



# EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,  
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE  
Telephone 01353 665555

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## MEETING: **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

TIME: 1:00pm

DATE: **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

VENUE: The Hive Leisure Centre, 15 Ely Leisure Village, Downham Road, Ely, CB6 2FE

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to the introduction of restrictions on gatherings of people by the Government due to the COVID-19 outbreak, details of the public speaking and public viewing arrangements for this meeting are detailed in the Notes section at the end of the Agenda.**

ENQUIRIES REGARDING THIS AGENDA: Caroline Evans

TELEPHONE: (01353) 665555 EMAIL: [caroline.evans@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.evans@eastcambs.gov.uk)

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## MEMBERSHIP:

### **Conservative Members**

Cllr Bill Hunt (Chairman)  
Cllr Christine Ambrose Smith  
Cllr David Brown  
Cllr Lavinia Edwards  
Cllr Lis Every  
Cllr Lisa Stubbs (Vice Chairman)

### **Liberal Democrat Members**

Cllr Matthew Downey (Lead Member)  
Cllr Alec Jones  
Cllr John Trapp  
Cllr Gareth Wilson

### **Independent Member**

Cllr Sue Austen (Lead Member)

### **Substitutes:**

Cllr David Ambrose Smith  
Cllr Julia Huffer  
Cllr Josh Schumann

### **Substitutes:**

Cllr Charlotte Cane  
Cllr Simon Harries  
Cllr Christine Whelan

### **Substitute:**

Cllr Paola Trimarco

### **Lead Officer**

Rebecca Saunt, Planning Manager

**Quorum:** 5 Members

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# **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies and Substitutions** [oral]
- 2. Declarations of Interest** [oral]  
To receive declarations of interest from Members for any Items on the Agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.

### 3. Minutes

To receive and confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

### 4. Chairman's Announcements

[oral]

### 5. 20/00536/FUM

Construction of greenhouse for seed research and development, with small pump house and above ground water storage tanks.

Location: Green Acres, Straight Furlong, Pymoor, Ely

Applicant: Mr Nye

Public Access Link: <http://pa.eastcambs.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=Q9GBMWGGK7Q00>

### 6. 20/01755/RMM

Reserved matters for internal access, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for the provision of an internal spine road, landscaping and associated drainage and related infrastructure of previously approved 15/01175/OUM to provide up to 350 dwellings (including affordable housing provision) with associated open space, sports provision, access and infrastructure.

Location: Land Adjacent To Melton Farm, Newmarket Road, Burwell

Applicant: This Land Limited

Public Access Link: <http://pa.eastcambs.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QLQZONGGLAV00>

### 7. 21/00080/FUL

Proposed two storey, two bed annexe

Location: Hiams Farm, Chatteris Road, Mepal

Applicant: Mr Cas Baxter

Public Access Link: <http://pa.eastcambs.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QN52Z7GGM5Q00>

### 8. 21/00412/FUL

Construction of 1no. four bedroom, two storey detached dwelling

Location: Land To South Of 25 Pymoor Lane, Pymoor, Ely

Applicant: Mr J Everett & Ms A Miller

Public Access Link: <http://pa.eastcambs.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QQKJWZGG0D800>

### 9. Planning Performance Report – May 2021

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#### NOTES:

1. On 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 the temporary Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ended. That legislation had given local authorities the temporary power to hold meetings during the COVID-19 outbreak without it being necessary for any of the participants or audience to be present together in the same room, for example by using the Zoom video conferencing system.
2. Consequently, to comply with Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, meetings of the Planning Committee must now be held in person and members of the public must be able to attend

in person. In order to comply with COVID-19 regulations and guidance, the Planning Committee meeting will be held in a large venue sufficient to maintain social distancing of all attendees, and total numbers will necessarily be limited. Members of the public who wish to attend the meeting are therefore asked, where possible, to notify the Democratic Services Officer ([caroline.evans@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.evans@eastcambs.gov.uk)) of their intention to attend in order that we can endeavour to accommodate everyone. Further details about the procedures that are in place are available immediately after this section.

3. The Council has adopted a 'Purge on Plastics' strategy and is working towards the removal of all consumer single-use plastics in our workplace. Therefore, we do not provide disposable cups in our building or at our meetings and would ask members of the public to bring their own drink to the meeting if required.
4. There will be an announcement at the start of the meeting regarding the procedure to follow should the fire alarm sound during the meeting.
5. The Council has a scheme to allow public speaking at Planning Committee. If you wish to speak on an application being considered at the Planning Committee please contact Caroline Evans, Democratic Services Officer for the Planning Committee [caroline.evans@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.evans@eastcambs.gov.uk), to register by 10am on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July. Alternatively, you may wish to send a statement to be read at the Planning Committee meeting if you are not able to attend in person. Please note that public speaking, including a statement being read on your behalf, is limited to 5 minutes in total for each of the following groups:
  - Objectors
  - Applicant/agent or supporters
  - Local Parish/Town Council
  - National/Statutory Bodies

A leaflet with further information about the public speaking scheme is available at <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/committees/public-speaking-planning-committee>

6. Reports are attached for each agenda item unless marked "oral".
7. If required, all items on the agenda can be provided in different formats (e.g. large type, Braille or audio tape, or translated into other languages), on request, by calling Main Reception on (01353) 665555 or e-mail: [translate@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:translate@eastcambs.gov.uk)
8. If the Committee wishes to exclude the public and press from the meeting, a resolution in the following terms will need to be passed:

"That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item no(s). X because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category X of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."

