

## MINUTES OF ICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020 starting at 7.30pm. This meeting was held remotely using the software application Zoom.

Present: Cllr Sian Wombwell, Cllr Terry Sadler, Cllr Tim Pavelin, Cllr Liz Gibson, Cllr Simon Cheney, Cllr Hugh Molloy, Cllr Philly Hamilton, Cllr Edmund Heaney, Leanne Smith (Clerk)  
District & County Cllr Peter McDonald

**143/20-21 To Receive Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Katherine Denman-Johnson

**144/20-21 Councillors Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda & Requests for Dispensation**

Tim Pavelin – agenda item 155/20-21 i.

**145/20-21 Open Forum for Public Participation Including Youth Representation**

None.

**146/20-21 To approve minutes of meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Cllr Tim Pavelin noted that he disclosed an interest in agenda item 130/20-21 that was not recorded on the draft minutes. Cllr Wombwell added a note to the printed minutes to that effect. It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2020 with the addition as stated are approved and signed by the Chair.

**147/20-21 Matters Arising**

**i. Chapel window quote**

The Parish Council approved a quote for £5,591.70 at the November 2020 Parish Council meeting. However, on looking at the quote in further detail, some work has already been carried out and therefore a revised cost brings the total down to £4,434.00. Cambridge Stained Glass has confirmed that they will carry out work and invoice the Parish Council before the end of this financial year.

**ii. Village Hall Wi-Fi installation**

A Parish Councillor made contact with the Openreach engineer to discuss possible alternatives to the installation of a pole and concluded that a new pole was the best course of action. The Clerk has subsequently given written permission to Openreach for the pole to be installed.

**iii. Tree preservation order (TPO)**

The Clerk made further contact with the Tree Officer at South Cambs District Council (SCDC) relating to 8 Abbey Street, Ickleton. She stated that TPO's are largely used for trees outside of conservation areas that have no protection. Trees in conservation areas have a statutory level of protection in that notice of tree works needs to be given to SCDC planning. If planning objected to proposed tree works, they could put a TPO on it to protect it. They could also put a TPO on a tree in a conservation area that was for example threatened by development. If a tree in a conservation area was felled without notice, subsequent action would be taken at the same level as if it had a TPO in terms of financial penalties etc. Therefore, on this occasion as planning do not object to the proposed tree works and there are no other extenuating circumstances, there is no need for a TPO. A Councillor noted that this relies on parishioners knowing that Ickleton sits within a conservation area. Cllr Peter McDonald agreed to look into the matter further on behalf of the Parish Council.

**148/20-21 Traffic and Highways Issues**

**i. Speedwatch**

Speedwatch has not resumed to date and volunteers are waiting for further advice from Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

**ii. Local Highway Initiative (LHI) 2021-22 Coploe Road**

The LHI project feasibility summary has been received from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways. The total project budget required is £7,861.70 and the applicant contribution at 19.1 per cent of the cost is £1,500.00. The minimum contribution is 10 per cent. Cllr Sadler proposed, Cllr Wombwell seconded and it was resolved that a contribution of £1,500.00 at 19.1 per cent is made. The LHI panel will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 via Zoom.

**149/20-21 Rural Crime Report**

There have been further thefts of farm equipment in the area of Grange Road, Ickleton which have been reported to the police.

**150/20-21 Reports from County and District Councillors**

Report received ahead of the meeting from Cllr Peter McDonald. Appendix A refers.

Business grants:

£733,000 of grants were paid to 479 businesses by South Cambs District Council as of the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. 135 applications were rejected either because they were not eligible, incorrect or insufficient supporting documents, and not being able to demonstrate loss of income due to covid.

Community Warden Scheme:

Funding for the schemes for 2021-2024 has been announced by South Cambs District Council which sees an increase in the amount of funding available per year, up to £52,255 from £27,000 last year. Applications for funding need to be made by 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. ACTION – Clerk to liaise with Anita Gilchrist to ensure the application is made.

Covid-19:

Since the County wide test and trace service was launched on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 280 cases have been passed to the local service, with 83 per cent of cases completed. A Councillor asked if vaccine hubs would be set up at private hospitals in the area and Cllr McDonald answered that it is likely as they have the freezer facilities.

