

Meldreth Parish Council Dec 2021 – District and County Councillors’ report

Meldreth High Street pavement

It was good to see the pavement resurfacing this week, but the expectation was a much greater length of pavement to be included. Susan is liaising with Highways.

A10 Underpass: first tidy-up

The Melbourn Science Park contractor, SDC, for offering and organising to cut vegetation way back at the Meldreth A10 underpass, as a first step toward improving the general environment there. Highways have given permission for the go-ahead. We are working with SCDC, CCC, MVC and the Community Rail Partnership on a broad plan to smarten things up, in a similar way to what has been done at Meldreth Station.

Faulty Station Rd streetlight at Fieldgate reported

For info!

Half-hourly train

We’re delighted to report that after many representations to GTR, the half-hourly weekday train service is set to resume for Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Stations on December 12th. This service had been suspended due to a severe workforce shortage resulting from Covid, but the situation has improved enough to bring it back. We do need to see ridership figures rise to make the service truly sustainable – hopefully this restoration will allow that to happen.

Improved path – Meldreth Station-Melbourn

Susan has asked to meet the Transport Director, Greater Cambridge Partnership, concerning the inordinate amount of time it’s taken to get this project moving.

Melbourn and villages Timebank

You may already be aware that the Melbourn Timebank is back up and running with lots of good opportunities for sharing favours and mutual support – whether walking a dog, helping in the garden or picking up a prescription. The Timebank reaches from Melbourn into surrounding villages including Meldreth, and a number of regular social events allow people to meet up – including the Tuesday morning Dog Café at the Dolphin Pub 105 High St Melbourn. To find out more, please see:

<https://tol2.timebanking.org/melbourn/>

Expanded Melbourn Hub

The newly expanded Melbourn Hub has been officially opened. All welcome to pop in and find out about all the activities going on and to enjoy this beautiful public space, have a coffee, lunch or a take-away, or check out a library book and borrow a laptop. The Hub hosts Citizens Advice every Wednesday from 10-12. For opening hours, room hire and more: <https://melbournhub.co.uk/>

Foxton Travel Hub design changes

Following further public consultation, the Foxton Travel Hub design plan has seen significant alterations, with the size of the car park reduced from 500 to 200 spaces. The plan retains a passenger lift and footbridge and adds a village bus service. This was discussed at the Meldreth Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group on November 30, where GTR offered some useful observations. The scheme goes to the Greater Cambridge Partnership Board for decision on December 9.

Making Connections - High quality public transport choices, with greener choices

This is a subject that has been discussed for many years now – how to manage traffic in and out of Cambridge, and how to fund a bus and public transport network that will give really good choices about travelling other than by car. Back in 2009, the County Council voted cross-party to usher in the then government's 'Transport Innovation Fund,' which would have funded the outlay for a bus and public/active transport network, to be supported long-term by revenue generated from a peak-time congestion charge in and out of Cambridge. In the event, the 'TIF' never materialized because the money to deliver the investment could not be found.

Today there is more at stake, due to the climate crisis and increasing pressures on access in and around Cambridge. The proposed 'Making Connections' scheme, and the opportunity to give your views. The consultation closes December 20.

<https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2021>

Living independently at home

Lots of support is in place to help people live independently, at home. If you think you could use some extra help – for example if you've been in hospital or experienced an illness – please feel free to ring this County Council number where calls are fielded and then directed to someone who can provide advice and point you in the right direction: 0345 045 5202.

Free Holiday Activities and Food Programme

A child receiving Free School Meals due to low income may be eligible for a free 16-hours holiday activity programme, and food programme. All details here:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf

Community support funding

Here are three funding opportunities – we'd be glad to provide further information.

County Council's Cultivate Grants - grants of £2,000-£15,000, encouraging local networks where people help themselves and each other:

<http://www.cambscf.org.uk/icf.html>

District Council Community Chest – up to £1K, apply any time:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest>

Arnold Clark Community Fund:

This winter, grants of up to £1,000 for community groups and local non-profit organisations are being offered through the [Arnold Clark Community Fund](#) to help them continue their important

work which may be at risk due to the pandemic. The focus for this round is on foodbanks, toy banks, poverty relief, housing and accommodation. The deadline is 31 December 2021.

Covid-19

Cambridgeshire's 'Enhanced Response Area' status has provided some additional support particularly around school settings. There is very heightened concern around the proliferation of Covid at this time. Our required in-person meetings are now limited to a set number of people in a room at any one time.

Vaccinations for children, booster, and testing:

All information for Cambridgeshire in one place:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination>

Reminder - Covid support available

- The Government has extended the financial payments available to help people self-isolate, until the end of next March. These payments support people who will lose income as a result of having to self-isolate and will struggle to pay their bills or buy food and essentials.
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/coronaviruscovid-19-support-to-self-isolate>
- A Household Support Fund (originally the Winter Support Grant) is now up and running - more information here: