

## **Report from County Councillor John Reynolds COME ON CAMBRIDGESHIRE - IT'S YOUR MOMENT TO SHINE**

The search has just started for 8,000 people to carry the Olympic Flame next year – and Cambridgeshire County Council is encouraging the County to grab its Moment to Shine. The Olympic organisers are kicking off the first of four searches to find torch bearers with the Moment to Shine Campaign. They want inspirational people to apply to carry the Olympic Torch, with each and every Torchbearer having a story of personal achievement or contribution to their community. Some 90% of the 8,000 Torchbearer places will be made available to the general public. The Moment to Shine Campaign is the first of four special recruitment campaigns run by the LOCOG and sponsors Coca Cola, Lloyds TSB and Samsung.

Cambridgeshire residents can make their nominations at:

[www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelay](http://www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelay)

Anyone from the age of 12 upwards can be nominated to carry the Olympic Torch.

"Moment to Shine is about celebrating the remarkable achievements of ordinary people in our communities through the magic of the games and the Torch relay. "I hope that Cambridgeshire really gets behind the campaign and that we can celebrate the remarkable stories of people in our towns and villages.

"It's a great chance for our schools to get involved too - 8% of places on the relay will be given to nominations from schools who are part of the Get Set programme, and there will be other opportunities for schools to get involved."

### **LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY COMES TO CAMBRIDGE**

The Olympic flame will light up Cambridge in a special evening celebration event in July 2012, the organizers of the Olympic Torch relay revealed. The City has been selected to host a special event as part of the national Torch Relay, which will see the flame visit towns and cities across the UK. Cambridge will host the Torch as part of the City Council's Big Weekend celebrations on Saturday July 7 2012.

The event, on Parker's Piece, will showcase the City and the County's unique Olympic sporting and cultural heritage, with the Olympic Flame providing the focal point of the celebrations. Cambridge is one of 66 Evening Celebration locations across the UK confirmed by the London 2012 Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). The evening events will offer thousands of people the opportunity to come together and get involved in celebrations and share in the Olympic spirit.

The Olympic Flame will arrive in the UK from Greece on Friday 18 May 2012 and the 70 day Torch Relay will start at Land's End, Cornwall on the morning of the 19 May 2012. On leaving Land's End, the Olympic Flame is expected to travel an estimated 8,000 miles across the UK, giving thousands of communities and individuals their moment to shine as the Olympic Flame comes to their doorstep. The Olympic Flame will arrive at the Olympic Stadium on 27 July 2012 for the lighting of the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony, signifying the start of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

"The Olympic flame coming to Cambridgeshire feels like a dream come true. As well as celebrating our unique sporting and cultural heritage through the 2012 games, it will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to inspire everyone in the County, young and old, to get involved in sport and the arts, volunteer, whatever it may be, through the magic of the Games. The city's rich history of sporting and cultural excellence makes it the perfect location for a memorable Olympic celebration. Cambridge already offers a wonderful array of sporting and cultural activities. Now we have the chance to harness the spirit of the Olympics to encourage even more people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities to get involved from across the region."

In addition to the locations confirmed on the route today, many other cities, towns, villages and places of outstanding natural beauty, sports venues and community hubs will be announced in a second, more detailed route announcement later this year that will confirm the many other places the Olympic Flame will visit on each day of the Relay.

### **TREE PLANTING MARKS OPENING OF ORCHARD**

A special tree will be planted at Waterbeach Primary School to mark the official opening of the school's orchard. The apple tree will be planted by Histon 'Metal Man' Nigel Hillier, who donated a Winnie the Pooh sculpture to the school.

The orchard evolved from the children's desire to provide a better environment for bees in Waterbeach. Using trees local to the area, the children have already planted 30 apple, pear and plum trees with a lavender boarder and wildflower meadow.

Planting the orchard was made possible thanks to the Waterbeach PTA, the National Trust and Borrás Construction.

### **CAMBRIDGESHIRE FAMILIES FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE CHILDREN**

Cambridgeshire has joined the national Fostering Fortnight by launching a special appeal for more foster carers. Across the UK, 57,000 children and young people live with 45,000 foster families - and an appeal has been launched to find an extra 10,000 families.

Cambridgeshire County Council currently has 511 looked after children, 149 of which are with Cambridgeshire County Council approved foster carers. The remainder are in external placements (independent foster carers or residential units some outside Cambridgeshire) or looked after within the county in children's homes.

