

A14 ANNOUNCEMENT WELCOMED – NOW WE WANT ACTION

Councils have welcomed news that plans have been scrapped by Government to impose a toll on the A14 to help pay for the road's improvement. Government has said the decision will not delay the 2016 start and Councils will continue to work with the Department for Transport to make sure this vital project does not slip.

Organisations across Cambridgeshire came together to press the Government to put the scheme back on the agenda after it had previously been dropped for being too expensive.

But the partnership, led by Cambridgeshire County Council, argued the improved A14 would reduce accidents and support growth in the County which is good for the local and UK economy. The new improvements were to be paid for by the Government, a local contribution from authorities along the length of the road and through tolling.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "This is very good news. This vital scheme had been dropped and it was not until we and our partners put pressure on Government that it was put back on the agenda and is now moving forward. We have always been clear we did not accept the principle of tolling but were told by Government this was the only way it would be funded.

We with our partners have argued against this and it is good to see Government has listened. We now need these improvements to start on the ground and stop the regular accidents and traffic jams that plague this route which is vital to the local and UK economy."

"We have always been very clear that a major upgrade is needed and have worked hard with our partners to deliver the best deal for our residents. We never supported tolling to deliver the upgrade and the decision to scrap it shows we were correct to work with the Government and press them on behalf of our taxpayers. Being at the table has made the Government listen and now need to make sure the promised action in 2016 happens."

He said: "I am delighted that the proposal to make the A14 a toll road has been scrapped. It is right that the road should be financed by the Government, and not by the motorist, and we have worked hard to lobby Ministers on this issue. This decision will ensure that the road will do what it is intended to do – to take traffic away from the local roads throughout our district. This is welcome news. We will now be working with local partners to positively ensure that we can all make an appropriate contribution to the scheme, and will continue to campaign for the project to commence as soon as possible."

"The news that Government has committed to upgrading the A14 without tolling is welcome news for our area and the rest of the East. We have always said that upgrading the road is our number one infrastructure priority, and to receive the commitment that the road will be delivered without tolling is very welcome news. We now look forward to seeing the plans continue to move forward and work commencing on this much-needed upgrade."

KICK WINTER INTO TOUCH WITH OUR KEEP WARM TIPS

Council and NHS are reminding residents to keep warm as the county braces itself for the arrival of winter. During the winter months, some people may be more at risk of poorer health than others. In Cambridgeshire alone, there are around an additional 250 deaths linked to cold weather. Cold weather is a particular risk for the health of older more frail people, for those with heart and breathing difficulties or an on-going illness. Icy ground is a problem as it can lead to slips and falls that might cause broken bones. Local people should also keep an eye out for neighbours who they feel are at risk.

Here are five top tips to keep the home warm, to help manage bills and to stay healthy:

1. Heat the home well

Heat the home to the right temperature: the living room should be 21°C (70°F), and the bedroom and the rest of the house heated to 18°C (65°F). Above this and people may be wasting money; below this and there is a risk health. This will keep the home warm and may lower the bills

2. Get financial support

There are grants, benefits and sources of advice available to make the home more energy efficient, improve the heating or help with bills.

3. Eat well and have plenty of fluids

Food and water are vital sources of energy; they help keep a person's body warm. People should make sure they and their family have hot meals and drinks regularly throughout the day.

4. Get a flu jab

Certain groups can get a free flu jabs to protect against seasonal flu, including the over 65s, pregnant women, people with an on-going illness or if someone is the main carer of an elderly or disabled person

5. Look after yourself and others

On cold days try to avoid going outside. If a person does need to venture out, they need to wrap up warm and take care on slippery surfaces. Look out for an older neighbour or relative during this winter to make sure they are safe and well.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "I can't reiterate enough how important it for people who are vulnerable to heed the advice to keep warm and safe this winter. These simple tips can keep people healthy and can ultimately save lives too. Encouraging people to keep warm and healthy during the winter is one of our key priorities - particularly for frailer older residents. The five top tips show that there are simple measures to protect yourself and your family from winter-related illnesses and incidents. Winter brings more coughs, colds and flu so it is a good idea to be prepared and to make sure you have a supply of remedies at home to help care for you and your family over the winter period."

