

# South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

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

## District Councillors' Monthly Report – June 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:	<a href="mailto:Cllr.Atkins@scambs.gov.uk">Cllr.Atkins@scambs.gov.uk</a>	07968 264637
Ariel Cahn:	<a href="mailto:Cllr.CahnA@scambs.gov.uk">Cllr.CahnA@scambs.gov.uk</a>	07455 128924
Lisa Redrup:	<a href="mailto:Cllr.Redrup@scambs.gov.uk">Cllr.Redrup@scambs.gov.uk</a>	07855 324580

### General election – important dates and photo ID requirements

The deadline to register to vote is 11.59pm 18<sup>th</sup> June. Please apply at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>.

If you are unable to get to the polling station on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, you may wish to set up a postal or proxy vote.

- The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on the 19<sup>th</sup> June. You can do this at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>.
- The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> June. You can do this at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote>.

You will need an acceptable form of photo ID to vote at the polling station. If you do not have photo ID and need to apply for a voter authority certificate the deadline is 5pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> June. You can find out about acceptable forms of photo ID at:  
<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/elections/voter-id/>.

### 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 handyperson 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/>

### **Charity that tackles financial hardship given Community Chest grant support**

The charity has been given a grant of £2,000 from the Council's Community Chest fund to help continue its transformational service. The grant is on top of the charity's Service Support grant funding from the Council of £5,000 a year from 2023-26.

The charity [REACH](#) gives a wide range of help to local people to relieve and prevent poverty, while tackling the causes including:

- Debt counselling, budgeting, and money management support.
- Financial assistance with basic costs like emergency gas and electricity.
- Preventative money management lessons in local schools.
- Emergency food supplies to individuals and families in crisis.
- Securing benefits for and on behalf of clients.

Established in 2005 as a debt charity, [REACH](#) serves communities in South Cambridgeshire, West Suffolk, and North Essex. Within South Cambridgeshire the parishes supported are Little and Great Abington, Balsham, Horseheath, West Wickham, Linton, and Castle Camps. As need grows, this support could expand to include other parishes.

Community Chest grant funding is available to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and public sector bodies wishing to further improve quality of life in South Cambridgeshire. To find out more visit: [Community Chest Grants - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](#)

### **New bereavement café in Cambourne given grant support**

The [Harbour Bereavement Café](#) at Cambourne Church is open to people of all faiths, or none, who need a listening ear, support and understanding to navigate the challenging journey of bereavement. It is open as a free informal drop-in session on the second Friday of each month from 12.30 to 2.00pm. The aim is to offer support and signposting in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

The Harbour is open to any adults who have experienced the death of someone close to them, whenever that may have been. It is free to attend, and people are welcome to drop in at any time during the café times. There is no need to book in advance.

The initiative has been supported by the District Council with funding of £425 to train five volunteers with specialist bereavement courses run by national charities [Cruse](#) and [AtaLoss](#).

The Harbour Café details:

- Fridays: 14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 13 September
- 12.30 - 2.00pm. No need to book just turn up
- Free to attend. Includes light lunch and refreshments
- For more information email [theharbour@cambournechurch.org.uk](mailto:theharbour@cambournechurch.org.uk)
- Visit the website [Cambourne Church : The Harbour Bereavement Cafe](#)

## **Shared Prosperity Fund – second stage of green space improvement projects**

South Cambridgeshire District Council is currently working on a green space improvement project, utilising funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund. The project is in two parts. Four sites on Council owned pieces of land have already been selected for improvement and works will begin this summer.

For the second part of the project, applications are now open to Parish Council's in South Cambridgeshire to submit a bid for a site they feel could be improved. There is an 8-week window to complete applications, from Tuesday 4 June 2024 to Thursday 1 August 2024.

At least four sites will be selected for improvement out of the applications received, and project costs could range from small works, up to around £15,000 per site. Once applications have been assessed and the projects selected, SCDC will work with Parish Councils to deliver these improvements which will be funded from this scheme. Of particular interest are schemes where Parish Councils have volunteers interested and keen to support the green space improvements.

The aim of the scheme is to provide a higher quality and/or more useable green space in your area. The works undertaken may include but are not limited to:

- Tree planting/hedging
- Seating areas/benches
- Wildlife habitat improvements
- Wildflower planting
- Repair work to existing structures.
- Paths and resurfacing

The application form includes more information and needs to be completed in full for the application to be considered. Please do make sure that the land you are suggesting is readily available for this type of improvement.

To submit your application, please complete the [application form](#).

For more information, please contact [james.croft@scamb.gov.uk](mailto:james.croft@scamb.gov.uk) or visit: <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/shared-prosperity-fund>

## **Never bin batteries or vapes**

Please remember not to put batteries, or products with batteries, in wheelie bins as they may be crushed or damaged in bin lorries, which can cause explosions and trigger fires. Lithium-ion batteries found in mobile phones, vapes, and power packs on electric bikes or scooters have all caused fires in the back of local bin lorries since January – disrupting collection rounds and putting crews and the public in danger.

Please see below for how to dispose of batteries safely:

- Vapes should be taken back to vape shops or to the large Household Recycling Centres, like Thriplow, for recycling.
- Larger batteries – such as e-bike batteries, those from a mobile phone, laptop batteries or those that are attached to a device – must also be taken to a Household Recycling Centre.
- Small household batteries can be put in a small plastic bag, tied shut and left on top of any of your wheelie bins (green, black, or blue) on collection day. Most small common household portable batteries can be placed in that plastic bag for collection at the kerbside, including AA and AAA, C and D and button cells. These used batteries are then recycled.
- Residents of flats with shared bins should not leave small household batteries on these but instead, 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](http://www.recyclenow.com) to see all locations.

## **Anglian Water Fens Reservoir Consultation – 12<sup>th</sup> June community event at Coton Village Hall**

This public consultation will run until 23:59 on 9 August 2024 and will focus on the following areas:

- Emerging design for the main reservoir site including the opportunities for recreation, wildlife, nature, and other features.
- Early-stage proposals for areas of land in the vicinity of the main reservoir site that could be needed for environmental mitigation and enhancement, construction, and wider uses.
- Proposals for the associated water infrastructure needed to transfer water from its sources to the reservoir, treat the water, and supply it to homes and businesses. This includes a 45 km underground pipeline to a connection point and new service reservoir in greenbelt land at Madingley.

A range of consultation materials have been published on the project website - [www.fensreservoir.co.uk](http://www.fensreservoir.co.uk) - alongside an interactive map, and instructions on how to have your say.

Since there is a new service reservoir planned near Madingley and Coton, there will be a community event at Coton Village Hall (CB23 7PL) on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2-7pm.