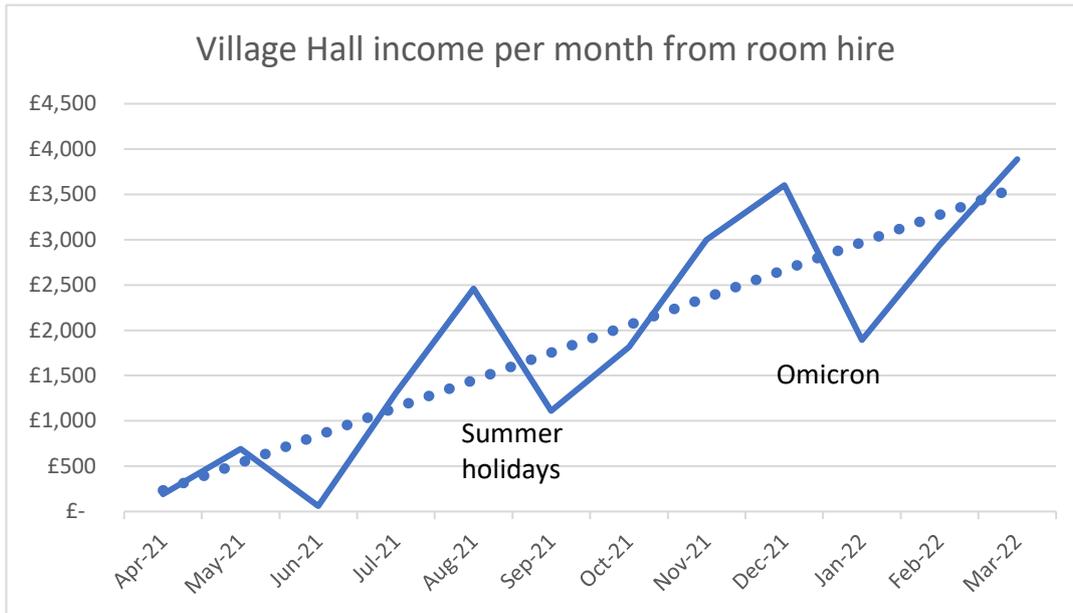
Firstly, some achievements, in no particular order:

- bars are now equipped and functioning on both floors, providing bars for events (private parties & weddings, Jubilee events) and regular Saturday afternoon community bar sessions beginning 7th May. The patio area is a sunny spot (weather permitting!) for rec visitors to enjoy a cold or hot drink. We are grateful to the Cottenham United Sports & Social Club for a donation of £700 towards equipping the bar.
- the village hall and recreation ground will be the hub of activities for the Jubilee in June: beacon lighting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Family Disco and cricket match on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and for the Big Thank You picnic lunch on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>. The community bar will be open for all these sessions.
- we have set up a village hall Facebook page to publicise village hall events and opportunities <https://www.facebook.com/CottenhamVH> (555 followers)
- a Bar and Events Working Group has been formed from residents and parish councillors to organise the bars and events going forward. The founder members are Cllrs Bailey, Jones & Ward (Designated Premises Supervisor) plus Chris Richards, Barbara and Paul Phillips, Jo and Jez Brook and Julie Welford-Biggs.
- the village hall was made available as a vaccine booster clinic, enabling hundreds of residents obtain their COVID boosters.
- despite the challenges of COVID and the failure to appoint a bar operator, village hall hire income was just short of £23,000 in the 21/22 financial year.

### **Breakdown of income by user type and over time**

Income from hall hire is growing steadily, albeit with dips during school holidays and, of course, when Omicron forced events to be cancelled during winter 21/22.

Not including the out of school club sessions which run Monday-Friday throughout the year, over 250 events have taken place at the Village Hall. After a slow start due to Covid, things really started to take off from September 2021 onwards. Our regular hirers and events include Cambridge Kids Club, Lovefit fitness classes, Cambridge Guitar Ensemble, Sing and Sign baby signing classes, Guides, WI, Fen Edge Orchestra, Singing for Fun, the Village Society, NCT meetings, and First Aid courses run by Living sport. Other organisations which have used the hall include Sustainable Cottenham, New Life Old West, Mick George, Society for Local Council Clerks, and National Day Nurseries Association. As well as our regular Parish Council meetings, we have hosted everything from Children's parties, 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, Fire Marshall training, wakes, christenings, weddings, charity events, training, meetings, information drop ins and much more. Although we are starting to receive bookings from residents from the surrounding villages and Cambridge, the majority of our bookings have been for Cottenham residents.



**Income from bar and events – VOLUNTEERS ARE VITAL**

Looking ahead to the 22/23 financial year there will be another income stream for the village hall: profit from running the bar(s) and events. The viability of these activities hinges on the ability to staff the bars with volunteers willing to give up a few hours a month and serve their community in more than one sense of the word! We are fortunate to have a pool of 20 or so individuals willing to do this but with the number of bar sessions likely to increase over the summer months, we are keen to recruit more. Please contact [cllr.ward@cottenhampc.org.uk](mailto:cllr.ward@cottenhampc.org.uk) if you would like to find out more – or come along to one of our Saturday afternoon sessions (2 – 6pm) and meet the team!

**Challenges**

Although we can look back on the year since the village hall opened and be grateful for what has been achieved, there are many challenges ahead: controlling running costs (especially in

the light of soaring utility costs), improving occupancy rates, coping with the possibility of COVID returning or another pandemic to name but a few.

**More information?**

For details of room specification, hire charges and availability see:

[www.cottenhampc.org.uk/village-hall-hire](http://www.cottenhampc.org.uk/village-hall-hire)

A summary of hire charges are listed below.

The latest version of the business plan is available on request.

Prices are inclusive of VAT and per hour except use of bar which is a flat rate per hire.

Per hour incl. VAT	Mon – Thu 8am – 10.30pm, Fri 8am – 6pm			Fri 6pm – midnight, Sat/Sun 8am – midnight		
	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3
Room	£20.00	£24.00	£36.00	£20.00	£24.00	£36.00
Hall	£16.00	£19.50	£30.00	£16.00	£19.50	£30.00
Lounge	£33.60	£40.80	£62.40	£33.60	£40.80	£62.40
Hall & Lounge	£36.00	£46.50	£78.00	£42.00	£54.00	£90.00
Balcony Room	£18.00	£25.50	£48.00	£30.00	£37.50	£60.00
Use of Bar (per hire)						

**Band 1:**

- Bookings by individuals living in Cottenham (Civil Parish) who wish to hire the venue for private events/parties and charities.