The County Council's Fostering and Adoption Service is looking for more families to come forward - particularly those willing to take sibling groups of children, children over the age of 10, or mothers and babies. Potential foster carers need to have a spare room and space in their life to look after a child or young person - but they do not necessarily need to have parented, be married or own their own home.

The recruitment of new foster carers will enable children and young people to be match with carers who are best able to meet their needs. Recruiting local people will mean that they can remain in their own community, continue to attend the same school and maintain contact with their family and friends.

Several events have been organised in Cambridgeshire for Fostering Fortnight, where anyone interested in finding out more can drop in to talk to a social worker and pick up information packs.

A drop-in session will be held:

\* 9 June - Butts Grove Centre, Huntingdon, 10am - 11.30am

Anyone interested in fostering who is unable to attend this sessions can ring 0800 0520078 for further information or log onto the fostering page of the County Council's website at:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/childrenyoungpeople/socialcare/fostering/>

"Now is the time to care, as more and more vulnerable children are coming into care and need foster homes. In Cambridgeshire we urgently need more people with the right skills to come forward to foster, so more children can be found the right home."

## **RECYCLING**

Work is progressing at Witchford on the county's first purpose-built covered waste recycling centre. The new centre is scheduled to open in early October.

Meanwhile concerns over the projected closure of the Newmarket Householders' Waste Recycling Centre have been addressed. Suffolk County Council decided to delay the proposed closure from 9 May until the end of July. But, in the meanwhile Suffolk are exploring the possibility of the centre being run in the future by a social enterprise.

Work also needs to be done on public attitudes. Much of the material taken to recycling centres could actually be taken to a more local bring site - it does not necessarily have to go to a recycling centre. Last year the County Council provided £500,000 of funding to help South Cambridgeshire District Council introduce a third bin, having the previous year given similar support to Cambridge City Council for the same purpose.

Emerging figures from South Cambridgeshire indicates that its recycling rate now exceeds 60%. The extra recyclates collected mean more income for the district council and less landfill for the county council, thus producing savings all round.

## **COUNTY COUNCIL TO EXPAND PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

Cambridgeshire County Council wants to hear from interested parties before it applies to the Government to extend civil parking enforcement to South Cambridgeshire. The effect of these applications is that the county council will become responsible for the enforcement of on-street parking restrictions and off-street parking restrictions (where they exist) in East and South Cambridgeshire. As a result, the police would no longer enforce on-street parking controls although they would retain powers to address vehicular obstruction and dangerous parking on the highway.

Parking enforcement is an important aspect of managing the county road network. Extending the successful operation in Cambridge to South Cambridgeshire will help reduce congestion, make our roads safer and ensure that parking bays are used for their intended purpose. Before the application is sent to the Department of Transport, we are keen to hear from local residents, groups and organisations about their thoughts and ideas about our plans. Now is the time to get in touch to ensure we take on board your ideas so please take the opportunity before 17 June."

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) means local authorities are responsible for enforcing on-street parking controls instead of the police. CPE gives local authorities greater control over the reduction of illegal or inconsiderate parking. This helps law-abiding drivers, and also benefits pedestrians, cyclists, the emergency services and bus passengers. By using their own enforcement officers, local authorities can tailor patrols to suit each area, varying them when necessary and responding to one-off events where additional attendants may be needed.

The draft applications is available on the County Council website:

[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/projects/south/CivilParkingEnforcement.htm](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/projects/south/CivilParkingEnforcement.htm)

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## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE CRACKDOWN TO RING IN CHANGE**

A crackdown has been launched urging motorists to 'switch off and stay safe' on Cambridgeshire's roads. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership are supporting a Police campaign this month cracking down on those breaking the law and educating drivers about the dangers of using mobile phones. National statistics suggest more drivers are choosing to use their mobile phones while they drive despite warnings of the danger.

The message to drivers is:

- Don't make or answer calls when driving - use voicemail to pick up messages
- Park safely before using a mobile phone from the car
- Don't call other people when you know they're driving

An RAC survey in 2010 highlighted a shocking increase in the number of motorists using their mobile phones to talk, text and surf social networks while behind the wheel. According to the RAC report, the percentage of drivers admitting to breaking the law, by using their mobile phone without a hands free kit has more than trebled to 28%. The proportion of driver's texting whilst driving has also increased from 11% to 31% - that's nearly one in three motorists.