Cllr McDonald also spoke about a planning matter that was not in his report. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 Thakeham developers announced plans for a 25,000 home new development in south west Cambridge near to Barrington, Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth, Foxton, Meldreth, Orwell, Shepreth, Whaddon and Wimpole. Thakeham did not submit the proposals as part of the 'call for sites' initiated by South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council, which are working together on the next Local Plan for Greater Cambridge. Cllr McDonald has formed a campaign group to oppose the development along with other Councillors. A public information Zoom meeting will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2020.

**151/20-21 Correspondence Received**

**i. Hinxton Parish Council – Summary of their current position with regard to the Wellcome Genome Campus development submitted to Greater Cambridge Planning**

It was noted by the Parish Council that Wellcome have improved their offers in the 106 agreement but the general consensus was that it is still not satisfactory. They also noted that facilities available to the community are inadequate and that issues remain with housing covenants and governance.

**ii. Uttlesford District Council – First Consultation (Issues and Options) 2 Character and Heritage consultation**

The Parish Council will view and consider commenting on the document before the deadline on 21/4/21.

**iii. Telecoms box Coploe Road**

Correspondence received from a parishioner asking if the Parish Council would consider requesting the removal of a redundant telecoms box on Coploe Road. The Parish Council did not object to this request. ACTION - Clerk to contact Virgin Media.

**iv. South Cambs District Council (SCDC) – request to share information about parks and open spaces**

SCDC has been asked to collect information on behalf of the Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) Project in relation to the management and maintenance of parks and open spaces within the district and more specifically budgets and management responsibilities. Noted by the Parish Council who declined to share the information.

**v. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority - Draft Budget 2021/22 consultation**

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's Draft Budget for 2021/22 and medium-term financial plan was approved for consultation purposes at the Combined Authority Board meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The Combined Authority wants to hear the opinions of all residents, partner organisations, businesses and other interested parties as part of the budget setting. Noted by the Parish Council who declined to comment.

- vi. **Cambridgeshire County Council – This Land update**  
Correspondence received from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding This Land development company who are owned by Cambridgeshire County Council. Noted by the Parish Council, who were not aware of this arrangement until very recently.
- vii. **Age UK – Community warden scheme**  
The new Age UK Community Warden is Anita Gilchrist. She has begun making contact with key people and organisations in the parishes. The Clerk has had contact and is assisting with advertising the service.
- viii. **Community mental health first aid**  
The Clerk has been contacted by a resident of Ickleton who is trained in mental health first aid and is willing to be a first point of contact in the community. The Parish Council were pleased to receive the response but feel that it would be beneficial to first obtain further information about the implementation of a community mental health first aid service. ACTION – Clerk.
- 152/20-21 Planning Information**
- i. For consideration  
Reference: 20/04567/HFUL  
Proposal: Two storey side extension with integral single garage  
Site address: 27 Frogge Street, Ickleton, CB10 1SH  
Applicant: Mr Scott Wentzell  
The Parish Council supported a previous application that was refused by South Cambs District Council (SCDC) planning. It was noted that this application has addressed matters raised by SCDC planning in its previous refusal and the Parish Council were in support of this application.
- ii. Planning Decisions  
None.
- iii. Planning Appeals  
None.
- iv. Tree Works  
None.
- 153/20-21 Other planning matters**
- i. **Uttlesford District Council (UDC)**  
Planning application UTT/20/2724/OP - Land east of London Road, Little Chesterford, Essex.  
Outline application for the erection of up to 134 dwellings with all matters reserved except for access.  
Cllr Sadler submitted comments on behalf of the Parish Council stating that the Parish Council objects to the proposal and fully supports the comments and objections of Great Chesterford Parish Council submitted to UDC dated 18/11/20. Cllr Wombwell thanked Cllr Sadler for submitting comments on behalf of the Parish Council and pointed out that comments can also be made by Councillors as individuals.
- 154/20-21 Reports from Councillors**
- Cllr Pavelin:**  
Asked if the Parish council would consider the installation of verge posts on Abbey Street. Cllr Wombwell stated that building work is not yet complete and so it would be better considered into the new year. ACTION – Clerk to add to the March 2021 agenda.
- Cllr Hamilton:**  
Has noted flooding between Ickleton and Great Chesterford under the railway bridge, and between Ickleton and Hinxtton by the river. ACTION – Clerk to make contact with Hinxtton Parish Council to enquire about the maintenance of the river and sluice at Hinxtton Mill.
- Cllr Sadler:**  
Noted that the report to Highways about the flooding at the Cemetery corner on Brookhampton Street has been removed from the online map. It is unknown whether the work has been completed and therefore the report removed, or work has been scheduled and the report removed. He noted though that reports should remain if the work is scheduled and so still outstanding. ACTION – Cllr Sadler to make contact with Peter McDonald to ascertain.