**Band 2:**

- Bookings by individuals living outside Cottenham (Civil Parish) who wish to hire the venue for private events/parties; *or*
- Bookings by community groups, local non-profit organisations or non VAT-registered profit-making activities of direct and obvious benefit to local residents.

**Band 3:**

- Bookings by public bodies and VAT-registered businesses.

Christine Ward

Cottenham Parish Councillor

# District Council Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2022

## District and Parish Council Elections 2022

This is the year when both District and Parish council elections will be held on 5th May 2022. Nominations closed on 5th April 2022. We can confirm that we will not be standing again as the Liberal Democrat candidates for Cottenham and Rampton but we would like to say that we have enjoyed working with the Parish Councils of both Cottenham and Rampton as well as the many people we have come into contact with during the last 4 years. Neil Gough will continue as the County Councillor for Cottenham, Rampton and Willingham.

### **An example of local issues that we have been involved:**

**Tilia homes** – Working with the Parish Council and the Developers, we are in the process of securing a footpath to make it easier for the future residents of the Tilia Homes development to access the school, nursery, Village Hall and the businesses in Cottenham. This will avoid a long detour via Rampton Road and Lambs Lane. We were also able to make representations at the Planning Committee to secure a better layout for the development that didn't leave existing homes along Rampton Road overshadowed by new development behind them.

**Cottenham Liaison Group** – this group has brought together Councillors, Parish Councillors, Planners, Developers, representatives from Highways, Cambridge Water, Anglian Water to reduce the impact on residents of the various new developments, to coordinate roadworks, footpath works etc so that people can still go about their business without too many delays and to make sure that contractors are adhering to their planning conditions. This has led to similar groups being set up in other villages where development is taking place.

**Covid business support** – we have been pleased to work with local businesses to make sure that they are aware of business support that has been made available to help businesses with recovering from the impact on their business of covid and to signpost them to how to claim.

**Anglian Water sewage works** – we have worked with Anglian Water and local partners such as the Parish Council to try and offset some of the impact on residents of the road closures necessitated by major sewage works along the High St. Although it possible for the works to be carried out without some element of road closure, we were able to make sure that residents and businesses had time to think about and make alternative arrangements before the works went ahead.

### **Budget for 2022-23**

In February 2022, South Cambridgeshire District Council approved its budget for next year and set its Council Tax charge from April.

Continuing to have one of the lowest Council Tax charges in the country, councillors agreed to raise it by 10 pence a week or £5 a year for a Band D property to enable the Council to continue to transform council services and deliver £230,000 of savings every year.

Not to have raised Council Tax by even this small amount would have led to a deficit of £1.5 million over the coming five years and cuts.

The budget also supports the Council's zero carbon strategy with over £6 million to be spent on items such as a solar farm for our Waterbeach waste depot, more electric bin lorries, electric vehicle charging points and more money for the renewables fund which we use to fund green community initiatives across the District, such as the electric bicycle scheme in Teversham.

This coming year it will cost over £80 million to run South Cambridgeshire District and Council Tax will bring in £10.7 million. Business Rates bring us £11.6 million, which is why one of the first things the new Lib Dem administration did was to set up a business development team, which has proved invaluable in distributing Covid grants to stop businesses going to the wall during the Lockdowns. As to the Government we expect to get just £2million in grants from it.

As to the difference between the £80 million and the £25 million income from taxation and grants, investments play a big part delivering over £5 million in income. Our investments include Ermine Street our wholly owned housing company providing private rented accommodation, such as houses in multiple occupation for single people, the Cambridge Ice Rink and even Cambourne Youth Centre. We are also supporting business start-ups and the development of tech industries by investing in the Cambridge Science Park which is in South Cambridgeshire and receive income from rents.

We also receive income from our fees and charges and contributions from fellow councils for the cost of running the shared planning and waste services. But unlike many other Councils we do not have income from car parks or civic amenities such as a sports centre.

### **South Cambridgeshire District Council – Council Housing and Council Rents**

As to our council housing stock, this is now growing again and with 189 new council homes having been built over the past three years it now stands at over 5,500. However, we have to fund this mainly from council rents as unlike Cambridge City we get very little money from Government for house building and cannot use Council Tax and Business Tax income. Given the hundreds on our council waiting list we must continue to build more. This means we have no choice but to increase council rents. Rents will bring in nearly £32 million in the coming year and we will be spending £17 million on new build and £7 million on refurbishing existing stock to reduce tenants' heating bills.

We appreciate that in these difficult times those on lower incomes are struggling that's why we well have more officers advising those finding themselves in financial difficult and pay Citizens Advice £85,000 a year to help our residents. Apart from Housing Benefit we also have a Local Council Tax Support Scheme and discretionary support for Council Tax. As a result of this support, last year we were the best in the country for collecting Council Tax and in the top ten for the collection of Business Rates.

We are one of a few councils in the country to have set a balanced budget for the coming financial year with a small surplus going into reserves to off-set possible deficits in the future.

### **District Council Audited Accounts**

Following a complex transfer of the council's asset register that was undertaken, SCDC's auditors have now signed off the accounts for the year 18/19.

The Council and the auditors have also agreed a schedule for completion of the audit of the

19/20 accounts within 20 weeks.

Cllr John Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance, said, "The auditors and council staff have worked incredibly hard to get this set of accounts signed off. The transfer of the asset register threw up a number of historic issues to be resolved, but we now have a robust modern system in place that is fit for the future.

"It is also very welcome that a timeline for making swift progress on the audit of the following set of accounts has been agreed. At this rate, we will be back on track by this time next year.

"It is important that the audit process is undertaken with complete thoroughness even though that has resulted in a longer timescale than we had hoped for. As expected, following a complex transfer of the council's asset register that was undertaken, SCDC's auditors have now signed off the accounts for the year 18/19.

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### **Green To Our Core**

In 2018 when the LibDems took over administration of South Cambs DC, "Green to our core" was set as one of the major objectives. That objective led the council to create and adopt the Doubling Nature and Zero Carbon Strategies.

