

## South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

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

### District Councillors' Monthly Report – August 2022

#### District Councillor Contact Details

Michael Atkins:	<a href="mailto:Cllr.Atkins@scambs.gov.uk">Cllr.Atkins@scambs.gov.uk</a>	07968264637
Ariel Cahn:	<a href="mailto:Cllr.CahnA@scambs.gov.uk">Cllr.CahnA@scambs.gov.uk</a>	07455128924
Lisa Redrup:	<a href="mailto:Cllr.Redrup@scambs.gov.uk">Cllr.Redrup@scambs.gov.uk</a>	07855324580

#### East West Rail Face-to-Face Engagement

The East West Rail drop-in session on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July in Haslingfield Village Hall was postponed due to the extreme heat. It will now be held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022 in Haslingfield Village Hall.

#### 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.

#### 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 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](mailto:HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) if you have any questions.

#### Government support for the cost of living: Managing debt and factsheet

The government's MoneyHelper (<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/money-troubles/way-forward/>) has free information and resources to help individuals manage their money in uncertain times. It also includes information on how to speak to an experienced debt adviser free of charge.

## **SCDC support for Ukraine**

### ***Free English classes in Sawston and Cottenham - beginning in September***

Working in partnership with A Learning Place, we are delighted to be able to offer free, weekly English classes for guests. They will take place in Sawston and Cottenham and will begin in September. Places for students on Homes for Ukraine visas will be funded by us and 20 places will be available in each location and allocated on a first come, first served basis.

The classes will be taught by qualified and experienced ESOL teachers and will focus on the spoken English needed for everyday life. The classes are aimed at adults, but secondary age young people may also attend. To sign up, please [complete this short registration form](#) and for more information, please contact Amy on 01223 297358 or [hello@alearningplace.co.uk](mailto:hello@alearningplace.co.uk)

Please note, although classes will take place in Sawston and Cottenham, guests from anywhere in the district are welcome to attend.

### ***Conversational English Café***

In addition to the classes mentioned above, we are collaborating with local volunteers to establish 'Conversation Cafes' where guests are invited to come and chat informally to improve their spoken English. We hope that sessions will begin in September and are likely to be held either on Monday evenings or Saturday mornings in Waterbeach.

Cambridge University has generously launched an appeal for multilingual volunteers, but numbers are low. If you know or are aware of anyone who speaks English / Ukrainian / Russian and is keen to volunteer in this way, please ask them to contact us on [duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk)

We will conduct DBS checks prior to the commencement of these sessions to ensure the safety of our guests. If the sessions in Waterbeach are a success, we will look to facilitate Conversation Café sessions in other parts of the district, so please let us know if you are interested.

### ***English courses and training to become a 'Community Interpreter'***

The adult learning provider WEA (Workers' Educational Association) also runs a variety of courses which may be of interest to Ukrainian Guests. These include English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses and Community Interpreting courses starting online via Zoom or in-person in September, which guests can access for free if they have come to the UK through the Sponsorship Scheme or the Family Scheme.

To join the ESOL course, an initial assessment must be completed to assess the applicant's English. For the Community Interpreter's course, an assessment of the applicant's English and motivation is needed.

The courses currently available and further information, including how to enrol online, is at <https://www.wea.org.uk/cambs>

### ***Bicycles update***

We continue to take part in an initiative to offer free bicycles for Ukraine guests, by teaming-up with two local charities, Owl Bikes (part of the Papworth Trust) and Camtrust, and now also TAG Bikes in Huntingdon. As of July 28<sup>th</sup>, 48 bicycles have been provided. Demand has been high, so please bear with us if you/your guests have applied. Residents who may have an adult or child bicycle that is no longer needed are being encouraged to offer it to OWL Bikes (01223 839580), Camtrust (01223 236786, [info@camtrust.co.uk](mailto:info@camtrust.co.uk)), or TAG Bikes (01480 377697), so the cycles can be refurbished and passed to guests from Ukraine.

