

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

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

District Councillors' Monthly Report – May 2024

District Councillor 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.

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

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 handyman service and; support if you are in distress.

Community Hubs

Community Hubs offer residents somewhere to socialise, take part in new activities and to receive information on cost-of-living support such as how to reduce bills and access financial support, as well as how to stay healthy and well.

Local Community Hubs include:

- 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

A full list of Community Hubs can be found at:

<https://www.cambsacre.org.uk/projects/cambridgeshire-community-hubs-network/>

New Rural England Prosperity Fund grant for businesses and communities

Almost £900,000 in funding will be available for business and community projects in South Cambridgeshire thanks to a grant launched in the District on April 9th. The first application deadline is Sunday 5th May 2024. Application windows will run each quarter until all of the funds have been successfully allocated.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) is designed to support local businesses to diversify or create jobs, as well as to support a range of community initiatives such as rural travel, volunteering opportunities, digital projects, or to create a sense of local pride.

Potential applicants include micro-to-medium sized businesses, social enterprises, sole traders, charities, farmers, rural community groups and higher or further education institutions. Applicants can apply for between £10,000 and £100,000 of funding. For community applications, no match funding is required for funding below £25,000, 10% match funding is needed for grants between £25,001 and £50,000, and 20% match funding is needed for grants between £50,001 and £100,000.

For full grant criteria and application please visit: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/rural-england-prosperity-fund>

Small grants for community growing projects

SCDC has set up a grant fund to support communities to grow their own food sustainably as part of the wider cost of living response project.

The fund totals £5,000 and is open to the end of the 2024/25 financial year, unless spent earlier. It will provide small (up to £500) grants to Parish Councils, constituted community groups, schools, and informal groups for projects associated with the growing of food.

To find out more and apply, visit <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-growing-grant>

Shared Prosperity Fund – green space improvement projects

SCDC has secured £150,000 in funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to help improve green spaces in South Cambridgeshire. Types of improvements made through this funding will include:

- Tree planting and hedging
- Seating areas and benches
- Wildlife habitat improvements
- Wildflower planting
- Repair work to existing structures
- Paths and resurfacing
- Bat and bird boxes

The first stage includes improvements to council-owned green spaces in Coton, Orwell, Great Shelford and Little Wilbraham. These areas were selected after assessing available pieces of land around SCDC's own housing.

In the second stage of the project, parish councils can bid for ~£25,000 funding to improve a green space that would benefit their community. The application process will run from 14th May 2024 to 12th July 2024 and applicant parish councils will be asked to:

- Demonstrate that land is in their control, or available for improvement before March 2025.
- Provide a site location map and explain the type of improvements they want to implement.
- Commit to maintain the site to the necessary standard after the initial works are complete.
- Ensure their elected district councillor(s) is/are aware of the application.
- Demonstrate the need for improved green space and impact the improvement would have for local people in terms of health and wellbeing.
- Demonstrate how local people and volunteers will get involved in the planning, delivery, or maintenance of the green space.
- Detail if any other funding, from the Town/Parish Council or third party, will be committed to the delivery of the project (this is not a pre-requisite).

The selected parish councils will be supported by a Landscape Architecture Company which SCDC has procured to assist with the planning and delivery of projects.

If you have any questions, please contact James.croft@scams.gov.uk

Vape recycling at Cambridgeshire Household Recycling Centres

Vape recycling has been introduced at [Cambridgeshire's Household Recycling Centres](#) – including Milton and Thriplow. The new vape recycling bins offer a safe way for residents to dispose of single use and reusable vapes. Disposable vapes contain lithium-ion batteries which can catch fire if damaged. Three million vapes are currently thrown away each week across the UK, and research by Material Focus shows that electrical items, including vapes, disposed of in the wrong bin cause more than 600 fires in refuse collection vehicles and at waste sites every year.