Some of the other activities on getting to net zero include (1) Greening South Cambridgeshire Hall an energy-efficient retrofit of the Council office building, (2) Acquiring a fully electric bin lorry in 2020, one of the first Councils in the UK and 2 more lorries arriving soon (3) Upgrading 1,800 street lights with low energy bulbs (4) Introducing Tree planting where the "Three Free Trees" scheme in 2020 saw 54 parishes in the district plant a total of 162 trees and the "Six Free Trees" scheme in 2021 saw a further 227 trees planted. (5) Creating Zero Carbon Communities Grant in 2019, and allocating £314,415 so far to 51 different community groups to support carbon reduction projects (6) Carbon Reduction Planning Strategies introduced in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, which is proposing to have all new homes be net zero, locate new homes close to transport corridors to reduce carbon footprint, and other such policies, (7) using £1.5 mil to make SCDC Council houses energy efficient.

### **iESE Silver Award**

SCDC has now been recognised for all this by receiving a Silver Award in Green Public Service category at the 2022 annual Improvement and Efficiency Social Enterprise (iESE) Public Sector Transformation Awards on 9th March 2022. This award recognises, rewards and promotes environmental best practice across the public sector in the UK. So the Council got this award because it shows how SCDC have helped the environment and improved sustainability not only in the Council, but in the wider community too. You can read more about this award win at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/council-s-being-green-to-our-core-strategy-receives-national->

[accolade/](#).

You can also read more details about all the green projects and work at <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/what-are-we-doing-to-tackle-climate-change-in-south-cambridgeshire>

### **Adoption of Biodiversity SPD**

The Council has created and formally adopted the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). It is an easy-to-read guidance to assist developers in meeting obligations to meeting the green to our core strategy in new developments. The SPD will help support the Council's Doubling Nature Strategy and ensure that every new development plays its part in increasing biodiversity in our area into the future. Ward parish councils can use the adopted SPD to develop their own nature recovery strategies.

### **5-Year Housing Land Supply 2022-2027**

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service published on 1st April the latest situation with the 5 Year Housing Land Supply. The published figure is 6.5 years for the period 2022 to 2027. This means that this important policy position is improving under this administration and is protecting our villages from unsustainable developments.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), first published in 2012, requires each Local Authority to routinely monitor and record its pipeline of housing land, to maintain at least a five-year supply of deliverable sites (5YHLS). When councils are unable to demonstrate such a pipeline, the NPPF's "presumption in favour of sustainable development" applies, which renders the housing policies in their local plan out of date, making them more vulnerable to speculative applications.

This is what happened from 2012 to 2018 when the previous administration did not have a 5YHLS, and the district ended up with speculative applications resulting in 4000 homes achieving permission. In Cottenham this resulted in the developments that we are seeing today, Bellway and Persimmon in Oakington Road, Redrow and Tilia in Rampton Road. Some 550 additional homes.

The new 5YHLS figure is good news coming immediately after the Annual Monitoring Report that stated that the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has delivered 1752 net additional homes, exceeding the target (1675) for 2020-21. Of the 1,335 in South Cambridgeshire, 311 of these homes were 'Affordable Homes'. The Planning Service is working really hard on behalf of the residents of South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City through the Shared Planning service.

### **Parish Councils Planning Meetings/Training**

In recognition of the importance of local community knowledge, over the year, SCDC has arranged planning training sessions for Parish Councils, and quarterly Area Team Meetings to update and discuss important issues with Parish Councils who are statutory consultees in the Planning process.

## **Emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan**

The Planning Policy team are continuing the task of evaluating all the feedback and comments received during the First Proposals consultation. The Greater Cambridge area is the area of South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City combined, and both Councils now work together on creating policies across the area.

The First Proposals is the proposed planning policy and strategy for the joint area. It is noteworthy that the emerging local plan identifies the need across the area up to 2041, what is in the pipeline in the current adopted local plans (created for up to 2031) to go towards meeting those needs, and how it will meet the rest of the need

The existing new settlements are Northstowe, Waterbeach, Cambourne West, Bourn Airfield, Eddington, Darwin Green, Marleigh, North of Cherry Hinton, Trumpington Meadows. These and other sites with permission already provide 76% of the identified need up to 2041.

The emerging plan is proposing new 11,596 homes, some on existing settlements of Northstowe and Waterbeach to be by delivery existing numbers faster. New proposed settlements at North East Cambridge and Cambridge East are earmarked for most of the new homes. Cambourne (somewhere not specific yet) is included because of the EWR proposal-it can only be finalised when EWR route is finalised. Only 384 are in villages that are larger like Melbourn and Duxford, or close to good transport links like Oakington and Great Shelford or like in Caldecote where the Linden Phase 2 site is included because it previously had planning permission. We are focussing on keeping South Cambs rural and protecting the character of villages.

We have also adopted 9 Village Design Guides and 5 Neighbourhood Plans and set up 19 Liaison forums and 9 Community forums to discuss new growth and community issues.

## **Covid Business Support Grants**

South Cambridgeshire District Council is now welcoming applications for its discretionary COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF). The Government funding is to provide additional business rates relief to support rate-paying businesses affected by the pandemic between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021. It is for businesses which weren't eligible for previous support linked to business rates, who can prove they have been adversely affected by the pandemic and have been unable to adequately adapt to that impact. Apply at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/additional-financial-support-for-south-cambridgeshire-businesses-impacted-by-covid-1/>

SCDC is one of the third of UK councils that is up to date in helping businesses as it has given out £43.9 of government Covid grants.

## **Business Support**

The business team has organized visits to 2000 businesses by SCDC High Street Teams, and these businesses are also receiving the "Open for Business Newsletter". The Business Team have helped set up local markets, assisted 4 startups to find premises to operate from, and created the "On Your Doorstep" #shoplocal campaign that helps local shops to recover from Covid19. The council has also given £1.4 mil to 102 businesses and start-ups to help them grow.

We have also set up a Visit South Cambs website at <https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk/>. Check it out to find out what you can do for leisure in the district and small businesses in the Ward that provide services to the leisure market to get themselves a spot on there!

### **South Cambs Grants – Zero Carbon open**

South Cambridgeshire's community groups can now bid for a share of more than £120,000 from the District Council's popular Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme. Zero Carbon grants from the business rates of solar farms etc. has so far provided £310,000 to 51 grass roots green projects that work to tackle climate change in South Cambridgeshire villages. This year, groups in our district can apply for between £1,000 and to £15,000 from the Council's available pot of £120,544.

Applications are invited under two categories. The first category is for projects aimed at energy saving improvements to community buildings, or tree-planting initiatives. The second category is for community engagement projects which support and encourage lower carbon living. Read about it and apply at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/bid-now-for-grants-to-tackle-climate-change/>. The deadline is Wednesday 1 June 2022.

