

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

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

District Councillors' Monthly Report – February 2023

Contact details

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

Michael Atkins:	Cllr.Atkins@scambs.gov.uk	07968 264637
Ariel Cahn:	Cllr.CahnA@scambs.gov.uk	07455 128924
Lisa Redrup:	Cllr.Redrup@scambs.gov.uk	07855 324580

Bulky waste item collections resumed

Bulky waste collections for all items resumed from the 7th January. These collections were briefly suspended from the 1st January due to changes in the guidance on disposal of upholstery containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The County Council have secured a temporary solution for storing these items at the Thalia site, so Household Recycling Centres have resumed accepting sofas, upholstered chairs, and beanbags, and the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste (GCSW) operations team have hired a non-compaction vehicle and some additional agency staff so they can proceed with bulky waste collections and deliver upholstered items to the temporary storage.

[Bulky item collection service - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.scambs.gov.uk)

More frequent battery recycling collections

Most small common household portable batteries can now be placed out for collection at the kerbside weekly, including: AA, AAA, C, D and button cells. Put used batteries inside a small plastic bag, tie up the top, and leave that bag on top of any of your three bins (black, blue or green) when they go out for collection.

However, residents of flats with shared bins should not leave batteries on these but can take them to one of the many public battery collection points at corner shop chains, supermarkets, chemists and petrol stations as well as those at recycling points and Household Recycling Centres. Visit www.recyclenow.com to see all locations.

Cost of living information

Visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/> for information on: 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.

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 venues can be found at [Cambridgeshire ACRE](http://www.cambridgeshire-acre.org.uk) and libraries across Cambridgeshire are also offering a "Warm Space " for anyone who needs it during winter.

SCIP submits planning application for sustainable Cambourne development

The South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership (SCIP), a 50:50 partnership between South Cambridgeshire District Council and The Hill Group, has submitted a planning application for a new sustainable residential development with community amenities and public open spaces within Cambourne Business Park.

The proposed scheme includes 256 new, low carbon, homes, ranging from five-bedroom houses to one-bedroom apartments, of which 40% (102 homes) would be affordable. 70% of the affordable homes would be earmarked for social rent, with the remaining 30% of them being available for shared ownership. 72 affordable homes at the development will achieve net zero carbon through a fabric first approach, with Passivhaus levels of performance. This will be accomplished through high levels of insulation, airtight construction, air source heat pumps for heating and hot water, photovoltaic panels, and energy efficient building services and controls.

The whole development will be entirely gas-free, and each home is designed to help reduce water usage to not exceed 99 litres per person per day, lower than the 110 litres standard required by national building regulations.

The community-centric design incorporates a new community café, playground amenities and a wealth of green open spaces, prioritising and preserving biodiversity through Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, informal woodlands, greens, and watercourses.

A strategy would be secured that aims to deliver 20% biodiversity net gain – which is double the 10% required by national planning legislation. The landscaping within the development would enhance wildlife, with new trees, hedges, wildflowers, a pond, and swales – along with the preservation of the existing woodland, while off-site biodiversity improvements would also be funded.

Also included in the plans are new pedestrian, bus and cycle lanes connecting the new community to the developing Cambourne West site nearby. The plans incorporate electric vehicle charging points or provision for them at every property, and space to store over 800 bicycles.

To find out more about the plans and the development please visit:

<https://scipatcambourne.co.uk>. For more general information on the South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership, visit: www.SC-IP.co.uk

A public consultation into the plans has now been started by South Cambridgeshire District Council as the local planning authority. It runs until Friday 24 February. Residents are encouraged to comment on the planning application that SCIP has submitted. This can be done by visiting www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/planning-applications/view-and-comment-on-planning-applications and searching for the planning reference 23/00123/FUL. Once the Council's public consultation has ended, the application will go on to be determined by its Planning Committee.

Voter ID required from May this year

From May this year, voters will be required to show photo ID in polling stations before being allowed to vote. Although there are no scheduled elections in South Cambridgeshire this May, it may be worth thinking about whether you have the required ID to vote at a polling station in the future. If you think you may not, you may wish to apply for a free Voter ID at: [Voter Authority Certificate](#) .