He enquired as to whether Cllr Wombwell had attended the Greater Cambridge Local Plan workshop and she had not.

**Cllr Cheney:**

Has been successful in a further application for free trees which will arrive in March 2021. He proposed that they are used at the allotment again. The Parish Council were in agreement. ACTION – Cllr Cheney to discuss with the Allotment Society and obtain a quote from Dominic Pallett.

**Cllr Wombwell:**

The bench on Frogge Street has been removed and suggested that the empty plot is filled with a tree or bulbs. Cllr Cheney agreed to consider and feedback ideas to the Council.

**Cllr Molloy:**

Enquired as to when the shop plaque will be presented. Cllr Wombwell was able to say that arrangements had been made for the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. ACTION – Clerk to circulate the date and time and notify media outlets.

Noted that Back Lane is still in a poor state. Cllr Wombwell was able to say that she has visited the location again and provided flexible bollards to the builders who placed the blame elsewhere and therefore questioned their responsibility with regard to installing the bollards provided.

**Cllr Gibson:**

Gave her apologies for missing the last two Parish Council meetings.

To date she has not received a reply from the organisations who she reported the poor state of Brookhampton Hall to.

155/20-21

**Financial Matters**

**i. To Approve Payment of December 2020 Accounts:**

Clerk's salary (confidential)

Clerk's expenses – £59.00

Tim Pavelin (empty bins) – £60.00

Shaggy Dog (website maintenance) - £60.00

Essex Cares Ltd (Icene printing) - £124.00

Dominic Pallett (hedge clearing and planting) – £600.00

The following invoices were received after the publication of the agenda and were brought to the meeting for approval:

Bob Calladine (maintenance) - £250.00

Bob Calladine (maintenance) – 200.00

Red Shoes accounting (payroll) - £45.00

Cllr Cheney asked for an explanation of what the invoice to Shaggy Dog related to. The Clerk explained that the company had been paid for creating the website but had made additional compliance checks at the request of the Clerk.

It was resolved that the payments listed are made.

**ii. Bank reconciliation (bank accounts) 30/11/2020**

Unity Current Account - £25,338.80

Unity Instant Access Account - £25,088.12

Total - £50,426.92

It was resolved that the bank reconciliation for November 2020 is approved by the Parish Council.

**iii. To approve the 2021-22 budget**

The budget was presented to the Parish Council at the November 2020 meeting (140/20-21 vi. refers). The following amendments were made:

Chapel repairs - £750.00

Cambridge Stained Glass has confirmed that they will carry out work and invoice the Parish Council before the end of this financial year, therefore the budget for next year was reduced.

Highways - £1,500.00

The amount for the LHI 21-22 was decided at agenda item 148/20-21 ii.

Precept - £25,500.00

Proposed requirement for 2021-22.

It was resolved that the 2021-22 budget was approved.

**iv. To approve the 2021-22 precept requirement**

A meeting was held via Zoom on 30/11/2020 to discuss the precept requirement and the recommendation was to set the precept for 2021-22 at £25,500.00 This is a 2 per cent increase of £500.00 on last year. The Parish Council has spent money from reserves but still has a reasonable amount and there are no substantial projects requiring large sums of money anticipated. The Parish Council did not increase its requirement for the current financial year.

It was resolved that the 2021-22 precept requirement should be set at £25,500.00.

**v. Donation to Royston & District Community Transport**

Cllr Hamilton proposed, Cllr Hamilton seconded and it was resolved that a donation of £50.00 is made to Royston & District Community Transport.

**vi. Quote to install a litter bin on the recreation ground**

Quote received from Bob Calladine of £50.00 to install a litter bin on the recreation ground. It was resolved that the quote is accepted and work carried out.