### **Community Chest Grants**

SCDC is supporting communities to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee with one off grants of £700 which could be applied for until 12th April 2022. The SCDC Community Chest continues to be popular as it grants £58,000 a year to local projects. The Council has given further grants of £164,000 to voluntary groups and £78,000 to support work with young people.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

The Action for Happiness theme for this month is Active April. The calendar is at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendar>. This month's focus is "Let's find ways to get moving and stay active and healthy".

The Council is helping residents to deal with their wellbeing issues, especially over the last 2 years of Covid19. There is the opportunity for instructors to apply for up to £300 to lead fitness and wellbeing activities in their communities Providers running multiple groups can also apply to fund multiple programmes. Activities could range from walking, football, rugby, netball, to chair-based exercise classes, diabetes walking groups, yoga for the over 60s, baby yoga classes or more.

The grant, which is funded by Cambridgeshire County Council, is to help deliver physical activity programmes provided by the District Council in partnership with Living Sport. It is designed to cover costs such as venue hire for up to six weeks, with new participants being entitled to four free sessions. Once the free sessions are complete, participants would be expected to begin paying a small fee to continue participation, meaning that the initiative should become a sustainable source of income for the instructor

### **Better Connected Communities**

2The Council is urging residents and community groups to use a new personalised advice service which will identify free tools and funding to tackle local problems and create safer communities in South Cambridgeshire. Residents and community groups can complete a short

online form outlining the initiative they want to set up or the problem they want to solve, and Council staff will offer tailored solutions. Check out what's available at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-action>

### **Support for Homeless**

SCDC has given Emmaus Cambridge, based in Landbeach, a one-off grant of £30,000 which will allow it to employ an additional support worker to continue supporting single homeless people that the Council refer to the charity. Emmaus have worked with SCDC for several years.

The funding comes from the Council's Homeless Prevention Grant which district councils are allocated from the Government's Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The purpose of the Homelessness Prevention Grant is to give local authorities more assistance in managing homelessness pressures and supporting those who are at risk of homelessness and reduce rough sleeping. The Charity also has a shop giving work opportunities to those it is helping so they can rebuild their lives. <https://www.scams.gov.uk/housing-charity-receives-helping-hand-from-council/>

### **Support for Refugees**

South Cambs continues to support not just local people suffering homelessness, but also refugees who have come to the UK. It has helped 3 Syrian refugee families and 8 Afghan families to find and settle into homes in this area.

### **Ukraine**

The support guidance for Ukrainian refugees is on the webpage at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/support-for-ukraine/>

The Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, which asks people to offer space in their homes for those fleeing the war, has been launched (<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk>). This will allow individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians to safety – including those with no family ties to the country.

Phase One of the scheme will allow sponsors to invite an individual or family to stay with them in their home or in a separate property. There will be no impact on their benefits as a result of doing so – for example, they would not lose their single person council tax discount. The Government will also be providing a full support pack for families hosting arrivals and a welcome pack for all new arrivals. Anyone who is interested in participating is asked to offer accommodation for at least six months and will be eligible for a 'thank you' payment of £350 a month.

FAQs are available here on the Homes for Ukraine scheme - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>.

Eileen Wilson & Neil Gough

## County Council Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2022

It was a privilege to be elected in the County Council elections in May 2021 to represent our local communities for the next four years. The elections saw the Conservative Group lose its majority on Cambridgeshire County Council.

The County Council's move from Shire Hall in Cambridge to Alconbury finally took place in the autumn - but not for Full Council meetings, for which the 'Multi Function Room' at Alconbury is certainly too small for meetings with COVID social distancing, and possibly even permanently. The Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2021 was held amid the war planes of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

The new Joint Administration has been taking stock of the Council it has inherited. We invited in a 'peer challenge' panel of expert councillors and council officers from the Local Government Association to look at the operation of the Council and advise on priorities. They did so, and came back in spring this year to update on how we were doing. We also convened an Independent Remuneration Panel, as we are required to do, to review councillor allowances. Unlike the previous administration we agreed their recommendations unaltered.

The Council's Chief Executive retired during the year, and we appointed a new Chief Executive Stephen Moir who started in post in February 2022. Unlike his predecessor, Stephen will serve Cambridgeshire County Council only, not Peterborough too. This is part of a process of disentangling many of the joint staffing structures set up by the previous administration, so that we and they can focus on Cambridgeshire priorities.

A new Joint Administration of Liberal Democrat, Labour and Independent councillors is now running the Council, and the three groups signed an Agreement including a policy framework, protocols for working arrangements, and a new committee structure. I am a member of the Constitution & Ethics Committee and a working groups on Heavy Goods Vehicles. I am also a Board Member of This Land, the property development company that is owned by the County Council.

### **Strategy & Resources**

The new Council inherited a budget gap of £22.2M for this year. We managed to balance the budget this time, but very significant financial challenges lie ahead. The budget gap we inherited was set to rise to £86M by 2027, and our 'peer challenge' team identified this as an issue 'of significant magnitude'. The Council increased its portion of Council Tax in February, by 1.99 per cent for general services, and three per cent for adult social care. This was a difficult decision to take during the current cost of living crisis, but many people struggling most with increased bills and prices are those who are most likely to need council services, and likely to pay a lower council tax increase. The Council's budget for this year included a £14M 'Just Transition Fund' to tackle inequality, improve lives, and care for the environment.

The new Joint Administration commissioned an independent review of the Council's development company This Land. The review made a number of recommendations, most to be carried out within three months.

## **Adults & Health**

One of the major changes the new administration made to the Council's committee system was to combine the former Adults Committee and Health Committee into a single committee, making the most of the close relationship between health provision and adult social care. The Committee has been working hard towards the introduction of the Government's Integrated Care System across health and care providers in Cambridgeshire. We also welcomed a new Director of Public Health, Jyoti Atri, into post.

The COVID pandemic has had a devastating effect in terms of loss of life, long-term health challenges, and the emotional impact on families. Workforce challenges in health and care are acute, as people are reassessing their careers and life choices. International recruitment has been adversely affected first by Brexit and then Covid. The Council has worked extensively with partner agencies to support the COVID effort, though with all precautions now removed in England case numbers have surged in recent months.

The Joint Administration has adopted a 'health in all policies' approach. We are investing in the development of 'Care Together', with Community Catalysts supporting local social care micro-enterprises as an alternative to large agency staff models, and rolling out the Real Living Wage to social care workers. We have established increased support for unpaid carers, and expanded the Direct Payment option to more people. And we have invested further in the Enhanced Response Service as an alternative to reliance on an over-stretched A&E.