For further information about voter ID requirements and other forthcoming elements of the Elections Act 2022, please visit the [Electoral Commission Website](#). This information is also on the [Elections section](#) of SCDC's website, social media, and will be included in the Spring 2023 edition of South Cambs Magazine.

#DoTheRightThing – Key Amnesty Campaign

SCDC are running a Key Amnesty campaign throughout February. People who are misusing Council properties are being offered a one-off opportunity to **#DoTheRightThing** and return their keys without facing criminal proceedings. It gives tenants the opportunity to voluntarily hand in their keys, with no further action taken. To surrender keys, people are asked to hand them in to South Cambridgeshire Hall in an envelope containing the property address. No questions will be asked.

Evidence shows key amnesty campaigns have worked well in other parts of the country by bringing the issue to the public's attention. While it is not known how much fraud of this type there is in the District - by its nature it's a hidden crime - to get even one house back for a family in need would be considered a success.

It is hoped the campaign will also provide an opportunity to raise awareness among people who moved out of Council properties to create a family bubble during the Covid pandemic, who wish to remain living with relatives. They may now realise they no longer require their Council home and wish to hand in their keys, enabling another family to come out of temporary accommodation or off the housing waiting list.

#DoTheRightThing is targeting people who:

- Have provided false information on application forms for housing.
- Anyone illegally subletting, where the tenant moves out then rents the property to someone else, usually at a higher rent.
- Right To Buy fraud, where people do not meet the criteria to buy their property but make false applications to benefit from a discount.
- Tenants who fail to use the property as the only or principal home as well as those who abandon homes without following the proper process.
- Moved out of Council properties to create a family bubble during the Covid pandemic, who wish to remain living with relatives.

Additionally, it is urging people who suspect housing fraud to report it using the [online form](#) or emailing fraud@scams.gov.uk.

Oxford to Cambridge Partnership

The Government has confirmed support for the establishment of an Oxford to Cambridge Pan Regional Partnership, which unlocks access to up to £2.5million government funding for the Partnership to support its priorities in delivering sustainable growth and environmental enhancements for the region.

The Partnership's initial programme is to:

- develop a set of propositions to attract international investment and profile the region on a global stage; and
- continue the work underway to embed shared Environment Principles.

Following the official commitment from government, the Partnership will begin active recruitment of an independent Chair. In the interim, a Shadow Board has been set up to oversee the Partnership's programme and agree governance and funding. A website is also in development to provide information on the Partnership and meeting agendas and notes.

[Government backs new Oxford to Cambridge Pan Regional Partnership - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority \(cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)

CPCA Bus strategy Survey

The Combined Authority is asking for feedback on the vision and strategy for buses laid out in its Bus Strategy. It is available at: <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/bus-strategy/> and the closing date is 5pm on Friday 24th February.

SCDC Support for Ukraine

Ukraine – New hosts for guests needed

Hosts are still desperately needed across South Cambridgeshire to [support families who have already arrived from Ukraine](#), with hosts eligible to receive up to £500 a month as a thank you payment. Around 770 people from Ukraine have already arrived in South Cambridgeshire and with the war continuing - and it not being safe for many families to return - there is an ongoing demand to provide them with a safe place to stay. Under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, hosts sign up to provide a home to guests for a minimum of six months. However, around 20% of current hosts are not able to continue past that initial six-month point. It means that guests who have been staying with them would benefit from alternative accommodation locally, so they can continue to build on the relationships and community connections they have already been able to make.

Hosts receive [comprehensive support](#) from the District Council, along with a £350 monthly Government 'Thank you' payment. The District Council also offers an additional opt-in monthly payment to hosts of £150. This takes the total host payment to £500 per month. Anyone who can offer a spare room and warm welcome is being asked to text ROOM to 88802 so the Council can support them through the process and match hosts to guests who have already started to settle in the local area.

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.

Free bikes available for guests

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.