Planning

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning is a finalist in the Planning Awards 2024 Local authority Planning Team of the Year

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning has been shortlisted for the Planning Awards 2024 Local authority planning team of the year. Currently in its 11th consecutive year the Planning Awards celebrate outstanding achievements within the planning and placemaking industry. Recognising remarkable individuals, organisations and teams alongside projects that have reshaped our cities through vibrancy, sustainability and inclusivity. The work of Greater Cambridge Shared Planning is highlighted on the Planning Awards' website:

“Greater Cambridge Shared Planning is of the largest planning services in the Country, it processes circa 6,000 applications annually and is currently overseeing 13 strategic scale (1,000 home plus) developments. Prioritising continuous improvement, the team actively promotes participation in planning, contributes to creating innovative, sustainable and inclusive services by redesigning processes, harnessing digital experiences, and empowering its 140 staff members. GCSP is involved in utilising the opportunity provided by a world-class economy to lead planning practice and innovation across the profession.”

The Planning Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday 13 June when the winners will be announced.

Greater Cambridge housing trajectory and housing land supply report

The Greater Cambridge housing trajectory and housing land supply calculations show that jointly for Greater Cambridge, the Councils have 6.5 years of housing land supply for the 2024-2029 period.

National planning policy and guidance sets out the circumstances where planning policies should be considered out of date when making decisions on planning applications, and this includes where the Council cannot demonstrate a four or five-year housing land supply (as appropriate). On the basis of the housing land supply calculations in the Greater Cambridge Housing Trajectory and Housing Land Supply Report, this does not apply to Cambridge or South Cambridgeshire, as the Councils jointly have 6.5 years of housing land supply.

You can read the report at:

<https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=12427>

Civil Parking Enforcement update

Civil Parking Enforcement began across South Cambridgeshire on 19 December 2023. Following a final period of warnings to encourage people to park more considerately, Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) began to be issued from 1 February this year by Cambridgeshire County Council's Civil Parking Enforcement Officers.

Two enforcement officers are patrolling the area, with activity predominantly focussed on areas where parking is in the greatest demand, such as commuting and shopping areas. Between the start of February and middle of March, 331 patrols covering 1,170 street visits took place. Within this period, Haslingfield was visited 5 times.

The officers can only enforce restrictions that are in place, such as parking on single or double yellow lines, or the footpath where restrictions are adjacent. Other parking matters, such as causing an obstruction by parking on the pavement remain police matters.

Ancient Tree Inventory

The Woodland Trust are asking for help locating old trees for its [Ancient Tree Inventory](https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/what-we-record-and-why/what-we-record/). Old trees link us with our history and culture, as well as supporting thousands of species. The UK has a phenomenal number of ancient and veteran trees compared with the rest of Europe. They need protecting and caring for, but first the Woodland Trust need to find out where they are. You can read a guide to old trees and find out how to add a tree to the list at: <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/what-we-record-and-why/what-we-record/>

Cambridge 2050 – Cambridge Delivery Group Update

The Secretary of State moved a Written Ministerial Statement in parliament on the 8th May in the context of the 'Case for Cambridge': [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)

It seeks to explain why the Cambridge Biomedical Campus is strategically important to UK life sciences, and why the previously announced Growth Company should:

'help to address any barriers to the early expansion and coherent enhancement of the campus, including through the accelerated delivery of any associated housing development and the provision of appropriate levels of affordable housing to meet the housing needs of those working at the campus'.

As with the previous Written Ministerial Statement about actions to address water scarcity, this statement can be used or drawn upon in relation to schemes that may come forward before a new Local Plan is adopted.

EWR drop-in events

EWR have announced drop-in events to explain the Development Consent Order (DCO) process ahead of the statutory consultation which is planned to begin in June. No design details will be shared, and attendee's views will not be collected. All of the information will also be made available on their website. The most local event is:

- 2-7pm 22nd May at Comberton Village Hall, Green End, Comberton, CB23 7DY

The guidance that EWR Co. has to follow before submitting a DCO is available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a80a773ed915d74e622fb09/150326_Pre-Application_Guidance.pdf