To find out more information, please call

*Cambridgeshire County Council on 0345 045 5202 from 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday, and from 9.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays.

Email referral.centreadults@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. In an emergency, outside office hours, phone 01733 234724. This service is available for anyone who is in danger and unable to protect themselves or those who cannot remain in the community without immediate intervention.

*Care Network on 01223 714 452

* Age UK on 01300 666 9860

MECHANICAL BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT PLANT

The Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant at AmeyCespa's Waterbeach site is once again processing all of the county's household waste. The plant began to process waste earlier this autumn, with the tonnage fed to the facility gradually increasing to ensure that it is operating as it should.

AmeyCespa, said: "We are happy to confirm that the MBT plant is once again processing black bag waste from homes across Cambridgeshire. Not only have we replaced the turning machinery which failed in 2012, but we have also taken the opportunity to make improvements to the mechanical treatment element of the plant. This allows us to further maximise the benefits from the county's household waste."

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "We are pleased that the MBT plant is now processing waste again. AmeyCespa have worked very hard with their contractors to carry out the significant work which has brought the facility back into operation. It is important to remember that throughout this time the authority and local council tax payers were protected from any additional costs incurred because of the breakdown due to the robust contract we have in place.

"The focus now is for us all to work together to further increase our recycling rates in Cambridgeshire. For while the MBT plant is one part of this effort - we all need to make sure we put more of our waste into our recycling wheelie bins. For while the MBT machinery was being fixed, every day hundreds of tonnes of recycling collected from kerbside continued to be recycled and the garden and food waste was being composted . Working with residents, local authorities and AmeyCespa, we have the ability to continue to reduce the amount we send to landfill - our challenge is to use the services we have in place to do this."

The Mechanical Biological Treatment plant is a key element of AmeyCespa's 28-year PFI contract with Cambridgeshire County Council. It processes waste put out in black bins/sacks across Cambridgeshire, using a range of technology to remove any recyclable materials before sending the remaining waste to biodegrade. This reduces the amount of household waste going to landfill by at least 50 per cent.

Residents are also reminded to continue to use their recycling and organic waste bin collections to maximise diversion from landfill and recycling. This includes the vast array of materials which can be collected from the kerbside such as glass, metal, plastic, paper and cardboard along with the separate collection for food and garden waste.

E-BOOKS UPGRADE FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE LIBRARIES

Cambridgeshire Library users will notice some improvements to the eBook service next time they use it. A recent upgrade has given a new look and feel to the eBook service search facility and navigation - making it much easier to use. There's now quick catalogue access meaning customers do not need to login to browse titles and the option to preview a title before downloading it. Customers can also create a wish list of favourite titles and access a link to Project Gutenberg which offers over 40,000 free eBooks to download.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said "Many of these improvements have been the result of customer feedback - and we'd really encourage our library users to keep providing their comments. The eBook service is free to use if you are a library member and you can download eBooks onto your computer, eBook reader, tablet or smartphone."

More information can be found at

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/libraries<<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/libraries>>

CONSULTATION LAUNCHED ON RESHAPING OF CHILDREN'S CENTRES

A consultation was launched last month on plans to change the way services are delivered from Children's Centres across Cambridgeshire. Cambridgeshire County Council currently funds 40 individual Children's Centres throughout the county. The proposal is to move instead to a 'cluster' based arrangement, whereby each cluster would collectively provide a range of services previously provided by each individual Centre.

Each cluster would have a wider area of reach than the current Centres achieve at the moment. Each would form one larger hub, rather than each building being classed as a separate entity. The plan is that the hub centres should be in the areas of highest need, and where a high proportion of families can be reached from a single central point.

The proposals will result in savings of £1.5m in 2014-15 and will have an impact on service delivery. However the savings will also provide opportunities to create a more fully integrated early years service across a broader partnership. Opening hours will be reduced, but the proposals will enable the buildings to be used more flexibly.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "The work of Children's Centres is highly valued and they play an important part in our offer to families. Although the proposed savings will undoubtedly have an impact on what is provided, the changes also create opportunities while still providing essential services to those families most in need. This is an opportunity for us to talk to staff and partner organisations about how we can redesign the service within a reduced budget. I would urge as many people as possible to give us their views."

