

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Comprising Barton, Coton, Comberton, Grantchester, Harlton,
Harston, Haslingfield, Hauxton, and South Trumpington

District Councillors' Monthly Report – July 2022

District Councillor Contact Details

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East West Rail Face-to-Face Engagement (same as in June report)

East West Rail are organising face-to-face engagement sessions in July. They state: "While we won't have any new information to share at these events – as we are still reviewing the responses received during the 2021 consultation and considering how the feedback is used to inform plans for the railway – they will provide an opportunity for us to engage with communities outside the formal consultation process". Local dates are:

- Haslingfield: Tuesday 19 July, 2-8pm, Haslingfield Village Hall, CB23 1JP
- Cambourne: Wednesday 20 July, 2-8pm, The Cambridge Belfry, Cambourne, CB23 6BW

Greater Cambridgeshire Greenways (updated since June report)

Public engagement will be held in the summer for Comberton and Haslingfield Greenways, and in the autumn for Barton Greenway to share and discuss the latest designs.

Upcoming dates are:

- Comberton online event: Wednesday 20 July, 6-8 pm (registration required; https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3QXDU69ISjOy6sjA6MDtqw)
- Haslingfield Village Hall: Tuesday 12 July, 2-7 pm
- Grantchester Village Hall (on Haslingfield Greenway): Tuesday 12 July 10-12 pm
- Haslingfield online event: Monday 18 July, 6-8 pm (registration required; https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FKQXr0E1S_mGi1n14ygMxg)

An online survey on the Comberton Greenway will run from Monday 4th July to Friday 29th July and an online survey on the Haslingfield Greenway will run from Monday 11th July to Friday 5th August.

All Greenways are currently planned to be completed by 2025.

Household support fund for older residents

In March, the Government announced that councils would receive funding to continue operating the Household Support Fund because of the rising costs of living. Cambridgeshire has been allocated £3.58million, of which £1.2m will be used to support households that include a person born before 30 September 1956 and are experiencing financial hardship. Funding is available via the Council and Age UK to provide financial support within a few days, and help people find longer-term support if needed. To apply call Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on 01223 221929 or visit <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund>

Funding will also be used to continue providing food vouchers for eligible families with children and the Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme which provides a safety net to individuals and families facing unexpected financial difficulties and hardship.

SCDC support for Ukraine

As of 17 June, 476 Ukrainian guests have been welcomed to South Cambridgeshire across 67 parishes. To support the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, SCDC Officers have made 138 welfare visits and 445 DBS checks.

Free bus travel for guests update

When SCDC are informed about a guest's arrival, they are now provided with tickets for 10 days of unlimited bus travel in the Stagecoach Cambridgeshire zone (10 separate tickets that can be used on any day they choose). The tickets will be sent alongside their arrival payment. The aim is to encourage guests to get out and about, whether it's to get to know the area, to seek help and advice, or to look for work. All existing guests should have received their tickets in the post by Friday 1 July. If this is not the case, please email: ukrainepayments@scamb.gov.uk.

Bicycles update

We continue to take part in an initiative to offer free bicycles to Homes for Ukraine guests, by teaming-up with two local charities: Owl Bikes (part of the Papworth Trust) and Camtrust. Demand has been high, so please bear with us if you/your guests have applied. Residents who may have a bicycle that is no longer needed are being encouraged to offer it to OWL Bikes or Camtrust as part of the initiative – so the cycles can be refurbished and passed to guests from Ukraine.

Cycling support/training

The CTC Cambridge cycling club are starting a scheme whereby experienced riders within the group can buddy up with Ukrainian guests, to help them become more familiar with the area and its roads and cycleways and to make the most of their new bikes. Email secretary@ctccambridge.org.uk if your guests would like to take up this offer.

Via Cycling UK, there is also the offer of a free 12-month digital-only Cycling UK membership to Ukrainian refugees. The offer is currently only available to Ukrainian refugees referred by Cycling UK member groups – such as CTC Cambridge. You can email membership@cyclingsuk.org or call 01483 238 301 if you have questions.