The Council has invested afresh in public health programmes, including more NHS health checks, and local grants for community wellbeing activities. It has also started to assess the impact of government reforms on our social care responsibilities, in which it's clear there will be very significant new responsibilities and costs without new funding.

## **Children & Young People**

A major focus of this committee during the year was to ensure funding of vouchers over school holidays for families eligible for free school meals. This happened throughout 2021/22 and is guaranteed throughout 2022/23. The Council has also worked with local providers on to establish the Holiday Activity & Food programme for the children of families on benefits-related free school meals. The numbers of children in Cambridgeshire eligible for free school meals has continued to increase significantly across the county - by one-third in East Cambridgeshire since March 2020.

The Council has carried out a high-profile drive to recruit more local foster carers and ensure more children and young people in care can remain within the county.

A full and comprehensive review of admission arrangements for all own admission authority schools has been agreed, to include the published definitions of existing school catchment areas, and admission policies for schools with a sixth form. The Council is also proposing to commission new and additional places to meet rising demand for specialist placements for children with special educational needs.

## **Environment**

The new Environment & Green Investment Committee, which I chair, has been exceptionally busy this year, with a large number of practical projects as well as new strategies. The

committee is responsible for climate change and renewable energy, strategic planning, flood and water, biodiversity, waste, antiquities, and surprisingly digital infrastructure and broadband.

The Council's high-profile scheme to get the community of Swaffham Prior off oil and onto a new renewable energy community heating system continues to progress well, with a £3.2M Government grant awarded. Other energy schemes include the installation of solar panels on Park & Ride sites, small-scale solar farms with private wire connections to commercial customers, and replacement of gas and oil boilers in schools and in the Council's own premises around the county. We have also run another round of Solar Together, the group buying scheme for homeowners wanting to invest in solar panels and battery storage.

The committee developed two important strategies this year - a revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, and an updated Climate Change & Environment Strategy. The Flood Risk strategy was accompanied by local initiatives to promote and fund community flood groups, visits by the Floodmobile to demonstrate options for fitting flood prevention measures in domestic properties, and clarification of the responsibilities of riparian owners for maintaining their watercourses. I was successful in getting projects on the resilience of the Cottenham Lode to climate change and a local flooding study in Cottenham added to the work plan contained in the Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The approved Climate Change & Environment Strategy sets a new and more ambitious target for a net-zero carbon Cambridgeshire by 2045, aiming to work with businesses and communities to bring this about.

### **Constitution & Ethics**

An issue dominating Cambridgeshire politics since the whistle was blown in 2018 is 'Farmgate'—the award to then County Council deputy leader Roger Hickford of the tenancy of a County Council-owned farm in Girton. The new Joint Administration took office committed to publishing the facts, and this has now happened. Mr Hickford was found by independent investigators to have broken the councillors' Code of Conduct in seven different ways, including bullying and improper use of position for personal advantage. Mr Hickford resigned from the Council before the election.

### **Highways & Transport**

The new Council is facing up to the many challenges left by its outgoing administration. Not least of these was the atrocious state of the county's 100,000 gullies, whose lack of maintenance contributed to the flooding of winter 2020/21. These are now being mapped and cleared, including one which was in such a bad state a metal detector was required to actually find it.

We have established a new funding pot for local communities to bid into for 20MPH zones, to make these more widespread and easier to obtain. I am part of a working group which will publish a proposed new policy on heavy goods vehicles in villages, which will align with the Combined Authority's forthcoming Local Transport & Connectivity Plan.

Various treatments of various roads and pavements are being planned for the next two years.

Traffic in Cambridge is set to grow by 30 per cent in the next ten years, and there is a serious lack of funding for public transport. Without this, many people who cannot drive, or cannot afford to buy, insure or fill up a car, are left with limited or no options for travel. The Greater Cambridge Partnership has been consulting for some time on ways to relieve traffic congestion in Cambridge and improve public transport into the city. These consultations are still ongoing. Initial plans will see the introduction of significantly improved bus services to Cottenham and fare reduction and simplification options to make travel by public transportation more attractive.

The County Council is initiating the process for the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement in the South Cambridge area. This will enable better enforcement of illegal and inconsiderate parking; something that has not been a police priority. The initial costs of the scheme will be funded by the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

We have also seen the opening of the Histon Road improvements for buses and active travel. Work on a similar scheme for Milton Road was given the go-ahead at the last GCP Board meeting.

### **Combined Authority**

A new Mayor was elected in May 2021. This resulted in the scrapping of the CAM Metro and the '£100K homes' project, the latter taken up by East Cambs District Council. A new Chief Executive was also appointed, and the Combined Authority has decided to make its permanent home in offices in Huntingdon.

Neil Gough

## **COTTENHAM CRICKET CLUB – Annual Report 2022**

Thankfully, we were actually able to enjoy a fairly normal season last summer and even the weather wasn't too bad most weekends! There were, inevitably, a few Covid 19 modifications such as no use of changing rooms and no teas but, playing-wise, things went off pretty much like a typical, pre-pandemic cricket season. Our aim at the start was to consolidate the 1st XI in Junior 1 and get the 2nd XI promoted out of Junior 5. We were absolutely delighted that we were successful in achieving both objectives, the 2nds actually finishing up as League champions. Moreover, our u-15s team ended up providing, at various times, five different players for our men's teams which was very encouraging indeed. They will be stronger and more experienced for it in 2022 so we're hoping they'll be able to make an even bigger impact next time around. Indeed, one of the highlights of our summer was the u-15s earning a tremendous victory away at local rivals Histon where they chased down 130 runs to win.

Our junior cricketers are massively important to the Club and we are planning to run All Stars (5-8 years) and Dynamos (8-11 years) programmes this summer plus an u-11s team, all details on our website. Anyone interested and willing to get involved with us in helping to promote any of these junior programmes should please get in touch. We do need your support.

We enjoyed a normal (i.e. people actually getting together!) end-of-season dinner and presentations in November which was really great. And as I write, we will have just collected our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI League winners shield at the Cambs Cricket Association AGM and it's been a while since we were able to enjoy receiving one of those!

Pre-season practice for both the seniors and u-11s will have been underway for several weeks by the time of this APM with the start of the new season imminent. As ever, 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 wonderful game. 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.

Here's to a great summer of cricket for all ages!