In 2010, almost 2,500 people in Cambridgeshire were caught using a hand-held mobile phone while driving. Cambridgeshire Police officers issued Fixed Penalty Notices to 2,498 drivers, who each received a £60 fine and three points on their licence.

## **STEEPLE MORDEN PUPILS REAP THE REWARDS OF SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

Pupils at Steeple Morden Primary School returned from their Easter break to find a new path had been laid to take them from the school drop off area into classes. The improvement came as a result of the school participating in Cambridgeshire County Council's Safer Routes to School project.

Safer Routes to School aims to encourage healthier, safer and more environmentally friendly ways for children to travel. Steeple Morden Primary School joined the SRTS project in September 2009 and were keen to tackle the issue of children and parents having to walk through car parks. The drop off area was provided a number of years ago by the Parish Council to allow parents driving their children to school to avoid parking immediately outside the school gates.

The Parish Council allowed the new path to be routed across the corner of the adjacent recreation ground to a newly widened and therefore more pushchair-friendly style. Earlier in the year yellow footprints were also installed to mark out the path children should take when they enter the school grounds as the route into school involves walking through the school car park.

## **MIND YOUR MEDIEVAL MANORS**

Time travel through Landbeach's historic past on a walk that will reveal the village's Iron Age and medieval secrets. Landbeach has a rich heritage stretching back as far as the Iron Age. This includes the remains of two medieval manors, whose earthworks can still be seen today. In addition a medieval Tithe Barn still stands in the village.

Stephen Macaulay, Project Manager with Oxford Archaeology East said: "There is a great wealth of archaeology at Landbeach and throughout all of the Cambridgeshire County Council Farms Estate, which I hope people will be able to see for themselves, this is just the first of many guided tours around important ancient monuments offered by Cambridgeshire Archaeology and Oxford Archaeology East in 2011."

## **PLANS UNVEILED FOR NEW TRUMPINGTON MEADOWS SCHOOL**

Plans have been unveiled for the new primary school and community centre due to be built at Trumpington Meadows in Cambridge. The new school - due to open in September 2012 - will cater for 420 pupils. It will operate as a federation with Fawcett Primary School and share an executive headteacher and governing body. It is being built by Cambridgeshire County Council adjacent to the Park & Ride site in Trumpington.

The design of the building will feature the use of renewable energy, natural ventilation, recycled water and solar-heated water. It will also serve as a community centre, with Early Years provision, two community rooms and shared use of the school hall.

A public exhibition was held to give the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed design of the buildings, the materials used, landscaping around the site and any concerns about traffic or access. Views are also welcomed on the provision of car parking, cycle parking and sports provision, and any visual impact on the surrounding area.

## **NEW WAY OF WORKING MEANS MORE TIME WITH CHILDREN**

More time will be spent with children and families as part of a new way of delivering social care in Cambridgeshire. The County Council is changing fundamentally the way it provides social work intervention to vulnerable families across the county.

In place of the existing structure of social work teams, new Social Work Units will be formed, managed by Group Managers and consisting of a Consultant Social Worker - a post which will assume full responsibility for all cases allocated to the unit - a Family Therapist /Clinical Practitioner, a Unit Co-Coordinator, a Children's Practitioner and a Social Worker. This will replace the old system whereby social workers managed caseloads of up to 25 children each, with the most experienced staff operating in a management role.

The new Group Managers and Unit Co- Coordinators will take on the responsibility of tasks which would otherwise reduce the amount of direct work the unit does with families, such as sickness monitoring, health & safety and diary management. The project - pioneered in Cambridgeshire for the first time by a county council - will build on the significant progress already made to transform social care in Cambridgeshire and will reflect the recommendations made in the Munro Review of Child Protection published today (May10): <http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/>

The Council's priority will remain 'promoting the health and well-being of children and their families by the provision of high quality safeguarding services, which are provided at the right time, in the right place by the right person at the right cost. The new way of working is based on a similar, successful model adopted in the London borough of Hackney four years ago. Recruitment to the new posts has already started and it is hoped implementation of the new system will be complete by April 2013.

## **LOCAL ELECTIONS 2011**

Last month's local elections showed an improved Conservative vote share on the 2010 General Election. This is the first time since 1992 that a Government has done this. Conservatives made a net gain of 91 councillors and 4 councils. The electorate also gave a resounding 'No' vote in the AV referendum.

*Yours*     *John Reynolds*

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