Details of the consultation can be found here:

<http://www.cambridgeshirechildrenscentres.org.uk/>

10 YEARS ON: TOO MANY DRIVERS STILL USE PHONES ILLEGALLY

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership are urging drivers not to use their phones while driving, with this Sunday (1st December) marking ten years since the introduction of a fixed penalty ticket for drivers using a hand-held phone. Since the introduction of the £30 fixed penalty ticket in 2003, the penalties have been increased twice: First, in 2007, to include 3 points and a £60 fine, followed by the fine rising to £100 earlier this year.

Each change in legislation has seen a dip in the number of people observed using their phones, but this has gradually crept up to similar levels over a three-year period. Figures from the Department for Transport show that that 2.9% of car drivers and 5.0% of van and lorry drivers were observed using a mobile phone while driving in 2009. A recent survey also conducted by the Department for Transport indicated that four in ten motorists knew people who practiced dangerous driving behaviours with mobile phones: 39% using mobile without hands free and 38% texting whilst driving.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "It is worrying how many people still think it is acceptable to use a mobile phone whilst driving. Research shows that drivers are four times more likely to crash if they are using a mobile phone with this risk increasing further if the driver is texting or emailing using a smartphone. It is also evident that people who drive for work are more likely to be observed using their phones while driving so we would urge employers to ensure their health and safety policies relating to traveling for work address the issue clearly to reduce the risk to their staff as low as reasonably practicable."

Last year 2,535 drivers across Cambridgeshire were issued with the £60 fixed penalty notice and three points on their licence.

IMPROVEMENTS FOR CYCLISTS IN SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Residents and commuters in South Cambridgeshire will be reaping the benefits of the County Council's success in winning £4.1 million from the government's Cycle City Ambition Fund next year. Plans are underway for three new cycle links to business parks in South Cambridgeshire providing better access to employment and training, and a boost to the local economies:

- 1.6km from Boxworth End, Swavesey to Buckingham Business Park and over the A14 to Cambridge Services.
- 2.5km alongside the A1307 between Wandlebury Country Park and the Babraham Research Campus, creating a continuous cycle link to the Park and Ride site and into Cambridge.
- 2.7km path along the A505 to provide a continuous link from Whittlesford Station to Granta Park.

Where possible, all the new cycleways will be 2.5m wide, shared-use for two-way cycling and walking, and separated from the road by a 1m wide grass verge. The Swavesey path will be available for horse riders as it links to bridleways in the area. The total cost of the schemes is £1.7 million. Construction work is due to begin on the first of the paths in February and all three are expected to be completed by early summer.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "The focus of the Cycle City Ambition Fund is to create good quality cycle links to employment areas in South Cambridgeshire and provide segregated lanes on the main roads into the city of Cambridge itself. Better transport links are vital in helping Cambridgeshire become a greener, healthier place to live, boosting our economy and reducing congestion. It's great to see our ambitions as a county being recognised in this way by central government and to see local people and businesses benefit."

The council has been working closely with businesses in delivering these schemes. Indeed the Babraham Research Campus is contributing £200,000 to the project as part of a larger investment from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) to deliver innovation from the research base, generate economic growth and create jobs.

For more information on any of the schemes and how to comment, visit the Council's website: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cycling

DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS SET OUT TOUGH TIMES AHEAD

The draft report warns that there are no easy solutions to meet the savings and that some services will need to be cut or reduced as the Council has already saved £74 million in the last two years. It suggests that the Council sticks to its already agreed plan and, like other authorities across the country, increases Council Tax by 1.99 per cent to help protect frontline services.

Cambridgeshire is one of the hardest hit authorities in the country and has had a reduction in the Government's Settlement Funding Assessment of 20.9 per cent (£29.9m) over the next two financial years. The County is also the lowest funded for education in the UK despite having the fastest growing population. This means the Council is seeing more and more demands on its services - especially for those who are the most vulnerable - as more people need them or are living longer and require more expensive care services. Increased population puts a £9 million strain on the Council's budget.

Cambridgeshire County Council is expected to make savings over the next year (2014/2015) of around £37 million.

This is following savings of £42 million last year (2012/2013), and a further £32 million this current financial year (2013/2014).