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

## Cottenham United Colts FC – Annual Report 2022

The sun is starting to shine, and we are very thankful to be coming out of the other side of the COVID crisis. It has been a tricky 2 years and we want to say thank you to all of our players, parents and volunteers who with their support have made sure not only that we have survived the pandemic .. but grown!

We now have 16 boy's teams with age groups from U6's through to U18's and 6 girls teams. We also are hosts to a thriving Wildcats Centre and the Monday Night Soccer School. This year we have been honoured to receive the top full 3 stars English Football Accreditation. We as a club are extremely proud of all of the opportunities that we provide for boys and girls to play football in our community in a safe, fun environment.

Over the summer we worked with the PC to install a goal with net and 'top bins' for the local community to use. These have proven to be very successful and well used and it is a real pleasure to see these being used.

In November, we participated in the Remembrance Parade and many of our teams' sported poppies on their kits and participated in the 2 minute silence.

We recently donated a De-fib to the Fire Station; this is now available for the community to use. Thank you to the Premier League for this incredible incentive. We have also worked alongside Cottenham FC and the Parish Council to move the De-fib from its current indoors location and purchase a security lock box so that access can be 24/7.

Our U18 girls have been OG's of girl's football in the village and they continue to do us proud. They have worked hard and made it to a cup final on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 at Histon Football Club, please come down and cheer them on.

We have our annual tournament coming up on 29.05.2022, please come down and support us. We have all age groups participating and our players really appreciate the support. We will have food trucks and the bar in the village hall will be open.

To keep up to date on our club and our teams, please keep an eye on our social media pages.



[www.cottenhamunitedcolts.com](http://www.cottenhamunitedcolts.com)



[cottenhamunitedcolts](https://www.instagram.com/cottenhamunitedcolts)



[Cottenham United Colts](https://www.facebook.com/CottenhamUnitedColts)



[@ColtsCottenham](https://twitter.com/ColtsCottenham)

## **COTTENHAM UNITED F. C. – Annual Report 2022**

The team has continued to consolidate in its new Division, Kershaw League 1A, and is currently sitting comfortably in mid-table in April. Our main aims this season for the Red and Blacks were both to consolidate the 1<sup>st</sup> team and perhaps, if fortune smiled on us, to enjoy a Cup run. We've been really pleased to have achieved both with the side making it through to the semi-finals of the Creake Charity Shield in February, a match we lost 2-1 against Chatteris Town in a hard-fought encounter with the visitors really hanging on at the end.

The new team of Harry West (Manager) and Toby Burkett (Assistant Manager) has done a great job in its first season in charge. We are really keen to keep the Club moving forward and are now looking to recruit some new players to further strengthen the squad so we want anyone who has just moved to the area and is looking to continue playing or would simply like to get back into football with us, to get in touch. And anyone interested in supporting us by, for example, joining our Committee to keep the Club progressing, should also, please, just get in touch. There's a very strong tradition of football in Cottenham going back over well over 100 years and it's really important to keep that flourishing.

By the time of this APM, the end of the 2021/22 season will be very close but, after a short break, pre-season training will be getting underway in July for the 2022/23 campaign on the Recreation Ground at Lambs Lane (our home ground). Either keep your eye on the website or drop us an email nearer that time for details of training, matches etc. You can contact us by email at [cottenhamunitedfc@hotmail.com](mailto:cottenhamunitedfc@hotmail.com). And do, please, check out our website, <https://www.cottenhamunitedfc.co.uk> for our Twitter, Instagram and Facebook links.

Ian Stuchbury (Chairman)  
Dave Partridge (Committee)

## Girlguiding Cottenham District – Annual Report 2022

Girlguiding is thriving in Cottenham. We currently have 2 rainbows units, 2 brownie units, 2 guide units and 1 new ranger unit all meeting face to face. We are currently catering for around 150 girls aged 5 to 18 years. The last two years have been challenging for Guiding, but we have made the best of it and have lots of new young members and have attracted some new volunteers.

**Rainbows** – When we were allowed to meet back together after Easter last year the Rainbows enjoyed outdoor activities including hunting for minibeasts, building dens for teddies, bark rubbings and finding their way in the woods. We were very grateful to the Parish Council for allowing us the use of their land to hold our meetings. In September we managed – with lots of sanitiser and cleaning to meet back indoors. We have enjoyed things slowly getting back to normal e.g., remembrance parade. We have enjoyed talent shows and poppy paintings when back indoors. Girls have been gaining Bronze awards and leaders have completed their leadership qualifications.

**Brownies** – Both units are meeting face to face. One of the Cottenham units met via zoom for most of lockdown and then started back to indoor meetings in September. Great fun was had by all and who knew that online meetings could be so much fun and busy. The other unit started meeting face to face outdoors on the village Green. We had a great taking part in activities we do not normally have the outside space for. We are grateful to the parish council for allowing us the use of the green for our meetings. Again, we started back indoors in September. Activities enjoyed by Brownies have been Remembrance Day service, village advent window trail, Skills Builders, trips to the local pantomime and Christmas parties. We have managed to recruit new leaders to keep one unit open and both units are thriving with healthy waiting lists.

**Guides** – We currently have 2 units meeting face to face. Initially both Guides units went back outdoors on the village green and then indoors face to face. It has been very positive for both units with the numbers thriving and no girls lost. They have considered maybe changing the way they do guides in the summer term and looking to spend that term outdoors. They have completed many challenges and events and done lots of programme hours. They have welcomed new guides and new leaders and celebrated a young leader achieving her young leadership award and moving onto her adult leadership. Activities enjoyed have been campfires, Anglia 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Challenge, Remembrance Parade, Parliament Week, packing bags for Cambridge Half Marathon.

**Rangers** – Cottenham has opened a new ranger's unit. They trialled running a unit alongside the Thursday Guide group for Autumn Term to see if it was needed and was possible. It was quickly realised it was the girls enjoyed being young leaders but also having their own programme they were responsible for and so the unit was registered in January 2022. The girls are getting to grips with planning their own programme and being responsible for themselves.

And us leaders are having an enormous amount of fun helping these girls to grow, learn new skills and become more confident. We would always love some more volunteers to help us give the girls as space of their own to have fun, make friends and learn new skills. Believe me it

is so worth it and volunteering for Guiding is fun. Please get in touch with Deanna at [deannaraven@btinternet.com](mailto:deannaraven@btinternet.com) to find out more.



