

## South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

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

### District Councillors' Monthly Report – June 2023

#### Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns relating to SCDC services please contact us using the details below. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc.

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#### 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 Community Hubs**

Run within existing community spaces, local residents can visit a safe and friendly environment to enjoy free refreshments and social activities, obtain information and advice, and share the company of others.

There are two Community Hubs in this ward:

- Comberton Baptist Church, Green End, Comberton, Cambridge, CB23 7DY.  
Opening times: Monday, 3pm – 5 pm
- Grantchester Communal Hall, Tabrum Close, Grantchester, Cambridge, CB3 9NW  
Opening time: Friday, 10am - 12pm

Information on other venues can be found at

<https://www.cambsacre.org.uk/projects/cambridgeshire-community-hubs-network/Error!>  
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#### Upcoming EWR events

Following the May announcement from EWR Co. confirming the route of the new East West Railway through this area, there are several engagement sessions planned. These include:

- Eversden Village Hall, 4 Chapel Rd, Great Eversden, CB23 1HP  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2 pm – 8 pm
- Harston Village Hall, 20 High St, Harston, CB22 7PX  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2 pm – 8 pm

Design work that will affect how great the impacts of the railway are on us is currently ongoing, including the heights of embankments and viaducts, whether roads and public rights of way remain open, and measures to mitigate the visual and other impacts. These meetings are a chance to continue to let EWR Co. know about your concerns as well as to push for improvements and benefits to village communities, especially those impacted who are unlikely to benefit directly from using the railway line.

More information on the announcement and events is available at: [East West Rail | Route Update Announcement](#).

## **Haslingfield Greenway – consultation on the Grantchester section**

A consultation has been launched to focus on the new designs for the Grantchester section of the Haslingfield Greenway. Please share your views to help decide whether the Greenway should go through Grantchester. If you have an opinion on this, please take part.

The consultation runs until midday Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023, and there are two events:

- Grantchester Village Hall, Vicarage Dr, Grantchester  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2 pm – 6 pm
- Online: please register [here](#)  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 6.30 pm – 8 pm

The documents and online survey are available at:

<https://consultcambbs.uk.engagementhq.com/gcp-haslingfield-greenway-2023>.

## **SCDC achievements in 2022 to 2023**

SCDC has a wide range of roles and responsibilities. Two videos have been created showing the achievements of different teams and programmes:

- [South Cambridgeshire District Council achievements 2022/23 Part 1 - YouTube](#)
- [South Cambridgeshire District Council achievements 2022/23 Part2 - YouTube](#)

## **Oxford to Cambridge Partnership: Appointment of Managing Director**

Dr Richard Hutchins has been announced as the new Managing Director for Oxford to Cambridge Pan-regional Partnership from 1 June 2023. He brings extensive experience working with regional boards and large-scale partnerships. More information on the Oxford to Cambridge Partnership, including the minutes of meetings, is available at:

<https://www.oxford-cambridge-partnership.info/>.

## **Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service survey**

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service has asked SCDC to share details of their latest public survey of residents and business owners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The fire service is required to create a 3-5 year plan that identifies the fire and rescue related risks in the county and how it plans to mitigate or be prepared for them. It also identifies the opportunities it will take to continue to improve its services to communities. The fire service is currently preparing to write its next plan for 2024/29 and they are seeking views from people in the communities they serve, so their thoughts and expectations of the service can be reflected in the plan.

The survey will provide the fire and rescue service with valuable information about what residents and business owners in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough expect of their local fire service, as well as gathering people's thoughts on different risks and situations. The information will be used to help the fire service ensure it is targeting its resources in the most effective way. Here is a link to the survey which will take 10-15 minutes to complete:

<https://bit.ly/43pzLHU>

There are also three £50 shopping vouchers up for grabs which you can be in with a chance of winning by completing the survey. Thanks for your support.

## **Third round of the Community Ownership Fund launched**

DLUHC has launched the third round of its £150 million Community Ownership Fund. Applications to bid for round three of the funding will open on 31 May. Changes to the fund will make it easier for voluntary and community groups to apply for funding to acquire important assets and run them for the benefit of the local community. A summary of the key changes to the eligibility requirements for the relaunch of the fund include:

- Reducing the match funding requirement
- Increasing the amount of funding all projects can bid for from £250,000 to £1 million
- Allowing parish councils to apply in the same way that community groups do currently

The government is providing funding 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 such as community centres, parks, pubs and post office buildings. The deadline for applications for this funding round is 12 July. [Further information](#), [the application form](#) and [prospectus](#) can be found online.

## **SCDC Support for Ukraine**

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

Hosts are still 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](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine-it-all-starts-with-a-spare-room).

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

Guests who would like a free bike can apply for one via one of the Council's three partner charities [Owl Bikes](#), [Camtrust](#) and [Tag Bikes](#). To learn more about the Free Bikes for Ukrainians scheme, see Local Travel Support on our [Ukrainian Guest Information Hub](#).

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