In the You Choose public survey residents were given the chance to set their priorities and where they would make savings. Residents answering the questions online suggested on average a rise in Council Tax of 5 per cent while those who took part face to face suggested a 17 per cent rise. The survey showed people wanted to see fewer cuts in children and adult social care as well as transport, including highway maintenance and public transport. But people also said if savings had to be made they would look to make deeper cuts in areas such as libraries and corporate services. They also suggested the Council go further in sharing more services and increase income from disposing of property. The initial proposals reflect the You Choose findings with suggestions that the £90 million investment in highway and transport continues as well as the Cambridgeshire Future Transport investment. The capital spend to provide much needed school places will be maintained as well as investment in transport projects such as Cambridge Science Park station, Ely bypass and improvements to the Kings Dyke rail crossing.

The Council will continue to look at sharing assets and buildings with other public bodies as it has been doing successfully through the Making Assets Count programme. The Council will also be making it even easier for residents and businesses to access services online which is easier for many and reduces costs to the public purse. Savings will continue to be made in Corporate Services and shared services with LGSS with a total of £4 million expected to be saved.

The Council has continued to look to drive out efficiencies, further significant savings are expected from Home to School transport contracts for example. Additionally, work to prevent the escalation of needs is continuing with savings planned from reducing the number of children that need to be looked after by the Council and the number of vulnerable adults we support through intervening early and effectively. However, the financial challenges are such that reductions in services and support are unavoidable.

Adult Social Care will continue to target support for the most vulnerable but will look at reducing the demand for services, working more with communities and a reduction in the support offered to some service users. In Children's Services focus will be put on more targeted work. There will also be a reconfiguration of Children's Centres and an overall reduction in the services they provide. The Council's funding for supporting Early Years settings and providers will also be reduced.

In Economy, Transport and Environment there will also be reductions in some services and where appropriate investigations will be carried out into looking at income streams on a user pays basis. Investment will continue in Cambridgeshire Future Transport to provide targeted public transport but consideration is being given to scaling back some services, such as winter maintenance. Public health funding still remains ringfenced by Government but will be using feedback from You Choose and evidence to make sure services are targeted.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "This is a very tough time for Councils and especially Cambridgeshire. We are one of the hardest hit authorities in the country in terms of funding and yet we are trying to deliver the most growth. We have already saved tens of millions of pounds by making savings where people would expect as well as using reserves. But we are also being innovative with such projects as sharing services with other councils through LGSS as well as being a UK leader in better use of public sector buildings with our partners. However, the scale of savings we now need to make means we have to make tough decisions and inevitably some regrettable cuts to frontline services. But these cuts are necessary so that we can continue to make sure we protect the most vulnerable while supporting the local economy and jobs."

TOP MARKS FOR COUNTY COUNCIL HOME IN CAMBRIDGE

A residential and respite care home for adults with learning disabilities has been given top marks after a visit by Government inspectors. The home at Russell Street, Cambridge, recently underwent a routine inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and was found to be performing well in all aspects of the inspection.

The house provides residential care and respite support for up to eight people who were interviewed as part of the inspection process. Inspectors also spoke to staff working at Russell Street. The CQC report notes that service users were positive and complimentary about the support they received. Inspectors commented that 'there was laughter and friendly banter between staff and people living in the home.'

CQC looked at all aspects of the work of the home, including measures to ensure service users were kept safe and supported in a way which reflected their individual needs and they were protected from abuse with respect to their human rights. The quality and accessibility of the building, staff training, supervision and management practice and processes were also checked.

BE PREPARED - ARE YOU AND YOUR VEHICLE READY FOR WINTER?

With the arrival of the first cold spell of the winter, Cambridgeshire County Council's Road Safety Team is urging road users to check they, and their vehicles are ready for winter.

Drivers should make sure that their vehicle is ready for winter.

Using the POWDERY checklist is a good reminder:

PETROL (or diesel). Have you got enough? Do you know where to fill up?

OIL - check levels once a month

WATER - check radiator and screen wash regularly

DAMAGE - check wipers, lights etc for signs of wear and tear or damage, and make sure windscreens, windows and lights are clear of ice and snow.

ELECTRICS - check lights, indicators and controls are working properly

RUBBER TYRES - are they well inflated, legal, with good tread and free from damage?