Cottenham & Rampton Lunch & Social Club

(Formally Cottenham Day Centre)

Charity Number 296748

## Annual Report 2022

Cottenham Day Centre has been providing hot food and social interaction for residents of pensionable age since 1986.

On opening after the lockdown it was decided it would be the perfect time for us to change our name to **Cottenham & Rampton Lunch & Social Club** to update our image and better reflect our club and what we offer the community and increase our membership.

During lockdown we stayed in touch with our members with phone calls, delivering Birthday cards and food treats at Christmas and Easter.

Many of our members also received weekly meals that were organised by South Cambs Council and cooked by Over Day Centre and collected and delivered by our committee members.

We were all very pleased when we were able to re-open on 10<sup>th</sup> August in a very small way to start with to ensure everyone's safety. Also to help everyone regain confidence. We also had to prepare the Minibus that had been parked up for 18 months and restock our food store. Fortunately we were given a grant from the South Cambridgeshire District Council Community Chest that enabled us to prepare for our reopening.

Dentons Carpets very kindly paid for the minibus to have new signing with our new name

At the Day Centre AGM in November **Maire Collins** decided it was time for her to step down as Chair after many years of service to the Day Centre.

**Pauline Brown** was formerly vice chair and became **Chair**. Linda Mynott agreed to remain Secretary until we could find a replacement which we have now done and are very pleased to welcome **Sam Taylor** as our **secretary**. **Alice Gough** became **vice Chair and** agreed to continue being **Treasurer** until we can find someone who would like to join our team and take on the roll.

We continue to meet at **Coolidge Gardens Community room on Tuesday** and offer transport on our Minibus with rear tail lift, a freshly cooked two course hot meal and members organise their own entertainment i.e. bingo etc.. For this our members **pay £7 a week**. We hope to organise trips out again this year.

**We are in need of more volunteers for several positions.**

We need a treasurer. Someone to help set up the room and clear away. Drivers and helpers on the minibus, kitchen help to prepare meals and clear away and serve tea and coffee.

For further information if you would like to join our happy team please contact:-

Pauline Brown (Chair}

[chair@cottenhamdaycentre.co.uk](mailto:chair@cottenhamdaycentre.co.uk)

Phone:- 07708425720 / 01954250035

## Cottenham WI – Annual Report 2022

In September 2021, when the restrictions on social gatherings were lifted, Cottenham W.I was very pleased to be able to meet again.

The first meeting in the new venue, the Village Hall, was the Annual Meeting followed by a social evening, where after so much isolation friends could meet again and catch up on news and visitors were welcomed.

Although some of advertised speakers have had to cancel at short notice we arranged a variety of speakers and activities to suit all interests.

This year we welcomed an actor talking about how he started his career, people he has met and other jobs he has had, even opening a sweet shop in Ely. In March we had a very informative talk on "Bees and their importance in our environment". This included information on what plants we should plant to encourage bees, also that some plants we think of as a nuisance are important to bees; ivy being one.

A member stepped in at the last minute to give a short talk on why she joined the W.I and how it has changed over the years. In the first few years everyone was addressed very formally "Good evening Mrs Smith" whereas now it is more informal and friendly. We have also enjoyed social evenings and craft and games evenings

As well as monthly meetings we have a variety of clubs which meet weekly including a darts evening, a rummicub afternoon, a bridge club and a twice monthly lunch club.

We are planning an exciting new programme for 2022/2023 which will be published as soon as it is finalised.

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 at the Village Hall. Visitors are sure of a warm welcome.

Not sure the W.I is for you? Come along to one of our meetings. Visitors can attend 3 meetings before they decide to join. We look forward to welcoming you.

If you have any queries or would like more information please phone  
Margaret Squires. 01954488427  
Penny Mansfield. 01954425985

## Cottenham Community Land Trust Ltd in 2022

We hoped that the draft Local Plan would dash the millionaire aspirations of some of the many local landowners who offered their land for development. Unfortunately, the “preferred options” plan aspires to add 49,000 new homes by 2041 keeping many dreams of riches alive. The search goes on.

Building locally-affordable homes here is a real challenge, requiring co-operation (call that generosity) of the land-owner (we do pay for the land), architects (Saunders Boston), developers (that is us), builders (Laragh Homes) and government (providers of grants etc) to make the finances work. Outside the Local Plan, the land has to be “adjacent” to the developed village meaning that there are few suitable sites. However, thanks in part to the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan, no new housing sites in Cottenham have yet been allocated under the draft plan, despite the developer-friendly 49,000 new homes target.

Since the 2021 Annual General Meeting we have written to the three Local Authorities (County, District and Parish Councils) requesting that they check their land assets to see if any land is being held unnecessarily. As yet, we have no offers but this may change after the local elections in May. There are also a few brownfield sites, identified in the adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan, which may be suitable. That plan endorses the independently assessed need for 90 or so locally-affordable homes. To be locally-affordable the houses have to cost their occupiers no more than 3 or 4 times their household income, not the 6 to 8 times required for “affordable” homes as provided by developers. The occupiers will not be supported by housing benefits but fall into the so-called “squeezed middle” who neither qualify for social housing nor can afford the “affordable” homes being built in SW Cottenham.

Once we find suitable land, we will aim, with our project partners, to raise funds from various community-led housing funds through Homes England, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and others to deliver around 30 of those locally-affordable homes as soon as possible. Maybe you know someone who can help us all?

Frank Morris: Chair, Cottenham CLT Limited

Keep up to date via our FaceBook page - Cottenham Community Land Trust.

Or drop us a line at [admin@cottenhamclt.org.uk](mailto:admin@cottenhamclt.org.uk)

## Cottenham Tennis Club – Annual Report 2022

The club has gone from strength to strength this year with membership growing from around 60 to over 150.

In April 2021 we were offering 12 coaching sessions a week at Cottenham Sports Centre and by the end of March 2022 it had risen to 25 hours, demonstrating a healthy demand for good quality coaching. Anyone age 3 to well above 70 is catered for, from beginner to advanced.

Thanks to the increase in our numbers, we were able to enter a 2<sup>nd</sup> men's team in the competitive Cambs local league winter matches for the first time. They made an impressive start, coming second in their division earning a well-deserved promotion. The ladies' team were also promoted up one division.

We pride ourselves on being fully involved in our local community. Our holiday camps have been hugely popular. The club and coaching team have supported Cottenham Primary School in preparing year 3 and 4 to take part in the South Cambs Schools Sports Partnership Tennis Festival on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022. This is being held at Cottenham Village College, who themselves are putting forward students as Sports Leaders to help run the event. In addition to this, we have local teenagers who help at the weekly coaching sessions as coaching assistants, gaining important work experience and a weekly wage too.