Outspoken training is delivering free Bikeability training sessions for guests who have received a free bike or bike loan via the free bicycles scheme. The training will be held at Lammas Land (CB3 9EY) and Coleridge Recreation Ground (CB1 3PR), with four levels offered: Children's level 1 for children aged 7+ to learn control of their bikes off-road; Children's level 2 for children aged 9+ to learn about on-road cycling; Adult return to cycling; and Adult residential riders. Course dates are between Friday 22nd July and Saturday 27th August. Please visit the Outspoken bookings page to find the times and book: <https://outspokenbookings.co.uk/PublicBooking/ReserveAndPay/6bea91c1-d346-47bc-9be5-08da5da2999d>.

Grants for activities and education

Financial help is being offered to Ukrainian families to help them integrate into British community life thanks to a new grant scheme launched this week by SCDC. Up to £300 per project is offered for a wide range of events to help reduce social isolation and encourage families to feel involved in their local community. A total of £20,000 is open for applicants until the end of the 2022/23 financial year funded by central government. Project ideas include buying books for English language classes, ingredients to fund a cookery day, venue hire or travel costs to take Ukrainian guests on a trip to Cambridge to see the sights.

Parish councils, community groups, informal groups or individual hosts can apply. Applications will be assessed weekly. Criteria, guidance and an application form can be found here: <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-small-grants-application-form-and-information/>. If you have any questions about these grants, please email ukraine.grants@scamb.gov.uk

Cambridge University Botanic Garden free pass scheme

The Cambridge University Botanic Garden is generously providing free admission to the Botanic Garden for Ukrainian refugees. Their goal is to welcome Ukrainian refugees to the Garden, give them access to a beautiful green space in Cambridge, and show them what the Garden has to offer as an educational and leisure facility in the city.

Free tickets will be offered for those over the age of 16 (children 16 and under are already admitted free of charge). Host families will need to pay the standard garden admission fee.

The tickets will be offered (one per person) from the week commencing 11th July and guests will soon be able to register their interest in receiving an admission ticket by filling out an application form. Tickets will be distributed weekly via post; more information will be available soon.

Jobs fair

Jobcentre Plus in Cambridgeshire will be holding a jobs fair for Ukrainian jobseekers. This will take place at the Cambridge Job Centre, Henry Giles House, 73 - 79 Chesterton Rd, Cambridge, CB4 3BQ on Wednesday 27 July 2022 from 10am to 1pm. There are so far around 20 employers confirmed as attending, including Asda, Aspire, Atlas Hotels, Cambridge Network, EACH, Hain Daniels, Hilton, Hotel Du Vin, Murray Edwards College, Office Angels, Select Recruitment, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Teka Services, Compass Group, Nat West Enterprise, Office Angels and St Catherine's College. Hosts are welcome to attend with their guests. For more information, please email

Dawn.Bere@dwp.gov.uk

Additionally, if guests have questions around seeking a job, please email Dawn.Bere@dwp.gov.uk who will be able to help advise on matters such as setting up a national insurance number, obtaining proof of right to work and signing up for Universal Credit. Dawn can assist with these elements and can have translation services on standby.

Host workshops

The Association for Family Therapy (AFT; <https://www.aft.org.uk/>) will be holding a virtual session for hosts via Zoom on Friday 15 July from 6pm to 8pm. It will cover areas such as boundaries and house rules, negotiating difficulties presented by differences of culture, language, and family life; balancing children's needs and different parenting methods, talking about difficult issues, understanding, and managing distress and trauma, and when and how to seek help. To register for the event, please email duty.communities@scamb.gov.uk with 'AFT virtual event' as the subject. Within the email, please include the names of the adults (18+) who will be attending, your address and the names of the Ukrainian guests staying with you. Spaces are limited so, if you want to attend, please don't delay in registering your attendance.

Host get together

We are hosting a session for Ukrainian hosts from 6pm to 8pm on Tuesday 12 July at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne CB23 6EA.

This is a free drop in event for Ukrainian hosts to network, have a bite to eat and find out more on the support (for both hosts and guests) that is available locally. We are finalising the agenda so will provide more details on this event soon.