YOU - are you fit to drive? Have you slept well? Are you taking any medication that could make it unsafe for you to drive?

It's also a good idea to put the following items in the vehicle at the beginning of the winter season so they are at hand if and when they are needed.

- * Ice scraper and de-icer
- * Warm clothes and blankets - for you and all passengers
- * Torch and spare batteries - or a wind-up torch
- * Boots
- * First aid kit
- * Jump leads
- * A shovel
- * Road atlas
- * Sunglasses (the glare off winter sun can be dazzling)

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "When making journeys during periods of cold weather it is important that all road users adjust to the conditions. While the County Council makes every effort to ensure major routes are clear of snow and ice through our gritting programme, even treated routes will not have the same grip as dry roads in the summer and drivers should ensure they are ready for any eventuality, such as poor driving conditions or breakdowns."

GET THE MESSAGE – GET TESTED EARLY

One in five people in the UK with HIV are unaware they have the infection according to a report. The report by Public Health England comes at the start of National HIV Testing Week, which encourages people who might be at risk from HIV to get tested early.

According to the report, in 2012 some 98,400 people across the UK were living with HIV and 21,900 were unaware of their infection. There were 6,360 new HIV diagnoses in the same year, a slight increase from 6,222 on the previous year. Around half of these newly diagnosed people were identified late. In Cambridgeshire, there are 460 people living with HIV.

People living with HIV can expect a near normal life span and better results from treatment if they are diagnosed promptly. Those diagnosed late however have a ten-fold increased risk of death in the first year after being tested as having HIV. Early diagnosis and treatment is also important as it reduces the risk of the infection being passed to others.

Anyone who lives in Cambridgeshire can get a free, fast, confidential HIV test by visiting their GP or sexual health clinics. There is no need for lengthy discussion about the test, it just involves having a simple blood test.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "I fully support the National HIV Testing Week campaign. AIDS can have a massive impact on the length and quality of life if it goes unidentified and untreated. It's vital the message around testing early for HIV is spread far and wide. The public, clinicians, commissioners and community leaders need to work together to ensure that this message is heard by all those who are at risk of HIV."

COUNCIL HELPS PUT SMALL BUSINESSES ON LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

Steps taken to help smaller businesses compete equally with larger ones for Council contracts of up to £100,000 have been endorsed by the Federation of Small Businesses. The move is part of Cambridgeshire County Council's drive to boost the local economy by ensuring smaller and local businesses have more opportunities to win contracts.

Unlike larger businesses, smaller enterprises often don't have the resources and in house expertise to complete bids for large contracts. Over the last year the Council has reduced the threshold for advertising contracts from £20,000 to £10,000. This means more contracts of a lower value are being advertised on the Source Cambridgeshire site which are likely to be appealing to smaller and local businesses.

The Council now only goes to tender for contracts worth over £100,000 in total value, meaning that for contracts of a lower value, the more resource friendly quoting process is used. The Council also require that at least one local quote should always be obtained when procuring under £100,000.

The changes being made are so that unnecessary barriers are removed to make it easier for small businesses to compete for contracts.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "The County Council is committed to helping and supporting business to boost our economy. The Council contracts for many services and products so it is right that not only we get best value but small businesses have an equal chance of competing for this work. We have worked closely with the Federation of Small Business and other organisations to improve the way we do things to make it easier for companies to bid for contracts. This is part of the County Council's priority of making sure the money we spend goes further and helps the wider community."

CRACK DOWN ON SELFISH DRIVERS WHO BLOCK BUS LANES

Councillors are set to discuss plans to crack down on inconsiderate drivers who break the law by blocking bus lanes, stopping emergency services and risking the safety of cyclists. Encouraging people to use public transport and cycling is an important element in reducing congestion and helping people move around the County. Last year Cambridgeshire saw around 19 million bus trips - the majority of these trips are in and around Cambridge.

Without the free flow of public transport and cycling then it is clear the City would become gridlocked with the weight of traffic in the narrow historic streets. A survey of just three bus lanes in Cambridge discovered they were being misused up to 150 times an hour in peak periods - equating to at least 600,000 a year.

Bus lanes are to be used by authorised vehicles only, including buses, taxis, emergency services and cyclists. Keeping them clear is essential to reducing congestion, helping the emergency services and protecting cyclists.