New members are more than welcome to our friendly club and you can try it out before you commit to membership. Anyone age 16+ can try out our social tennis night at Cottenham Sports Centre. It's every Wednesday of the year (except over Christmas) from 7pm-9pm and it's free for the first 3 sessions, giving you time to find out what the club offers and whether you want to join. Children and adults can take part in 6 weeks of a coaching course before taking out membership and you don't need to be a member for any of the holiday clubs.

The Parish Council were able to open their grass courts this year in time for the Easter break, and even arranged some good weather to go with it. These are free to use for all parishioners and the Tennis Club run the booking system to facilitate use of this parish facility.

Our aim is to provide fun, affordable, professional coaching to all ages and abilities and to increase participation in tennis across all generations. Thanks go to the Sports Centre, the Parish Council, funding from our local Co-op and our amazing coaching team from Game Set Tennis who have assisted us in achieving our aims this year!

All enquiries to the Club Secretary, Louise Cooke, by email on: [info@cottenhamentennis.co.uk](mailto:info@cottenhamentennis.co.uk).  
Details of all our activities are on our website  
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CottenhamTennisClub>

## **Cottenham Bowls Club – Annual Report 2022**

The bowls club has now reopened outdoors with most bowlers looking forward to a season uninterrupted by pandemics or bad weather. The club will again be active in league matches on Monday and Friday afternoons in the Ely and District League and many evenings each week in the Cambridge and District and Cambridge Triples Leagues. Everyone is welcome to come and watch in our pleasant surroundings on the Recreation Ground.

We have an Open Day on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April with coaching sessions as needed. Feel free to visit as new members are always welcome. On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May we have our Open Triples. This event has been run for many years with teams coming from other clubs in the Cambridge area plus some of our own member's teams. This year this event will also co-inside with Bowls England's Big Bowls Weekend.

We also hold short-mat bowls in the clubhouse in the winter months.

Prospective new members can call Roger Watson on 01223 860774 for more information. Alternatively, visit the bowls green as there are bowlers there most evenings during the summer months and they will always be willing to provide you with any information you need.

## Sustainable Cottenham – Annual Parish Meeting 2022

Sustainable Cottenham is a charity aiming to make Cottenham a greener, cleaner and better place for residents and businesses. We facilitate community projects which encourage more sustainable and healthy living and the main things we are working on now are:

- Eco Eats - our festival of planet friendly food which reaches a climax at the Fen Edge Festival 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June. We'll have live cookery demonstrations by local chefs, plus special guest Chef Anthony Pitcher; tips to help you reduce waste; our Nature Recovery group will show their projects together with other local biodiversity groups.
- we'll launch our Eco Eats Recipe Book at FEF: a collection of tried and tested recipes recommended by Cottenham residents and chefs, the booklet aims to inspire you to increase the proportion of vegetarian and vegan meals you cook - because they are tasty, easy and economical or because you want to reduce your greenhouse-gas emissions – or both!
- nature recovery – fostering biodiversity and nature in Cottenham. So far we have focussed on spaces owned by Cottenham Parish Council who have warmly supported us. These include:
  - a pilot wildflower mini-meadow on the village green
  - changing the mowing regime at WARG Field on Histon Road: we can already see rosettes of bee orchids growing
  - At Fen Reeves wood on Twentypence Road we have been coppicing some trees and clearing some of the brambles to encourage growth of a wider range of plants at ground level. Cottenham Scouts made and installed bird boxes.
- we also carry out litter picks – to reduce environmental pollution and boost pride in our community
- and we support our local repair café – to help extend the useful life of household goods

Sadly, Cottenham Connected's Sunday Socials project, which we had been supporting, has had to be put on hold due to the two main leaders having to step back for a while.

If you would like to find out more or get involved, contact us through the Sustainable Cottenham website or Facebook page.

[www.sustainablecottenham.org.uk](http://www.sustainablecottenham.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/suscottenham](https://www.facebook.com/suscottenham)

## **Cottenham Renegades Rugby – Annual Parish Meeting 2022**

The welcome return to full contact rugby in the Autumn has seen Cottenham Renegades do well in Eastern Counties Division 1 West. As the final games were played, Renegades managed to sneak past Shelford 3 into second place behind Cambridge 3. The last two games saw record breaking score lines with Renegades beating Haverhill 69-0 and Cantabrigians 2 74-0.

Finishing in the top two was important because the top two teams from each of the Eastern County leagues (West, North and South) then play each other in a second-round league. The results against Cambridge carry over into that round (sadly as they beat Renegades twice in fiercely contested games). The second league sees Renegades pitched against Wymondham 2, North Walsham 2, Ipswich 2 and Sudbury 2.

The second half of the league is necessarily a higher standard as it features the top two teams from the three East of England leagues. A good win over Wymondham (12-24), was followed by a complete annihilation at Sudbury (83-7) where their second team was greatly enhanced with first team players whose game that day was cancelled. This was followed by another brutal defeat from North Walsham when they came to Cottenham (12—85). The following week Renegades travelled to North Walsham and although the home side won in the end (54-45), the losing dressing room was in high spirits after that game. Sudbury came to Cottenham and without their first team enhancements were beaten 29-25 in a riveting game. This was followed by a closely fought battle with Ipswich which they won 18-24 (having pulled out of the first game against them). The last game of the season saw Wymondham come to Cottenham and a good win for Renegades who beat them 38-14 in a dazzling display of flowing rugby from both sides.

So, Cottenham Renegades came second in the Eastern Counties West Division 1 West League and third in the following shield competition. This means that it is likely that Renegades will be promoted to the London 3 Eastern Counties league so new challenges for next season!

All in all, a very successful season. The only remaining fixture this year is a tour game against Bournemouth in Bournemouth during the Mayday bank holiday weekend.

If you fancy trying your hand at rugby, Renegades are always on the lookout for new players. You may have played at school or with a club a while back and would like to get back into it. Or maybe you have never played but think you might like to try it out. Either way, you will get a great welcome if you come along to try out Renegades. Renegades take the game seriously but having fun is what the club is really about. If you are interested have a look at the Renegades website (<http://renegadesrugby.net/>) and come along to a training session (Tuesday 7:30 at Cottenham Village College Sports Centre). Make some space in your life for fun!