

## **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN REYNOLDS 30th APRIL**

### **COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS SET SAIL TO HELP OLDER PEOPLE IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

A new approach designed to reduce loneliness and isolation among older people in Cambridgeshire will be officially launched on the 13<sup>th</sup> May. The Community Navigator project will co-ordinate and enhance existing networks of support working closely with local communities, statutory and voluntary organisations to enable older people to find the services and support they need to meet their individual needs.

A Community Navigator Manager and five district co-ordinators have been appointed who will develop closer links with their community, voluntary and statutory agencies and work with local people to identify gaps in existing services, and also help to support and develop the volunteers who are often the first point of contact for older people.

There are also already over 60 active Navigators, a mixture of volunteers from the community, PCSOs and Bobby Scheme members and discussions are ongoing with the Ambulance Service, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Fire Service and other local community and voluntary groups that have regular contact with older and vulnerable people.

The three year pilot project in Cambridgeshire is modelled on similar schemes elsewhere in the country which have been successful in ensuring that older people are able to have the best possible quality of life, while at the same time reducing the loneliness and isolation that some older people experience.

The Cambridgeshire scheme will be launched in the Council Chamber at Cambridge Guildhall on Monday, May 13 between 10.30-11.30 am. After the formal launch, 100 gingerbread men will be given away to the public on the Market Square - the biscuits represent the 100,000 residents of Cambridgeshire who are aged over 65 and could benefit from the project by being 'navigated' towards services and support.

The Cambridgeshire Community Navigator scheme is being funded by the County Council and organised by Care Network Cambridgeshire.

### **SUPERFAST BROADBAND BRIEF**

#### **Working together with BT**

It may seem that things have gone a bit quiet since 8 March when we signed contract with BT for the comprehensive roll-out of better broadband across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. However a lot of work is going on to prepare for the next phase of the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme.

The Connecting Cambridgeshire team is working closely with BT to ensure the roll-out is delivered swiftly and effectively to make the best use of the public investment. We are sharing offices with the BT Openreach team at Cambridgeshire County Council's Shire Hall, Cambridge to facilitate this.

For BT Openreach, this means drawing up schedules and carrying out surveys to re-design the core network and expand the reach of fibre broadband across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This is a large-scale project which will involve upgrading over 100 telephone exchanges and installing many more new cabinets across the county

Alongside this, the team has started working with county and district planning and highways teams to make the process for rolling out better broadband as smooth and efficient as possible.

## **The roll-out**

The network deployment is a significant engineering project and needs to be carefully planned. However the roll-out will start as soon as possible and is due to be completed by the end of 2015, which means we are on track to deliver what we promised and more.

We are not able to provide detailed timing and areas of roll-out at this stage, however you can be assured that over the life of the programme it will reach every community in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough that currently lacks access to broadband services. We expect to be able to tell you more in May about when we will be able to announce the first phases.

## **Updates and FAQs**

We will endeavour to keep you informed through monthly Broadband Briefs. Regular updates, media coverage and [FAQs](#) will be posted on the [Connecting Cambridgeshire](#) website and the project team can be contacted by email at [contact@connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk](mailto:contact@connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk) if you have any further queries.

## **Connecting Cambridgeshire update for Parishes/Community Groups**

Connecting Cambridgeshire signed a milestone contract with BT in March 2013 that means businesses and communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will have some of the best fibre broadband coverage in the country by the end of 2015.

Overall 98% of homes and businesses across the county can expect to have access to fibre-based broadband by the end of the contract. Our targets are for more than 90% of homes and businesses to be able to get broadband speeds of 24 Mbps and higher, with a minimum of 2 Mbps to very nearly 100% of premises.

Connecting Cambridgeshire is now working with BT Openreach on planning and surveys for the roll-out of the new broadband infrastructure, which will require a substantial re-design of the network across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

This large-scale project will involve upgrading over 100 telephone exchanges and installing many more new cabinets across the county. The roll-out has to be carefully planned in to make the best use of public money. Once BT has completed the initial design we will be able to publicise the phased roll-out, which is due to begin before the end of 2013.

Nearly 25,000 homes and businesses have supported the Connecting Cambridgeshire campaign, which is the largest of its kind in the country. Active campaigning has now closed, but you can still register your details to keep up to date with the programme or view Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at [www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk)

## **HELP IS AT HAND WITH LIBRARY LEARNING SERVICES**

Free work clubs are held once a week in March and Ely to help people get jobs and gain new skills. These sessions are for anyone looking for work. Cambridgeshire County Council, together with support from Job Centre Plus and the Adult Careers Service, host the work clubs at March Library every Thursday and Ely Library every Friday from 10am - 12 noon.

