

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

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

District Councillors' Monthly Report – July 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.

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District Council Elections

Following the recent District Council elections, your new team of ward councillors is made up of Ariel Cahn, Laurence Damary-Homan and Lisa Redrup. We're aware of our responsibility to represent the area and are continuing to work hard to provide help and support. Please get in touch if you need our help. We also have specific roles in the Council: Ariel is on Planning Committee and the Climate and Environment Committee; Laurence is Cabinet member for Environment; and Lisa is Cabinet member for Healthy Communities.

The administration at the District Council has remained Liberal Democrat, with an increased majority. To see the full election results please visit: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/our-district-election-results-2026>. The priorities of the administration are outlined in the Council's Corporate Action Plan which is available at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/our-corporate-plan>

Cost-of-living information

Visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/> for: advice and support with money; help with food costs; money and debt advice; help with energy and water bills; help with phone bill costs; employment support through Work Well; and information on foodbanks.

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.

Find out more at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-and-people/community-hubs>

Community groups invited to apply for new Community Pantry Grant

The Community Pantry Grant offers up to £400 to buy equipment and materials to get a community pantry up and running. Pantries of this type are simple, community-run spaces that provide residents with free access to food and everyday essentials, helping to tackle food insecurity while also reducing food waste. They are generally accessible and do not usually require staffing. This grant can be used for items such as shelving, indoor or outdoor storage, small venue adaptations, fridges or freezers, advertising, or other essential costs needed to start a pantry or expand an existing food hub to include one.

Eligible applicants include Parish Councils, constituted community groups with a bank account and informal groups with written support from their Parish or District Councillor.

£5,000 has been allocated for this year up to 31 March 2027, or until all funds are allocated. Applications will be assessed by Council officers. A further £5,000 will be available next year, depending on demand for the scheme.

Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/community-pantry-grant to apply.

Proposed changes to bus services including 75, 26, 17 and T3 – Have your say

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) are consulting on changes to CPCA supported bus routes until the 28th July. To view the proposals and provide your comments, please visit: <https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-network-review-engagement/>.

The changes are intended to consolidate the existing routes into fewer, better used routes that run more frequently and connect communities, hospitals, workplaces, education, and town centres.

75 service – Wrestlingworth – Orwell – Cambridge

This service would be revised and become the D service, running about once an hour for most of the day. It would run from Cambridge bus station along the A603 through Barton, then through Harlton to Haslingfield (no loop around Haslingfield so likely one stop between Harlton Road and Chapel Hill), onto Barrington and Orwell and then back along the A603. It would not go beyond Orwell. There is still provision for accessing Long Road 6th Form College and Hills Road 6th Form College at specific times.

26 service – Royston – Cambridge

This service would be revised and become the E service, running about once an hour through the day and operating for longer hours than the current service. It would run from Guilden Morden through Litlington, Bassingbourn, Royston, Melbourn, Foxton, Harston, Trumpington Park and Ride and then onto Cambridge bus station.

17 service - (Barley)/Guilden Morden - Royston – Cambridge

This service would be revised and become the F service. It would run from Royston to Cambridge North station but would no longer go through Harston and Hauxton.

T3 service Grantchester – Fulbourn

The current T2, T3 and T4 services would be replaced with new services A and B. Service A would run from Milton Park & Ride to Madingley Road Park & Ride, to Grantchester and then end at Trumpington Park & Ride. Service B would run from Trumpington Park & Ride, to Shelford Station, Babraham Park & Ride, Addenbrooke's, Fulbourn and on to end at Newmarket. This would mean that residents from Grantchester would need to change bus at Trumpington Park and Ride to access Addenbrooke's. The new services would run about once an hour through the day Monday to Saturday with roughly the same first and last bus times as now.

Expansion of Tiger on Demand bus services from 13th July

The Tiger on Demand bus service will expand to cover 12 new villages including Hauxton, Harston, Haslingfield, and Harlton, as well as the Trumpington Park and Ride.

To use this service, residents book journeys between virtual bus stops. It is designed to support everyday journeys, including commuting, school travel, shopping, leisure and connections to other transport services. The service is available between 6.30am to 7pm Monday to Saturday, with bookings available up to 48 hours in advance.