**vii. Covid community grant**

It was resolved that a payment of £50.00 is made to a parishioner who qualifies for the grant.

**viii. Ickleton guide book printing quote**

The following quote was received for printing of the new Ickleton guide book:

2000 copies - £1,406.00

3000 copies – £1,678.00

4000 copies - £1,935.00

The Councillors had a lengthy discussion about how many copies should be printed and what percentage of the cost should be paid by the Parish Council. A vote was cast on 50 per cent of 2000 copies at £700.00 and the majority voted in favour.

It was noted by the Clerk that financial assistance cannot be made to churches but it was agreed that although produced by church members it is not a direct payment to the church, rather funding for a village booklet for the benefit of parishioners.

**156/20-21 Recreation Ground and Play Area**

**i. Play area bark**

Bark in the play area needs replenishing. Agreed in principle. ACTION – Clerk to look at previous quotes to ascertain the amount ordered and cost, and request a new quote.

**157/20-21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 7.30pm

*Any business and payments to be considered at the Parish Council Meeting must be delivered to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda at least 7 days prior to the meeting.*

The meeting closed at 10.35 pm

## Appendix A

### Report for Parish Councils – December 2020.

#### South Cambs District Council

Again this month I've now included other major items as well as C19.

#### Customer-facing businesses urged to join new South Cambridgeshire 'shop local' directory

The Council is urging all customer-facing businesses in South Cambridgeshire to submit details about safety measures they are taking to adapt during the pandemic – such as click and collect facilities, local deliveries, or new outdoor seating areas – to contribute to a directory that makes it easier for residents to support local businesses this Christmas.

A new Reopening the High Streets Safely team was established at the Council in the spring, thanks to European Regional Development Fund funding which was ring-fenced by the Government to support High Street businesses to safely reopen after the first lockdown.

Customer-facing businesses will this week be receiving festive posters and table talkers from the High Street team, which can be displayed to remind customers of the essential safety measures to prevent the spread of the disease – from ‘Hands, Face, Space’ to checking in using the NHS Test & Trace App. Any business which has not received these is invited to contact the team to request these, or for any other support around safely reopening: [Reopening@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Reopening@scambs.gov.uk)

### **Covid 19 Support for Business in Lockdown 2.**

As of Friday Dec 4th the business grants made were

- 479 paid to date in total (£) £733,000
- 377 RSG (main scheme) £550,000
- 85 Additional Restrictions (Discretionary) £135,000
- 16 Hardship £48,000
- 135 rejected (not eligible, incorrect or insufficient supporting docs uploaded, not being able to demonstrate loss of income due to covid – discretionary)
- Continued push on comms / social media and member engagement- I have posted on every village FB page.
- Awaiting further detail and guidance from Government on how we issue Tier 2 grants and Wet Pub grants – should have some clarity next week

### **Relaxation of Opening Hours**

South Cambridgeshire Councillors have responded to the Government’s temporary relaxation of retail opening hours to offer support to local businesses hoping to extend their opening hours during December and January. Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick suggested that some planning conditions – such as those which limit opening hours – could be eased to allow shops to open for longer on Mondays to Saturdays through to January.

Any South Cambridgeshire businesses considering extending their opening hours are urged to carefully consider the impact this may have on any neighbouring residents, and to seek guidance from the Council’s dedicated Reopening the High Street Safely team, if needed, about how to do this in a considerate way:  
[Reopening@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Reopening@scambs.gov.uk)

The High Street team was established at the Council in the spring, thanks to European Regional Development Fund funding which was ring-fenced by the Government to support High Street businesses to safely reopen after the first lockdown. The team has been supporting customer-facing businesses to reopen safely and reassuring residents about the Covid-secure measures put in place – and extending opening hours is another way that businesses could help to make Christmas shopping safer for customers.

Residents are also being asked to consider staggering their usual shopping times, where possible due to extended hours, to help spread the numbers of people in stores at any one time.

### **New Mobile/Community Warden Schemes**

Seven new Mobile/Community Warden schemes covering 20 villages in South Cambridgeshire have launched this month, with wardens visiting older people in their homes. Meanwhile, an increase in funding for the schemes for 2021-2024 has been announced by the Council.

