

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

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

District Councillors' Monthly Report – March 2026

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: 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 and how to stay healthy and well.

Local Community Hubs include:

- Grantchester Communal Hall, Tabrum Close, Grantchester, Cambridge, CB3 9NW
Opens: Friday, 10am – 12pm
- Toft Community Hub – Toft Methodist Chapel, High Street, Toft, Cambridge, CB23 2RL
Opens: Monday, 10am – 12pm.

Find out more at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/community-hubs>

Planning

£5 million to install water saving measures in council buildings

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has received Government funding of over £5 million to deliver part of the Greater Cambridge Water Efficiency Programme and help address water scarcity locally. South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council will use this funding to install water saving devices in existing council-owned buildings through a programme of retrofit work.

As part of this work, SCDC has partnered with Control Flow Technologies to help council tenants reduce their water use and lower their bills, at no cost to tenants. For some households, this could mean savings of up to £360 a year. To do this, there will be free water audits for council tenants with water meters and water-saving devices will be fitted where appropriate. The water audit involves three short visits:

- Visit 1: An engineer will take a meter reading, provide water-saving advice, and discuss current usage.
- Visit 2: The engineer will install a water-saving device on the incoming water mains (a 30–45 minute appointment). They will also check for hidden leaks in toilets, taps, or showers and carry out minor repairs where possible.
- Visit 3: To measure water usage

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service YES team wins award

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service's Youth Engagement Service (YES) has won a national award – the Thornton Education Trust (TET) Inspire Future Generations Award for Best Local Authority in Youth Engagement.

It was awarded for helping children and young people have a say in how their communities are designed. The award celebrates organisations that listen to young people and include their ideas when planning new places. YES was praised for making sure children's voices really matter.

Since 2017, YES has worked with over 2,000 young people through projects like *Have Your Say* and *Our Public Art*. The team also ran school workshops and gave young people the chance to try out jobs in planning.

This award shows how important it is to listen to young people and involve them in shaping the future. You can read more about it on the website at:

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/news/greater-cambridge-yes-team-wins-national-award-for-excellence-in-youth-engagement>.

SCDC Zero Carbon Communities Grants -Pre-launch workshops 20th May

Ahead of the next round of [Zero Carbon Communities Grants](#), there will be two pre-launch workshops on Wednesday 20th May. The daytime one is 12.30-1.30pm and the evening one is 6-7pm. The workshops will provide information and guidance to help you with your application.

Following the workshops, the application window will run from the 25th May to the 24th July 2026. Funding is available to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and parish councils to support communities in South Cambridgeshire to take action on climate change. There may be some adjustments to the grant in the forthcoming round, so even if you are familiar with it or have applied before, we recommend you check for updates and save the date for our pre-launch workshops.

If you have any questions about the workshops or the grant, please contact ZCC@scams.gov.uk.

Letting the police know of any issues

The police run a continuous online Community Policing Survey to help the neighbourhood policing team build up a picture of what is happening in your area and what is concerning you most. This feeds into the policing priorities set each quarter for the district. The survey is available at: [Community Policing Survey](#)

There are also quarterly community policing meetings, where you can hear about recent police activities, ask questions and raise concerns. The next one is online on Thursday 12th March 2026. If you'd like to attend, please register by emailing communitymeeting@cambs.police.uk and quoting 'South Cambs'. You will then receive the link to join the meeting.

Businesses Against Abuse training

The Community Safety Partnership is hosting Businesses Against Abuse training at South Cambs Hall on Wednesday 25 March. This is a free training scheme aimed at businesses and other employers whose staff or volunteers interact with the public, to address and prevent violence against woman and girls (VAWG). There are two sessions to choose from:

- 9:30am to 12pm [Businesses Against Abuse training 25/03/26 - AM](#)
- 1pm to 3.30pm [Businesses Against Abuse training 25/03/26 - PM](#).

Consultation on Local Transport Authorities and the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles

The Department for Transport has launched [a consultation seeking views on the potential benefits and challenges of making all local transport authorities \(LTAs\) in England responsible for taxi and private hire vehicle \(PHV\) licensing](#). The consultation focuses on the impact this would have on:

- Councils
- Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) businesses
- Passengers.

This consultation follows publication of the [English Devolution White Paper](#) by MHCLG in December 2024. The white paper sets out the government's proposal to change the administrative level of licensing for taxis and PHVs to facilitate better and safer transport services for the public. The consultation closes on 1 April. Press release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-proposals-set-out-to-reduce-out-of-area-working-for-taxis-and-boost-passenger-safety>

Funding to cover almost half the cost of installing EV chargers for households and businesses announced

The Department for Transport has announced that renters, flat owners, homeowners without driveways and businesses will be able to save up to £500 when installing electric vehicle (EV) charge points, thanks to an over 40% increase in charge point government grant funding. The uplift will cover almost half the cost of a typical charge point installation until March 2027, helping more drivers access cheaper domestic electricity rates at home or work. The following updates will be introduced from 1 April:

- People living in rented accommodation, flat owners, residential landlords, households with on-street parking and businesses will all be able to receive higher grants of up to £500 per charge point, rising from the previous discount of £350.
- Schools will be eligible for grants of up to £2,000 per socket, building on 3,700 sockets installed to date.

[Read more about the grant changes on GOV.UK.](#)