Virtual bus stop locations can be viewed and journeys booked at:

<http://www.tigerondemand.co.uk/> or on the Tiger on Demand app. Journeys can also be booked by calling 01480 595440 during the service's operating hours. Virtual bus stop locations in the ward are:

- The Hare and Hounds, Harlton
- High Meadow (opposite BP garage), Harston
- London Road (adjacent to Queens Close), Harston
- Royston Road, Harston
- The Village Shop, Haslingfield

- Barton Road (adjacent to New Road), Haslingfield
- New Road (adjacent to The Meadows), Haslingfield
- High Street (adjacent to Chapel Hill), Haslingfield
- Hauxton Meadows Park, Hauxton
- War Memorial (Church Rd), Hauxton
- Hauxton Village Green, Hauxton
- The Lane (opposite Jopling Way), Hauxton
- Trumpington Park and Ride

Adults will pay £2.50 per journey, while Tiger Pass holders and children aged 5-16 will pay £1 per journey. Under-5s, concessionary and disability bus pass holders can travel for free.

EWR Consultation

The response from Greater Cambridge Shared Planning to the recent EWR consultation is available at: [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning: East West Rail](#). Officers at South Cambridgeshire District Council continue to work with EWR Co. on areas of concern.

Lisa and Laurence have both also submitted responses to EWR co. as councillors. Please let us know if you'd like us to send you them.

SCDC Zero Carbon Communities Grants scheme open until 5pm 24th July

The latest round of the Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme is open for applications. This is a great opportunity to bring forward projects that benefit both the environment and our communities.

Grants of between £2,000 and £19,500 are available, with a total pot of £152,000. The funding will be used to support projects that reduce carbon emissions, boost nature recovery, or foster greater community engagement on climate change and nature. It is available to voluntary and community sector groups, charities, and parish councils.

This year's scheme has been updated to reflect feedback from communities and the Council's [Climate and Nature Strategy](#). Eligibility has been widened to include projects on school sites and applications from parent and teacher associations, where there is a clear benefit to the wider community. Sports and recreational groups, such as bowls clubs, are also eligible if their projects support community wellbeing, mental health or stronger local connections.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Improving community buildings (e.g. insulation, heat pumps, solar panels, LED lighting)
- Supporting low-carbon travel (e.g. electric vehicles, cycling infrastructure)
- Community-led initiatives to reduce waste, support nature, or encourage sustainable lifestyles

To find out more about the grant, including project examples and case studies, please visit [Zero Carbon Communities Grant - South Cambs District Council](#).

Planning: Validation Checklist consultation – Have your say

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning has prepared a new Local Validation Checklist, providing a single checklist for both Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils Council areas. It provides guidance on what supporting documents must be submitted with a planning application; some are always required, others will depend on the type of application and development proposed.

The service is currently running a 6-week consultation seeking views on the content of the new Local Validation Checklist. [Have your say by 28 July 2026](#).

Publication of the Proposed Greater Cambridge Local Plan

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are producing a Joint Local Plan for the Greater Cambridge area. The role of a local plan is to provide a vision for the future development of the area by identifying development needs, developing a strategy for where they should be met, identifying infrastructure needed to support the development, and setting policy requirements to guide the form of development.

The draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan has been revised following the December 2025/January 2026 consultation and published ahead of [SCDC's Scrutiny and Overview meeting on 14th July](#). This is where councillors will discuss the revised plan, ahead of Cabinet deciding whether to launch the statutory public consultation (planned for early August; focused on whether the plan is sound and legally compliant) ahead of the intended submission of the plan to government for inspection late this year.

Changes to the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan include:

- A slight decrease in the number of new homes proposed up to 2045 (drop of 99 to give a total of 48,096)
- North East Cambridge site now included as an Area of Major Change policy rather than a site allocation (due to government withdrawal of funding for relocating the waste water treatment plant)
- Grey belt has been identified, but no change in previous position that there is no general need for green belt release (exceptions are proposed green belt release at Cambridge Biomedical Campus and the Babraham Research Campus).
- Progression of the plans for Cambourne North including modelling of transportation and refinement of boundaries, density, landscape sensitivity, infrastructure and deliverability.
- Reduction of the proposed size of the Grange Farm site (down from 6,000 to 4,500 homes) and developed the policy on protection of heritage assets and provision of infrastructure.
- Site allocation for existing expansion land at the Wellcome Genome Campus and a wider policy area to cover growth of the campus
- The Clifton Road and Cambridge Leisure sites have been merged into a single site allocation to recognise the connections between them as well as the confirmed station entrance as part of EWR
- In the Climate change theme there is a new policy on sustainable retrofit (CC/SR: Sustainable Retrofit), more requirements for managing overheating, refined thresholds for Whole Life Carbon and Circular Economy Assessments, and a water efficiency target of 90 litres per day per person
- In the Biodiversity and green spaces theme there is a new policy BG/UGF: Urban Greening Factor, with a revised BG/EO: full Accessible greenspace standards policy and a revised approach to Protected Open Space
- In the Wellbeing and Social Inclusion theme there have been changes to restrict the proliferation of betting shops, to provide construction jobs for local people, and work to safeguard pubs.
- More guidance on how appropriate parking levels should be identified
- A clearer requirement on timing of infrastructure to align with development

Community Chest grants deliver £27,295 for grassroots projects across South Cambridgeshire

Community groups across South Cambridgeshire are set to make a difference to people's lives after receiving a share of more than £27,295 in Community Chest grants.

