

## News from Huntingdonshire District Council – February 2020

### LITTER MINIMISATION PILOT

Huntingdonshire District Council has chosen St Neots as the first market town in the district to have recycling ‘on the go’ bins installed in the town centre, in a bid to support ongoing environmental project goals and the Council’s green agenda commitments.

The new bins – which aim to turn litter into recycling and ensuring litter ends up in the ‘correct’ bin comprise of containers for cans, plastic bottles and general waste.

Following a successful pilot, the Council aims to expand into other areas of the town.



Currently, no litter is recycled from on-street bins and it is estimated that 55-65% of litter within high street general waste bins is recyclable, so we hope to start capitalising on this great opportunity. By installing the additional bins across the town centre, this pilot will provide an increase of over 40% in waste and recycling capacity throughout the high street.

### CAR PARKING

The final phase of the car parking technology infrastructure and charges rollout is set to take place over the coming weeks, in St Ives, St Neots and Huntingdon. The car parks that remain and are included in this final phase of implementation are: Cattle Market Short & Long stay - St Ives, Waitrose - St Ives, Sainsbury’s & Multi-storey - Huntingdon, Waitrose - St Neots. The supermarket car parks within our District make up the final wave of car parks to be upgraded to the new technology, representing the final phase of the implementation that started in Summer 2019.

The work to implement the new technology, designed to provide greater choices of payment, increased flexibility and value for money for users, will begin on Wednesday 4th March. Following the successful implementation of this new technology, our car parks will have increased choice in method of payment and will give users the ‘Pay for What You Use’ flexibility that is now available in our car parks that were upgraded in 2019. Due to the simplification of the charging structure, car park users will now use the same tariffs across our car parks whether parking in Huntingdon, St Neots or St Ives.

## **FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND – ST NEOTS BID UPDATE**

The Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) bid for St Neots is one step closer to becoming a reality after the Council's Cabinet meeting on Thursday 13th February.

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) is building a comprehensive bid to Government for a share of the Future High Streets Fund, designed to enable the redevelopment of several strategically chosen areas of St Neots town centre and bring change through multiple different projects to strengthen the economy of St Neots, attracting visitors, residents and businesses, while retaining the features that make it a strong and vibrant market town.

HDC is leading on the bid, with active engagement with local partners and from the St Neots Master Plan Steering Group, to be considered for up to £25 million worth of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG).

The work included in the bid will build on development and improvement work that has previously taken place in the town, including location-focussed improvements such as the Priory Quarter and Market Square, and improvements to town centre infrastructure. This work supports the District Council's objectives to support economic growth in our market towns, to improve the quality of the environment and town infrastructure and continue our collaborative work with partners to secure resources and facilitate investment and improvements across our District. The next step for the FHSF bid will see the draft Business Plan submitted for review on 15th March 2020. The final Business Plan will be submitted on 30th June 2020 with an outcome expected from MHCLG in the late Summer / early Autumn 2020.

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Councillor Darren Tysoe

Representing Great Staughton Ward (Great Staughton, Perry, Grafham, Hail Weston and Ellington)

Huntingdonshire District Council

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