

## Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting – April 2022

I am pleased to inform the Parish Council that Spaldwick have been successful in their Local Highways Improvement Bid for 40mph Buffer Zones on the three main routes into the village.

The Demand Responsive Bus Service for West Huntingdonshire, known as Ting has done over 10,000 journeys since it commenced. It is a service for all residents. The cost of the service is £2 per trip and £4 return, it is free for all Bus Pass Holders. A Youth fare has been introduced for those under 19 the fare is £1.

Users of the service can pay by the app or by cash or card on the bus when you board. The bus is wheelchair friendly and the main points of interest for the service are St Neots Market Square, Huntingdon Bus station, Huntingdon & St Neots Train stations, Grafham Water, Hamerton Zoo, Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and Cambourne Morrisons.

The County Council is looking to implement 20mph zones across Cambridgeshire. Monies for these schemes should become available towards the end of the year. Once the County council asks for potential scheme's I will inform the council.

The County council has established a Ukraine Response Group which consists of representatives from the District and City Councils, Think Communities, Library services, Early Help, Education, Public Health.

The Group is meeting at least weekly to :-

Collate and review government data on arrivals

Co-ordinate the local response, including safeguarding and accommodation checks

Prepare welcome packs for arrivals which include signposting for immediate welfare needs

Discuss and address any emerging cohesion /welfare or local community support needs

Co-ordinate internal & external communications to ensure residents and staff are aware of what is happening and how they can support the work of services and community groups.

The Government is providing additional funds for Councils to provide education services for Children arriving from the Ukraine under the scheme

The allocation of funding per pupil for the three phases of education is:-

Early years ages 2-4 £3,000

Primary ages 5-11 £6,850

Secondary ages 11-18 £8,755

HDC have made an offer to the County Council to manage in the same way as we did for the Clinically Extremely vulnerable group during the pandemic ( the only District Council to do so in Cambs ) almost all the aspects of the process relating to Homes for Ukraine scheme. So far 25 Huntingdonshire Households have offered to accommodate Ukrainian refugees and HDC will support those households as well as undertaking mandatory DBS checks and home inspections. HDC will also be processing the monthly 'Thank You' payments and providing refugees with an initial sum of money to help with essentials.

With regard to the Governments £150 rebate for Energy Costs for anyone on Band D or lower , HDC will be administering this, if you pay by Direct Debit you will automatically get the rebate. If you pay by cheque or other means you will need to apply for it. This may affect older people so please encourage everyone who is eligible in the village to claim.

The Councils are in purdah due to the upcoming elections.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Spaldwick