### ***Wild Minds – outdoor activities for younger Ukrainian guests***

Young people from Ukraine are invited to get involved in the Wild Minds courses which we run at two of the district's country parks. Wild Minds was set up three years ago to help improve mental health in young people through outdoor activities. It is supported by a Clinical Psychologist and offers free outdoor activities in small groups in a park setting to make the most of the natural environment.

We will be running special 'Ukrainian-only' sessions for young people aged from 12 up to 17 who are struggling with issues of depression or worry, particularly related to their experiences since the outbreak of the war. Each session is an hour and a half long and takes place on a weekly basis for eight weeks, run by skilled activity instructors and youth workers, with the first session at Wandlebury Country Park on 24 August. For more information and to sign up to join, see [Wild Minds - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://scambs.gov.uk).

### ***Cambridge University Botanic Garden free pass scheme – updated***

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.

Guests can now apply for their tickets by filling out [this application form](#). The tickets will be offered one per person and distributed weekly via post. Tickets are valid until June 1, 2023.

Please find useful information about visiting the garden here:  
<https://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk/visit-us/how-to-get-here/>

### ***British Red Cross is supporting Ukrainians***

Newly arrived Ukrainian guests can receive £50 in financial support from the British Red Cross as well as their choice of 2 free SIM cards. To take up this offer an application must be made within the first 14 days after a guest's arrival in the UK. While a sponsor/host or other third party cannot apply for this support on a Ukrainian's behalf, a main applicant can apply on behalf of their whole family group.

Guests will need to call the free British Red Cross Support line on 08081 963 651 and select option 3. This line is open daily 10am - 6pm, and interpreters are available when needed. Guests will then be connected to a Red Cross support worker who will walk them through the application form over the phone and ask for their names, dates of birth, and date of arrival into the UK. Within 10 days of submission, they will send an email requesting a photo of the passport page or ID document, visa/date of entry stamps, and a selfie of the main applicant holding their passport. Once this is completed, the money and/or SIM will be issued to them via post.

### ***How to offer employment to Ukrainian guests***

We are encouraging Hosts who know of potential job opportunities for Ukrainian guests to check out the Government's [guidance for businesses offering work to people coming from Ukraine](#). Those who can offer employment should complete the [Vacancy information questionnaire](#) and return it to [offerwork@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:offerwork@homeoffice.gov.uk).

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will then be in touch to discuss the roles available, with job opportunities shared across the DWP Jobcentre Plus network and with the Refugee Employment Network (REN), a charity which works with organisations across the UK to support refugees into work.

## **Community Ownership Fund round two: Webinar slides and recording**

DLUHC recently updated the guidance on the Community Ownership Fund to include a recording of the Community Ownership Fund webinar that provides further information and content on round two of the Community Ownership Fund. The government is providing £150 million over four years to support community groups in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to take ownership of assets and amenities at risk of being lost. Voluntary and community groups can bid for match funding to acquire important assets and run them for the benefit of the local community.

Information and the new webinar slides are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/new-levelling-up-and-community-investments#the-community-ownership-fund>

## **Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service – updated webpage on Planning Compliance**

Updated information on compliance with planning regulations is available at:

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/planning-applications/planning-compliance/>. It explains what the Compliance Team does, what is a breach of the rules, how to raise a complaint, and what happens next.

## **Free Carbon Literacy Training – September and October 2022**

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) are offering online Carbon Literacy training to Councillors, council staff, and members of the public who are working jointly with the Parish Council on any Climate Change projects within the Parish.

Thanks to funding from Cambridgeshire Skills, fully funded places are offered. 6 options are available.

**Course 1** – Wednesday 7th, 14th and 21st September – 1900 – 2130

[Direct Booking Link](#) *Your attendance is required at all 3 sessions*

**Course 2** – Monday 12th September - 0930 – 1700

[Direct Booking Link](#)

**Course 3** – Friday 23rd September - 0930 – 1700

[Direct Booking Link](#)

**Course 4** – Friday 7th October - 0930 – 1700

[Direct Booking Link](#)

**Course 5** – Wednesday 12th, 19th and 26th October - 1900 – 2130

[Direct Booking Link](#) *Your attendance is required at all 3 sessions*

**Course 6** Monday 17th October - 0930 – 1700

[Direct Booking Link](#)