If you would like to attend, please register indicating the number of people who will be coming: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ukraine-host-workshop-tickets-374594280577>.

SCDC Finalist in Climate Award

SCDC's work to tackle climate change locally has been highlighted at a prestigious national awards ceremony. The Council's *Green to our Core* programme was shortlisted for a Municipal Journal (MJ) Achievement Award in the Leadership in Responding to the Climate Emergency category.

The Council was represented at the MJ Awards ceremony on Friday 24 June, running alongside Cheshire West and Chester Council, Essex County Council, Manchester City Council, London Borough of Enfield and London Borough of Waltham Forest and Wokingham Borough Council. London Borough of Enfield and London Borough Waltham Forest, supported by London Councils won the award with Wokingham Borough Council receiving highly commended.

The MJ Achievement awards ceremony is a significant annual event within the public sector. It is an opportunity for local councils across the country and their staff to be recognised for their achievements and delivery of their services over the last year.

The Council's climate emergency response not only shapes how the Council manages their estate and operations, but also influences wider changes across the district. The Council's nomination showed their clear plan for reducing emissions and reaching net-zero through their *Green to Our Core* programme. Included in this were:

- Adopting the Zero Carbon Strategy in May 2020, which sets out the approach to cutting the Council's CO2 emissions and supporting the district to reach net zero by, or before, 2050.
- Changing their approach to developing a new Greater Cambridge Local Plan, putting climate and biodiversity at the forefront whilst ensuring that future residents will experience place and wellbeing benefits from this. The preferred development strategy set out in the Plan's First Proposals will require all new homes and non-residential buildings to be Net Zero for the energy used and located and designed to promote sustainable travel.
- Changing the contract regulations section of their Constitution so that Council contracts exceeding a value of £5,000 must monitor their carbon emissions and submit their plans to achieve net zero emissions for their own organisation and in their supply chain.
- Becoming one of the first councils in the UK to adopt a fully electric bin lorry, with the intention of replacing the entire waste collection fleet with electric vehicles or alternative fuels.
- Awarding £314,415 to 51 projects through the Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme over three rounds of funding.
- Reducing carbon emissions from business mileage, by upgrading IT systems to enable colleagues to work flexibly and remotely from the location which suited them.

Summer Holiday Activities and Food programme: Ukrainian guests eligible

Cambridgeshire County Council are running a summer holiday activities and food (HAF) programme, which is funded by the Department for Education. They have nearly 3,000 free holiday **scheme** places available with over 130 providers across the county. Families in receipt of income-related free school meals can access up to 64 hours of provision per child and each will receive a meal as well. They have also opened their eligibility to Ukrainian and other refugee families. Further details about the programme can be found here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>. There is also a Parent Summer Poster which outlines what is on offer here: <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/asset-library/Summer-HAF-Poster.pdf>.

Please email HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk if you have any questions.

Frontline service success thanks to local residents and businesses

SCDC was named second from top collecting authority in England for council tax, at 99.2% council tax and 99% business rates collection, with much praise for everyone in the district for their support of public services, especially with the Covid pandemic and the rising cost of living. Being able to collect such a high proportion of the Council Tax and Business Rates due means local services benefit, which ultimately benefits everyone in the community.

SCDC collects council tax from residents and businesses before passing on most of it to several frontline local services including Cambridgeshire Police, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, Cambridgeshire County Council and Parish/Town Councils. Only around 9% of the public's council tax bill goes towards the District Council's services. Income from Non-Domestic rates is shared between Central Government, County Councils, District Councils and Fire Authorities, with the District Councils retaining 40%.

Current consultations

A New Road Classification for Cambridge Consultation

- <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/city-access/road-classification-consultation>
- The closing date is midday on Monday 18 July 2022.

Local Transport & Connectivity Plan (Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority)

- <https://yourltcp.co.uk/>
- Drop-in event: Sawston, Spicers Pavilion, July 14, 2-7pm
- The closing date is Thursday 4 August 2022.
- This plan sets the policy framework for the development, assessment, design, and implementation of transport interventions across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Note: The current draft supports the delivery of EWR (<https://yourltcp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Draft-LTCP.pdf>, pg. 85-87)