The funding is being awarded to 16 local projects – from supporting young people and improving community spaces, to protecting the environment and helping vulnerable residents feel less isolated.

The grants highlight the vital role local organisations and volunteers play in strengthening local communities.

Funding has been awarded to projects on a range of themes including community buildings, young people and skills, health and wellbeing, supporting vulnerable people, environmental projects, community action, heritage and conservation.

The projects are:

- **Barton Playgroup – £2,000**
Renovating bathroom facilities to create a safer, more hygienic environment for young children at this community led playgroup that also runs Stay and Play sessions for children and their parents. The organisation is community-led, with opportunities for parents and residents to contribute as volunteers or trustees.
- **Cambourne Litter Heroes – £1,131**
Volunteer-led group tackling local litter and helping keep Cambourne clean, safe and welcoming for everyone. The funds will buy more equipment such as litter grabbers, litter sack hoops and hi viz vests.
- **1st Histon Guides – £1,937.33**
Providing camping equipment such as tents, cooking gear and rechargeable lanterns for this newly formed guiding group so more girls can take part in outdoor adventures, building confidence and life skills.
- **Meldreth Village Hall Trust – £2,000**
Essential refurbishment of toilets to improve accessibility, hygiene and comfort for the many community groups using the hall including people living with dementia, families with young children, home education groups, fitness and wellbeing groups, as well as social events and private functions.
- **St Mary & All Saints Church, Willingham – £2,000**
Upgrading toilet facilities at a busy community hall that supports everything from social events to vital services for residents including parish council meetings, social services and probation meetings, NHS-linked activities, community cafés, youth club, WI, exercise and arts groups.
- **Abington Village Institute – £2,000**
Improving heating and creating storage space for a local history archive, protecting heritage and making the venue more comfortable for the many local users including a community café, film nights, a village lunch, clubs, and private family functions.
- **Turtle Dove Cambridge – £2,000**
Supporting young women aged 14-24 across Cambridgeshire who are, or are at risk of becoming, NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). The organisation focuses on building confidence, improving wellbeing, and providing skills, training, and experience to support pathways into education, employment, or training. The grant will be used on pottery and art equipment.
- **SHEDDIT! – £1,137**
Running hands-on workshops for young people to learn about soil, insects and the environment as part of Shedditi's annual sustainability event which is open to the public. The grant will be used to purchase bug houses, insect kits and gazebo hire.

- **Disability Huntingdonshire – £919.96**
This group supports people living with disabilities and long-term conditions, as well as older people, to live independently. The grant will purchase energy-efficient printers so people with disabilities can print documents easily to access vital services and benefits - which are often still paper based and require a printer - which many clients do not have access to.
- **Wise About Food CIC – £2,000**
Delivering community cooking sessions to bring people together, reduce isolation and build confidence for people who face significant barriers, including vulnerable adults, older people, and those experiencing social isolation, mental ill health and financial hardship. The grant is to deliver 6 cooking sessions.
- **Cambridge Rare Disease Network – £2,000**
Supporting families of people under 25 affected by rare conditions through inclusive activities that reduce isolation and build connections. The grant will be used for activities like hydrotherapy pool swimming, accessible boat trip, activity day at Grafham Water with SEN instructors and Christmas party venue hire.
- **The George Long Charity for Swavesey Memorial Hall - £928**
The Snooker Room at the hall requires improvements to bring it in line with the building's wider sustainability standards. The grant will be used to purchase thermal blinds as part of energy improvements at the hall.
- **Sawston Youth Group – £1,680**
New tents and litter-picking equipment to support outdoor learning and community projects for young people as part of a wide range of weekly activities and events aimed at promoting confidence, teamwork, discipline and social responsibility.
- **The Connections Bus Project – £1,800.78**
Delivering a three-day babysitting course to help up to 15 young people gain skills, confidence and employment opportunities. It will provide structured, practical learning at a time when opportunities for young people are limited.
- **Marvell Green Management Company – £2,000**
Marvel Green is a collection of 18 homes – seven of which are owned by South Cambridgeshire District Council. The grant will be used to install a range of habitat features at the site, including bird, bat, and insect boxes and provide nesting and shelter opportunities for local wildlife.
- **Histon & Impington Green Spaces – £1,761.60**
A citizen science programme to monitor water quality across Beck Brook tributaries, covering Dry Drayton, Girton, Madingley, Oakington, Westwick, Cottenham, Histon and Impington to raise awareness of protecting water quality and to encourage projects that support local nature recovery.