In 2019/2020, over 300 South Cambridgeshire residents were helped with household tasks around the home by Mobile/Community Wardens, so that those who prefer to remain living independently can do so safely and happily. A regular visit from a warden might include lunch being made or delivered (think a Fish 'n' Chips treat for those who can't get to the chip shop themselves), forms being filled in, or shopping and prescriptions being delivered.

Seven new schemes

A number of new schemes are launching this month, partly thanks to South Cambridgeshire District Council's grant funding of £200,000 which was ring fenced to enable new schemes to be established. The Council committed to establishing three new schemes so that more residents from across the district would be able to access a warden scheme in their area, but seven have in fact been set up.

The seven new schemes cover 20 additional villages, building on the work of an existing 15 schemes already part funded by the Council, which cover a further 30 villages. The new schemes mean that almost half of the district can now access a Mobile or Community Warden.

Apply for funding for 2021-2024

Another change this year sees funding available for a three year period (2021-2024) instead of just one year, as well as an increase in the amount of funding available per year, up to £52,255 from £27,000 last year.

Mobile/Community Warden schemes are invited to bid for this funding now. The Council expects to be able to provide the same funding to the groups that regularly apply successfully, but encourages applicants to demonstrate how they would use any additional funding to enhance their offering, to be eligible for an increase in the funding they are awarded.

New or existing Mobile/Community Warden groups can apply to the scheme. The deadline to apply is 5pm, 29 January 2021.

## **Cambridgeshire County Report**

### **C19 Case Numbers Cambridgeshire Dec 3rd**

As I mentioned last month Country & District Launched the local Test & Trace programme and hopefully you all ad the new documentation to go with that.

Since the 19 November, when the countywide service launched, 280 cases have been passed to the local service, with an 83 per cent of cases completed.

### **Winter Support Package**

Councils pledge wide ranging winter support for more people than ever - Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils, working alongside other agencies and organisations, are planning to support many families and individuals whose lives have been made more difficult by the COVID pandemic this year.

They will provide Winter Support Packages to families to make sure that, not only no child goes hungry this year whether they are eligible for free school meals or in a range of other categories, but also that families and individuals who might struggle with other essential bills, such as utilities, can be supported.

The food support will come via a voucher sent to families automatically, using a system many schools are already using. Each eligible child will receive a £15 voucher for each week of the school holidays (two weeks at Christmas and one week in February).

Those eligible for the voucher will be those:

- Eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium
- Funded two year olds
- Eligible for Free School Meals (including those not currently on a school roll)
- Eligible for 16+ bursary

In addition to the Food Vouchers, the scheme is also available to support these same families and individuals with other immediate needs, including (but not limited to) other essential supplies and food, household energy and water bills, essential white goods such as fridges or cookers and boiler servicing and repairs.

Those eligible for this additional support will include:

- Households who receive income-related benefits
- Households facing financial hardship – who councils are aware of
- Families identified as ‘just about managing’ by schools
- Anyone with an Education, Health and Care Plan
- Care Leavers
- Young Carers
- People with ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ status – such as asylum seekers

### **Mobile Library Service Times and locations**

The mobile libraries service has re started stopping at 364 locations in 85 villages and communities throughout the county. It’s a great place for catching up with friends and colleagues whilst supporting a local community resource. We visit most locations once a month, for example the first Tuesday of the month. We will be visiting on the same times and days of the week as before. Find a mobile library stop.

Christmas schedule

Mobile Libraries will be off the road between Friday 25 December and Tuesday 5 January 2021.

- Routes on 25 December have been cancelled. The next visit will be on 22 January 2021.
- All routes on 1 January 2021 have been rearranged to Monday 4 January.

How to use the service

Access to the vehicle will be limited to help keep staff safe. We will be providing books selected in advance.

Reservation service

- You can pre-order books from the library catalogue using the reservation service. This service is currently free of charge.

Select and Collect service



- This allows you to request a collection of books based on your tastes. You can use the Select and Collect service online, or by calling 0345 045 5225. Simply choose the mobile library as a pick up point and order as far in advance as possible. This helps ensure that a selection is ready and issued for you to pick up from your stop. (Ideally place your request a week in advance - we will do our best with forms received after this.)

