

# South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

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

## District Councillors' Monthly Report – January 2023

### Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us using the details below.

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### Greater Cambridge Local Plan update

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan for the period up to 2041 has been under development for several years and will ultimately set out plans for development in our area. On the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023, a committee report was published for consideration by Councillors in the coming weeks. The report includes updated evidence showing an increased need for jobs and homes since the First Proposals were published in 2021, and seeks decisions on the development strategy and three key sites (North East Cambridge, Cambridge East, and Cambridge Biomedical Campus) to inform work to create the Draft Plan for autumn 2023.

In the 2021 First Proposals consultation, the Councils set out an ambitious vision for minimising carbon emissions alongside improving the quality of life for residents, with all new homes to be carbon neutral. The First Proposals also highlighted concerns around water supply, and that the plans for new homes were dependent on evidence coming forward that there will be adequate water supply to support them. More work is currently needed to understand whether additional homes could be included in the Draft Plan without causing unacceptable harm. Key considerations are to understand the impact of water supply, environmental sustainability, and whether developers could realistically meet increased housing targets.

The steps in developing the Local Plan are shown below and will include a full public consultation on the Draft Plan in autumn 2023. If you would like to read the report under consideration, it is available at: [Agenda for Scrutiny and Overview Committee on Thursday, 12 January 2023, 5.20 p.m. \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/Agenda/2023/01/12/5.20)



## **Currently available grants**

### ***Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund***

Village halls in England can now apply for grants to improve and modernise their facilities through the [Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund](#). Village halls interested in applying for this national scheme can request grants from £7,500 to £75,000, and up to a maximum of 20 per cent of eligible project costs. Capital grants will be allocated to support infrastructure improvements, the refurbishment of facilities, such as kitchens and toilets, and measures to improve energy efficiency. The application window opened just before Christmas and will close on 20 January 2023 with successful applicants being able to draw on the funding from April 2023.

### ***Electric Vehicle Charging Point Grant***

The Electric Vehicle Charge Point Grant is available to fund installation of electric vehicle charge points for use by the public, and related works, in the car parks of community buildings and village halls within South Cambridgeshire. The deadline for 2022/2023 applications is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

[Electric Vehicle Charge Point Grant - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](#)

### ***Disabled Facilities Grant***

Cambs Home Improvement Agency (HIA) have a range of grants available to people with disabilities living in South Cambridgeshire, to help adapt homes. The Disabled Facilities Grant is a mandatory Government grant aimed at people with disabilities and older people on low incomes or low-income benefits, which helps towards the costs of making changes to their home to allow them to continue living there safely and comfortably. Each year Cambs HIA enables around 300 older people and people with disabilities to adapt their homes. Although some work such as ramps, stairlifts, specialist toilets, automated door entry systems and level access showers require an Occupational Therapist's referral, other work such as new boilers, roofing repairs, new doors and windows do not. The agency can help homeowners or those in housing association properties make a wide variety of adaptations and repairs ([www.cambshia.org](http://www.cambshia.org)). We can also help self-funders who are unable to organise and oversee the work themselves.

You can reach Cambs HIA colleagues at [hia@cambshia.org](mailto:hia@cambshia.org) or take a look at their Facebook page ([Cambs Home Improvement Agency | Cambourne | Facebook](#)) for more info.

## **Bulky waste item collections suspended**

Until further notice, bulky waste collections for all items have been suspended, except for white goods and hazardous electrical items. The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service (GCSWS) are looking into bulky waste collections that had already been booked for the new year and will contact residents to advise where necessary.

This is because guidance on disposal of upholstery containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) has changed and so GCSWS can no longer accept upholstered domestic seating waste such as sofas, cushions, chairs or beanbags. Household Recycling Centres can also no longer accept any furniture item with cushioning or padding. (Note: the centres can still accept mattresses, carpets and curtains.)

SCDC is working with the County Council to identify alternative options and will provide updates as soon as possible. In the meantime, we are encouraging residents to consider reuse options such as [Emmaus](#), Gumtree, take back schemes, or to hold on to items until we can provide a further update.

[Recycling and bins - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](#)

## January's Healthy You Festival

In conjunction with Living Sport and other local city and district councils, we are running a FREE, month-long online health and wellbeing festival [Healthy You Virtual Festival 2023](#) up until 31 January.

All activities will be free, online and suitable for beginners. Sessions will include healthy eating workshops; wellbeing during the menopause classes; tasters for activities ranging from Pilates and Yoga to T'ai Chi and Salsa; strength training for the over 50s; and a chance to try out the exercise referral scheme which supports people with long term health conditions to get active. [Pre-register online to receive the full timetable and updates about the festival programme.](#)

## Cost of living information

There is information on cost-of-living support on the SCDC website at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/>. This includes: where to turn for advice; benefits, money and debt advice; help with energy and water bills; help for parents and families; help with food and health costs; help with phone bills; help with making your home warmer; Age UK handy person service and; support if you are in distress.