More information about [Community Chest](#) funding and how to apply is available on the Council's website. The maximum award is £2,000 in any single financial year.

136 new council homes delivered in the last financial year

South Cambridgeshire District Council increased its supply of council homes by 136 between April 2025 and March 2026. This is the largest annual increase ever achieved, surpassing the previous year's record of 91 homes. This is beyond what is achieved in many other areas but is vital due to high house prices and rents. The new Council homes were delivered across Cottenham, Cambourne, Over, Barrington, Northstowe and Fulbourn and included 106 Affordable Rent homes and 30 Shared Ownership homes. This brings the Council's overall housing stock numbers to 5,875 at the end of March 2026.

To express an interest in any Council home in South Cambs, you need to be registered with [Home-Link](#). To enquire about shared ownership properties, contact William H Brown by email at SCDC@williamhbrown.co.uk.

Recognition of SCDC's work using data to help people receive support

The council's work to use data to help ensure South Cambridgeshire residents are receiving the support and benefits they are entitled to is being recognised nationally.

Its targeted Healthy Start Campaign saw the number of Healthy Start claimants in South Cambridgeshire increase by more than anywhere else in the country, ensuring that young children in low-income households have access to healthy and nutritious food. This campaign was a finalist in the [LGC Award's](#) Public and Population Health category.

Two other Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) projects have also been shortlisted for the [IRRV Performance Awards](#):

- The council's joint data sharing initiative with Cambridgeshire County Council to support more eligible households to claim free school meals saw over 80 children start to receive free school meals. This has been shortlisted in the Excellence in Partnership (Fight Against Poverty) category.
- The council also ran six community events last year, using benefits data to personally invite local older residents to attend and see if they could receive support. 192 people attended, with over £13,000 of relief distributed immediately and a further 33 people identified as likely to be eligible for Attendance Allowance with support offered to claim. This initiative has been shortlisted in the Excellence in Social Inclusion category.

SCDC working with Cambridge University to make use of Artificial Intelligence

Together with researchers from Cambridge University, the council has secured government funding for five research projects on the use of artificial intelligence. The aims of the projects vary, but include freeing officers from repetitive administrative tasks, helping them identify areas of risk for proactive intervention, using existing video footage from refuse collection vehicles to identify fly-tipped waste, considering how to embed governance, ethics and public value requirements into artificial intelligence projects. If you'd like to learn about the projects please visit: [Cambridge launches AI Accelerator to help local government deploy AI | ai@cam.](#)

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme - Summer 2026

Cambridgeshire County Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme provides children in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals with a fully funded place at participating holiday schemes for up to 64 hours. In addition, recently arrived refugee families and families experiencing financial hardship are also eligible. Further information can be found here:

- [Cambridgeshire Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)
- [HAF Provider Directory | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Planning training for Parish Councillors

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) will be hosting a training session on Tuesday 21st July, 6 - 7pm, for the benefit of new Parish Councillors, or those wanting a refresher.

The session will cover the need-to-knows of Planning from a Parish Councillors' perspective and allow you to meet some of the GCSP team.

The session will be fully online, via Microsoft Teams. This is to ensure the maximum number of people can participate. The session will also be recorded for the benefit of those who may be unavailable.

High Streets are given a boost thanks to £130,000 in grant funding

More than £130,000 is being invested in 20 businesses and community groups across South Cambridgeshire, helping to bring new life to local high streets.

Projects range from shopfront upgrades to community space improvements in the District Council's Improving the High Street grants scheme.

Grants have been allocated to help promote rejuvenation, improve the look of high streets, encourage residents to shop locally, and attract more local businesses to the area.