Like other authorities across the country, use cameras to enforce contravention of bus lanes. Any money raised by the fines would be used to pay for the scheme to operate or be invested in public transport or highway improvements.

Evidence collected in Cambridgeshire has demonstrated significant levels of contravention of certain bus lanes. Enforcement powers have been taken up by 28 other authorities in the country. A Transport for London Study has shown that routine enforcement of bus lanes can result in a 15% reduction in delays to buses as a result of an 85% improvement in compliance levels.

Cambridgeshire County Council has been awarded funding by the Department for Transport, through the Better Bus Area Fund, to implement the proposed enforcement.

Andy Campbell, Managing Director of Stagecoach East, said: "our customers and drivers are regularly frustrated at being held up by motorists in bus lanes who think that the rules don't apply to them. This is also a safety concern for our drivers, who have experienced some very erratic and selfish driving from those using bus lanes. We are confident that the proposed enforcement would bring about real improvements to our services."

Graham Stagg, Chief Fire Officer at Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "It is imperative bus lanes in our county are kept clear and accessible for emergency vehicles and we support initiatives that help to do this.

"Fire engines are large vehicles and in congested places like Cambridge city centre, can often find it difficult to pass along roads when attending an emergency. Having a scheme to promote the clear passage of bus lanes would assist our crews greatly in getting to incidents as quickly and safely as possible, and therefore, will help to make Cambridgeshire a safer place."

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "Bus Lanes are there for a reason. Blocking bus lanes is inconsiderate and annoying for the vast majority of law abiding drivers who use the road. But more importantly it is breaking the law, increases congestion and puts lives at risk. Keeping bus lanes clear means public transport can work and reduce congestion and pollution. The lanes are also used by emergency services and cyclists. The survey shows clearly that a minority of drivers are ignoring the law. We know from other Councils across the country that enforcement helps improve bus times and reduce congestion. The enforcement will be done on a common sense basis where officers will look at the footage of any suspected offence before issuing a fine."

SLAM THE DOOR ON ROGUE TRADERS

A new campaign has been launched to encourage residents in South Cambridgeshire to slam the door on rogue traders who have been operating in the district. Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire Police have joined forces to highlight the work of the criminal gangs who target homes in the villages - particularly focussing in on the older or more vulnerable members of the community.

The doorstep conmen are estimated to have cost householders in the district around £1 million in the last year alone. As a first step to halt the work of the criminals, Council and police officers have been working together to raise awareness of their activities and South Cambridgeshire District Council's residents' magazine will include stickers which people can put by their front door to alert callers that they do not buy goods or services on the doorstep.

A similar campaign in Surrey has proved very successful with 90% of people reporting a reduction in cold callers. Typically cold callers target vulnerable householders asking if the owners want some improvement work carried out, such as fixing or cleaning roof tiles, resurfacing a driveway or felling trees. A verbal estimate is given but when the work is completed the price will rise and the resident is pressurised into paying a very high price for sub-standard work.

Local County Councillor John Reynolds, said: "This kind of criminal is ruthless and deliberately targets the most vulnerable members of our society who they know they can con or intimidate into paying often extortionate amounts for work which is always sub-standard at best. The cornerstone of the new campaign is a sticker which is being delivered with the household magazine which sends a clear message to the cold callers that they are not welcome at this address. The magazine will be delivered during the last week of November and first week of December.

Cllr Ray Manning, Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council, said: "Rogue traders can devastate people's lives and with a high proportion of elderly residents in the district this a campaign we are fully behind. Please look out for the stickers in the next residents' magazine and if you who know or care for vulnerable people please talk to them about it and report any concerns to Trading Standards or the police."

A recent Trading Standards and Police operation resulted in five rogue traders being sentenced to a total of more than 28 years in prison and the gang was also ordered to pay back £250,000 to their victims.

The men, who preyed on elderly and vulnerable people in South Cambridgeshire and beyond, ripped off over one hundred customers, some of whom handed over their life savings.

Anyone who suspects a rogue trader has or is operating in their area should contact Crimestoppers at www.crimestopprs-uk.org or on 0800 555 111, call the police or notify the Citizens Advice Consumer helpline on 08454 040 506.

County Report December 2013.

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