### ***Go Fund Me – electric blankets and slow cookers***

The District Council are inviting residents to donate to an emergency Go Fund Me campaign, which will be used to support people just about managing in South Cambridgeshire. SCDC has kick started the initiative to help provide more vulnerable residents hit hardest by the cost-of-living crisis with lower cost options to keep warm and cook. The funding from SCDC could see around 400 people supported with free electric blankets and slow cookers, but even more can be done if donations are received. Donations can be made at [www.gofundme.com/SCDCcostofliving](http://www.gofundme.com/SCDCcostofliving).

### ***Comberton and Grantchester Warm Hubs***

Cambridgeshire ACRE and South Cambs are working with communities all across the district to open Warm Hubs to help people struggling with fuel cost or just wanting an opportunity to get together. There are two open Warm Hubs in this ward:

Comberton Baptist Church, Green End, Comberton, Cambridge, CB23 7DY.  
Opening times: Monday, 3.30pm - 6:30pm, Thursday, 10.30am - 1.30pm

Grantchester Communal Hall, Tabrum Close, Grantchester, Cambridge, CB3 9NW  
Opening time: Friday, 10am - 12pm

Information on other Warm Hub venues can be found at [Cambridgeshire ACRE](#) and libraries across Cambridgeshire are also offering a "Warm Space " for anyone who needs it during the winter months.

## **£1.76 million for South Cambridgeshire projects under Shared Prosperity Fund**

Eight projects that will benefit communities and businesses and increase job opportunities in South Cambridgeshire have been awarded £1.76 million in Government funding from the [Government's Shared Prosperity Fund](#). In South Cambridgeshire the projects funded include:

- **£600,000 support towards creating amenities within Northstowe**, through the Community Centre and Local Centre, including space for people working from home, room for business start-ups and space for community groups.
- **£300,000 towards improving South Cambridgeshire's High Streets**, with the District Council planning to consult with parish councils and residents of larger High Streets, along with community building and village hall committees, to implement changes that are agreed following those discussions.
- **Around £270,000 towards skills training** for small and medium sized businesses.
- **£150,000 towards a scheme to improve community gardens and greenspaces in communities**, improving quality of life and health. This project will allow communities in areas of identified need to acquire, design, build and maintain community parks and growing spaces with professional support coordinated community action.
- **£100,000 funding for a scheme based in libraries to support business start-ups**, including a focus on females and ethnic minorities looking to establish and grow their own enterprises.
- **£100,000 to support new business start-ups with grant funding.**

South Cambridgeshire District Council will also be working in partnership with neighbouring councils on some other schemes that have been funded. These include:

- **A programme of green business grants** to help small businesses reduce carbon emissions and energy costs, in partnership with Cambridge City and Huntingdonshire District Councils. Under this programme, £170,000 will go to South Cambridgeshire businesses.
- **Funding towards enhancing the area's visitor economy and local markets**, including by encouraging people to shop and visit local and a youth enterprise programme for disadvantaged and future traders, in partnership with Cambridge City Council. £70,000 of this funding will be spent in South Cambridgeshire.

## **Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation**

Two years ago, the District Council signed up to complete its Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation (DAHA). The accreditation was not limited to Housing Services but covered the whole organisation and involved a thorough review of policies and procedures for staff and customers. More importantly, the accreditation was part of the Council's goal to change the culture around domestic abuse and embed a survivor led approach. This included training for staff and members, publicity and awareness campaigns and the introduction of Domestic Abuse Support Champions within teams. At the start of December 2022, the Council was officially assessed against the DAHA standards and is now officially accredited.

## **Planning compliance consultation open until 20 January 2023**

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has drafted a new Planning Compliance Policy that will be joint between South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council. The Compliance Team handles planning enforcement issues, where work, alterations or development has occurred without the required permission being granted.

If you would like to comment on the policy please visit

<https://oc2.greatercambridgeplanning.org/document/1292> or email [compliance@greatercambridgeplanning.org](mailto:compliance@greatercambridgeplanning.org) if you have any questions.

## **SCDC Support for Ukraine**

### ***Ukraine – New hosts for guests needed***

Cambridge and South Cambs have between them about 500 hosts for Ukraine guests. With the war in Ukraine continuing, the six-month hosting arrangements have needed to be renewed, though not all hosts are in a position to do so. Anyone who might be able to provide a spare room for a guest from Ukraine is asked to get in touch with SCDC. We need new rooms for about 200 people. For this reason we have launched the GOT A SPARE ROOM campaign. If you are interested all you have to do is text ROOM to 88802.

Find out more, and watch video stories from current hosts and guests, at [www.scambs.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine-it-all-starts-with-a-spare-room](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine-it-all-starts-with-a-spare-room).

### ***Free bikes available for guests***

The Free Bikes for Ukrainians scheme will continue to run in 2023. Guests who would like to have a free bike can apply for one via one of the Council's three partner charities [Owl Bikes](#), [Camtrust](#) and [Tag Bikes](#). To find out more about the Free Bikes for Ukrainians scheme, see the Local Travel Support section of our [Ukrainian Guest Information Hub](#).

Donations of more bicycles will be gratefully received by all three charities, as well as unwanted helmets, spare tyres and parts.