

## District Councillor's Report Mar 28<sup>th</sup> 2023 - Cllr Tom Bygott

### District Council budget for 2023-24

The District council passed its budget for the coming year on 21st February. It increased the District element of the Council Tax by £5 per annum, giving an average Band D Council Tax of £165.31 for the District and £2,158.71 in total for a band D property in Northstowe, and a range of £1,439.14 to £4,317.42 for the other bands.

My group put forward an alternative proposal that would not have increased the District portion this year. It would also have provided an additional planning enforcement (compliance) officer in order to bolster resources in the planning enforcement team and to provide for the growing demand to investigate breaches of planning conditions and consent. We also proposed to invest £50,000 in fraud prevention work and raising fraud awareness in the community, to tackle the growing level of fraud being attempted against both the council and members of the community, which has been exacerbated by the pandemic and cost of living crisis.

### Digital map of Coronation events

The Government is coordinating a digital map showing how members of the public and community organisations across the UK plan to celebrate the Coronation. This is available at: <https://coronation.gov.uk/events>. The map is designed to encourage people to add their own Coronation Big Lunches, street parties, Big Help Out plans and other Coronation activities so others in the local community can find out about events near them and get involved. The Coronation website also includes information for getting involved, a toolkit including templates, a playlist, recipes, and designs.

The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III will take place on the morning of Saturday 6th May at Westminster Abbey and will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is a solemn Christian service that has been held at Westminster Abbey for the last 900 years. Throughout the UK, Coronation Big Lunches will bring communities together on Sunday 7th May, and Big Lunch packs for residents are now available to download, linked below. Street parties will also take place across the weekend. The weekend of celebrations will end on Monday 8th May, which is a bank holiday, with the Big Help Out, which will highlight the impact of volunteering. This will encourage people to get involved with activities run by local community groups, organisations and charities.

More information can be found on the Coronation website <https://coronation.gov.uk> and: [www.gov.uk/government/news/coronation-weekend-celebrations-that-will-bring-communities-together-announced](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronation-weekend-celebrations-that-will-bring-communities-together-announced)

Toolkit:

<https://coronation.gov.uk/toolkit/>

Coronation weekend plans:

[www.royal.uk/coronation-weekend-plans-announced](http://www.royal.uk/coronation-weekend-plans-announced)

The Big Help Out:

<https://thebighelpout.org.uk/>

The Coronation Big Lunch:

[www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch](http://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch)

[www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-coronation-big-lunch-form](http://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-coronation-big-lunch-form)

[www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch/councils](http://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch/councils)

For any questions about the Coronation website or map, please email: [coronation@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:coronation@dcms.gov.uk).

As with the recent Platinum Jubilee held for our late Sovereign, HM Queen Elizabeth II, there is a guide for holding a street party and an application form to submit:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party)

An application can be made to close a small side street for a street party, but not a main road such as Station Road or Stirling Road.

## **Mobile Phone Coverage Survey**

Cambridgeshire County Council has commissioned a technical mobile phone coverage survey in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area. Taking place during March 2023, the survey involves Metricell Limited staff drive testing and walk testing to scan mobile coverage at a range of locations. This will involve people driving and walking around with telecoms equipment. A maximum of two engineers will carry out 'walk testing' by carrying the test equipment in a backpack.

Further information can be obtained from Connecting Cambridgeshire via telephone 01223 703292 or email [connecting.cambridgeshire@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:connecting.cambridgeshire@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

## **Census 2021 data now available**

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) has started to release the results of the national census conducted in 2021. Census maps is an interactive tool to explore Census 2021 data across England and Wales for different topics down to a neighbourhood level: [www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps](http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps)

This tool shows a map of England and Wales across many of the questions in the census, on topics such as population, education, identity, housing, health and work. It is possible to see how areas have changed between the censuses in 2011 and 2021, by selecting 'Mode' and 'Change since 2011'. The map can be zoomed in to see statistics from each Local Area District (LAD), such as South Cambridgeshire. At a more local level data can be displayed by "MSOA" - one of which is Longstanton, Swavesey and Oakington - containing Northstowe, and Output Areas (OAs) of which there are three contained within the Northstowe boundaries and a further five crossing the boundaries into Longstanton, Oakington and Willingham Parishes - these were defined before the Town Council's boundaries were set. Most data can be seen at the MSOA level, but some data aren't broken down at the OA level to avoid compromising the privacy of census respondents on certain topics.

The ONS has also produced articles on change over time for every council in England and Wales, that highlight particular changes in an area, alongside local context and charts. The one for South Cambridgeshire can be found at: [www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E07000012](http://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E07000012)

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