Among the 20 projects chosen for grant funding are:

- **Barton Village Stores and PO** - Conkers Café exterior improvements - £11,169
- **Sawston Boswell and Son** - Shop front improvements - £20,000
- **Cottenham Parish Council** - High Street rejuvenation - £9,253
- **Eltisley Parish Council** - Cade Pavilion improvements - £20,000
- **Willingham Creative Grounds Café** - Shop frontage improvements including adding greenery and new signage - £1,008
- **Newton The Queen's Head** - Red brick restoration - £4,318
- **Girton Social Club** - Wheelchair access ramp - £5,000
- **Papworth Everard Brewista** - A refresh of the outdoor area - £4,099
- **Linton The Flower Boutique** - Exterior repair, repainting, lighting and a floral display - £3,375

The government grant scheme is funded by the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund \(UKSPF\)](#). Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) is the lead authority for delivery of the fund within the county, while the District Council is responsible for distributing the funds within South Cambridgeshire.

Development Corporation – Feedback from Bridget Smith, Leader of SCDC

Parish Councils are probably aware that the last government and this government have both had designs on increasing the growth of housing and jobs in Greater Cambridge far beyond what we have identified through our local plan process: 150,000 by 2050 “theirs” compared with 77,000 by 2045 “ours”.

This aspiration has now taken a leap forward with the Labour Government formally announcing its intention to create a Government led Development Corporation covering the whole area. This is vastly larger in geography and population than has ever been seen before anywhere in the UK.

There is no doubt that this will result in loss of greenbelt land though where, we cannot as yet say. The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan gives a very high level of protection to all of our villages and the greenbelt but it would be naïve to say that the Development Corporation would respect this. Currently, anyone wanting to build anything at all in Greater Cambridge has to submit a planning application to the Greater Cambridge Planning Service and the decisions are taken either by our expert planning officers or by the planning committee which is made up of elected members from both political parties that hold seat in South Cambs.

It would be a travesty if these plans damaged the Greater Cambridge Planning Service which has recently been awarded the title of Best Planning Authority in England.

If the government does not amend its plans, as they currently stand, all planning applications above 250 units will be submitted to the Development Corporation and decided by its own planning committee which will only have 4 elected members with the majority being ‘experts’.

This represents a huge democratic deficit, with a Westminster minister having ultimate say.

We are talking to government to see if we can move this situation into something acceptable to our council and communities based upon the large amount of consultation we have conducted and the responses we have seen to their consultation, most of which align with our strongly held views.

As a minimum, that would mean increasing the thresholds for housing by a significant amount and getting assurance that the Development Corporation will concentrate its resources on sorting out the infrastructure gap that is actually slowing growth of our area. This includes the shortage of water, electricity, health and education provision and public transport links.

To find out more, please see the following links:

- The government's announcement is here: [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)
- The government's response to the consultation (which took place earlier this year) is here: [Greater Cambridge Development Corporation: Analysis of consultation responses and next steps - GOV.UK](#)
- The SCDC press release is here: [South Cambs District Council: Council warns that government's urban development corporation risks sidelining local communities](#)

South Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Police event – 6th August 2026

The next South Cambs Neighbourhood Police community engagement event is being held online on Thursday 6 August, 7pm - 8pm.

A presentation from the local Police team will be shared with the work they have been doing and you have a chance to shape their local policing priorities for the next 3 months, highlighting to them any local issues you are experiencing.

To register to attend and receive the online link, please email communitymeeting@cambs.police.uk and quote 'SouthCambs'

Men B vaccine offer to thousands of people

The [Department of Health and Social Care \(DHSC\)](#) and devolved nations announced that thousands of young people will get protection against meningococcal B disease (MenB) through a one-off vaccination programme launching ahead of the 2026 academic year. The one-off vaccination programme will be offered to:

- Everyone in England and Wales born between 01/09/2007 and 31/08/2008 (current school year 13) or equivalent final year of school age (Year 14 or S6) in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- Everyone turning 25 after 31/12/2026 who will be starting higher education for the first time, or who will be living in further education accommodation or halls of residence for the first time, in autumn 2026. This includes international students and students in the UK Devolved Administrations and Crown Dependencies.
- International students under 25 entering their first year of university should receive their first dose in their home country where possible.

Eligible people will need two doses for protection, with the first being offered from July and the second dose provided from August.

Reforms to Judicial Review for Infrastructure

On the 20th May, HM Treasury has published [a paper setting out proposals on further reforms to judicial review of major infrastructure](#). The government now intends to go further in ensuring that legal challenge is focused, proportionate and does not create unnecessary delay to the delivery of nationally important infrastructure. This paper sets out two proposed reforms to the current process for consenting major infrastructure – subject to detailed design and the passage of underpinning legislation – which would allow for proportionate protection from judicial review: a parliamentary authorisation mechanism; and a challenge window mechanism