If you have any queries please email us at [mobilelibraries@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:mobilelibraries@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) . Please support your local library service delivered directly to your community.

- Each Mobile Library vehicle carries up to 3,000 items of stock including fiction, non fiction, large print, books on CD & cassette and books for children of all ages.
- You can request books/cassettes/CDs/DVDs. We have access to all the books in Cambridgeshire Libraries. You can also request books online to collect from the mobile Library on our next visit.
- Any books borrowed from the Mobile Library can be returned to any other Cambridgeshire Library and you can return books from other libraries to us, so no need to worry about missing your due date.
- You can renew and order books online, please ask onboard for your 'PIN' to get you started.
- Download the Spydus mobile app to keep track of your library account using your smart phone.
- Books are issued for 5 weeks and you can renew for up to three months.

### **This Land**

Here is a statement made by Cllr Mark Goldsack in relation to the County Council Company This Land.

“This Land – an update from Cambridgeshire County Council

This Land began trading during the summer of 2017 and is progressing operations in line with its business plan. It takes several years for a start-up development company to purchase land, take it through planning, build houses and sell them before returning a profit. House sales are now underway, in line with the business plan. This Land has never defaulted on any loans to Cambridgeshire County Council.

Amounts paid to Cambridgeshire County Council in interest are much more than £205k. Interest payments will continue to be made by This Land to CCC throughout the life of the loans as scheduled in the loan agreements.

An additional loan facility from Cambridgeshire County Council has been agreed; however, that does not mean that the entire facility will be utilised. Total lending today is below the £120m initial facility authorised in December 2017, and it was long-planned this would gradually rise to keep pace with construction spend across multiple sites in line with the business plan.

Independent legal advice was undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council when structuring the funding arrangements for the Company. Income derived from this investment is already helping Cambridgeshire County Council to support the delivery of frontline services to the most vulnerable people in the county.

The This Land Group accounts are calculated under IFRS accounting standards and have been fully audited by a reputable, top 10, firm of UK auditors. All interest payments, capital repayments and loan receipts have been made in line with This Land Group business plan.

November 25 2020”.

### **School Issues: Attendance – Autumn 2020**

	Cambridge City	East Cambs	Fenland	Hunts	South Cambs	Cambridgeshire	Peterborough
Primary Schools	95.4%	96%	91%	95%	95%	94%	89%
Secondary School	92.4%	90%	88%	93%	88%	90%	79%
Special School	60.0%	75.0%	86.0%	83.2%	75.3%	77%	81.2%
Pupils with an EHCP	77.8%	83.7%	85.5%	86.9%	83.2%	84.0%	84.8%
Pupils with a social worker	81.5%	85.2%	91.4%	89.8%	84.7%	82.5%	75.8%

## School Term

### Something non-Covid-19 – Term dates 2022 / 23



#### Proposal

- October half Term is extended from one week to two weeks.
- Easter holiday is shortened from two weeks to one OR the Summer Holiday is shortened by one week.

Consultation will commence next week and run until the end of January – 10 questions and we have considered some of the pro's / cons.

More details on next weeks update.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Help extended families spend time together without children missing school.	"The shape of the school year is not a straight horizontal line. It's an uphill climb, with the steepest gradient at the beginning. So taking a break longer than a week is like stopping on a ledge in the early stages of scaling Mount Everest".  There's still so far to go, and you risk losing momentum.
Give families more flexibility to go away outside the peak summer holiday period. School staff will be able to take advantage of cheaper travel and holiday prices.	An unnatural break just as students are getting to grips with new courses Lost learning up to exam time.
Schools may save on heating bills for an extra week – a real boon when their budgets are so stretched.	Poor weather.
Less children missing school as less holidays will be taken out of term time.	As more schools move to a two-week break – with its apparent advantages – the new fortnight holiday will become a time of high demand and high prices once more.
The shortening of the summer holidays and the two week autumn half term will break up what is otherwise a long autumn term	Many families can't afford a holiday away at any time of the year.
	Staycations are a much less attractive proposition in the last weeks of October.
	What about families with children educated in different Authorities with different October holiday dates.
	Younger children had only just settled in to school and got used to the routines of school.



Peter McDonald

Dec 6th 2020.