The clubs offer information, advice and guidance on work and employment. They also provide support for people wishing to gain qualifications in IT or wanting to brush up on their Maths and English skills. Attendees can receive advice from Job Centre Plus Advisers (when available) as well as information from Adult Careers Advisers and Learning Centre Tutors. One to one support is available for practical skills such as CV writing, job searching and finding out information on particular companies.

## **'MORNING AFTER' THE BIG NIGHT OUT**

A new campaign has been launched to remind drivers and riders to consider the effects of heavy drinking the morning after. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership has launched a 'Morning After' campaign targeting drivers and riders who don't think about the amount of alcohol remaining in their body the morning after a 'Big Night Out'.

The campaign targets everyone; including responsible drinkers who do the right thing on the night by booking a taxi, being dropped off at the pub/club or sharing the driving with a designated driver.

However, on a big night out with friends or work colleagues it's easy to forget just how many units of alcohol you're drinking. One unit of alcohol takes the body an hour to breakdown; for example, a person who drinks three large glasses of wine (250ml glasses of 15 per cent alcohol) and stops drinking at midnight shouldn't drive for 13 hours - that's 1pm the following day.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said "We know that many young people like to go out drinking at the weekend and almost always do the right thing by leaving their car at home and making other transport arrangements. "Unfortunately what many people don't realise is the level of alcohol that remains in the body through to the following day. This campaign aims to raise awareness and target this particular group of people, by helping them to understand how much they've consumed and how long it will be before the alcohol is clear from their body."

The campaign has been developed to make more people aware that when they feel rough the Morning After the Big Night Out it's probably because of excess alcohol that's still in their system. This should be warning enough to drivers and riders that they are not in a fit state to drive and more importantly are probably still over the drink drive limit. "Our message is simple - if you're going out for a big night out, leave the car at home the morning after too!"

1. During 2012, 1,064 drivers were arrested for drink driving across Cambridgeshire.
2. Any amount of alcohol affects the ability to drive; even a single drink affects driving performance. Driving after drinking will result in being less alert and careful. Judging speed will become more difficult and reaction time to hazards will be slower.
3. Tolerance to alcohol depends on a combination of factors: weight, age, gender, stress and recent food consumption. The best way to remain safe is not to drink and drive.
4. A drink drive conviction can result in a prison sentence, driving ban and fine. However, it could also result in causing the death or injury of another road user or yourself.
5. There's always an alternative, most drink-drivers don't plan to break the law. Avoid becoming another statistic by booking a taxi, nominating a designated driver, using public transport or staying overnight at a friend's house.
6. Posters/flyers supporting the campaign have been distributed to organisations across Peterborough.
7. The morning after website ([www.morning-after.org.uk](http://www.morning-after.org.uk)<<http://www.morning-after.org.uk>>) features an alarm clock for some examples of how long it takes for typical drinks to be absorbed by the body.

## **FREE BOOKS TO BE GIVEN OUT THANKS TO WORLD BOOK WEEK**

Thousands of passionate readers spread a love for reading at the years World Book Night, The nationwide celebration of the reading, recommending and giving of books took place on 23 April.

Thanks to the initiative, over 5000 specially chosen books were given out across Cambridgeshire by 279 volunteers. Cambridgeshire's mobile libraries will be distributing free books donated by publishers at the Cineworld cinema in Huntingdon, Morrisons supermarket in Cambourne and a mystery stop in Fenland announced on Shape Your Place.

Local County Councillor, John Reynolds said: "World Book Night is now in its third year and it's now a highly anticipated date in the libraries calendar. It is an opportunity to go out and share the love of reading with our communities and encourage them to catch the reading bug. Further information about World Book Night across the country is at

[www.worldbooknight.org](http://www.worldbooknight.org)

Just a note to let you know that a bid has just been submitted for the Dft Cycle City

## **AMBITION FUND**

A possible government grant could bring £4.1m of additional funding for Cambridge and South Cambs to invest in new cycling infrastructure that supports economic activity, improves public health, and improves access to employment and training. More details to be announced.

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View John's web site at [www.cambsconservatives.com](http://www.cambsconservatives.com)

## **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN REYNOLDS 8th APRIL**

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