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# **In-person Council and Committee Meeting Protocol**

## **Background**

This protocol applies to in-person meetings held whilst restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic are in place. This protocol has been written to align to Government guidance and regulations and will be updated as these evolve.

## **General Principles**

The Council will seek to hold its public meetings in ways that are lawful, transparent and safe for all who are involved.

Whilst coronavirus restrictions are in place, this means:

- Holding meetings in person when we are legally required to do so, or there is a clear necessity to do so.
- Holding meetings virtually in all other situations.

## **Practices when operating in-person meetings**

Prior to the meeting, the room will have been set up by the Facilities Management staff and no furniture should subsequently be re-arranged. All desks and microphones will have been sanitised for your use. There will be a dedicated desk and microphone for public speaking and both will be sanitised between uses. Disposable masks will be available for anyone who doesn't have their own and hand sanitiser will be provided.

Government guidelines encourage all adults without COVID-19 symptoms to take regular rapid lateral flow tests in order to help prevent the spread of infection as restrictions ease. Tests can be obtained easily in the following ways:

- By going to a test centre. To find your nearest centre please visit <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting>
- By collecting a free pack of tests from many pharmacies – more information about local collection points is available at <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- By ordering a free set of tests online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Arriving at the meeting:

- Please arrive no more than 10 minutes before the start of the meeting (or, if you are only attending for part of the meeting, the time you have been advised by Officers).
- Please wear a facemask upon entry to the building and follow all instructions such as the one-way system and lift capacity. Where applicable, these are clearly indicated on signs throughout the building.
- Please maintain social distancing when inside the building.
- Please record your attendance via the track and trace function that will be available upon arrival at the meeting room.
- Please use hand sanitiser from the station or bring your own if you prefer.
- Please take a seat in the public seating area promptly and do not wander around.
- Once you are seated, you may remove your facemask.

In the meeting:

- If you are registered to speak at the meeting then please remain seated until the Chairman invites your contribution. Please wear your mask when moving between the seating area and the public speaking desk.
- Please bring a drink with you. You are welcome to bring hot or cold drinks but no drinks will be supplied in order to reduce handling and avoid congestion.
- If a meeting is due to last for a long period, there will be designated breaks which will be announced at the meeting. Please follow instructions from the Officers and endeavour to maintain social distancing. Please wear your mask whenever you move away from your seat.
- You are welcome to use the facilities at any time. Remember to put your mask back on to do so.

After the meeting

- Please put your mask back on as soon as you leave your seat.
- Please take all belongings and any rubbish with you.
- Please leave the meeting promptly in accordance with the instructions from Officers.

## FAQs

Many of us have already been vaccinated. Do we really need some of the suggested restrictions and protocols?

As a Council, it is important that we support efforts to restrict the spread of the coronavirus. Even though many people have been vaccinated, they can still spread the disease and catch it.

When we run Committee meetings in person, we have to comply with the current guidance on holding meetings in the workplace. This requires us to keep attendees to only those who are necessary, have 2m social distancing between participants (or 1m+ with risk mitigation), and enact these types of protocols.

Why are we so restricted in the amount of people in committee meetings when indoor venues can now operate events with higher capacity?

The government has different guidance according to the type of events being held. The guidance related to holding workplace meetings recommends 2m distance between participants, or 1m+ with risk mitigation where 2m is not viable. This in turn restricts the capacity of venues.

What about public participation?

By law all meetings have to be “open to the public” and of course, we want to make our meetings as open and transparent as we can. We have to balance the requirement to be open to the public with government guidance and health and safety restrictions. We are therefore encouraging the public to register in advance, where possible, so that we have an idea of expected numbers, and to consider attending only for the specific item(s) of relevance to them rather than for the whole meeting.

Why are some meetings being held in person and some meetings virtually?

Our meetings work under different legal frameworks.

The High Court has decided that Council, and meetings of Council Committees (such as Planning Committee), must be held in a specific, geographic place and those attending the meeting must be physically present at that place. It has also ruled that any meetings which require public attendance must be in-person too. If we continued to meet virtually, any decisions we make could be legally challenged.

Meetings that do not make decisions and/or do not require public attendance can continue to operate virtually.

There is a specific exemption relating to premises hearings under the Licensing Act 2003: they can continue to meet virtually.