

November 2020 parish e-bulletin

News and information from South Cambridgeshire District Council

Welcome to the latest e-bulletin. We hope you and your communities are well and coping with the restrictions the pandemic has placed upon us all. We continue to face challenges as we respond to the Coronavirus pandemic and our Council teams will keep in touch and work with you and local Covid-19 community groups as we go through the winter.

This edition covers important notices we want you to be aware of, and news from around the district which parish councils may want to discuss or pass out to their communities.

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Community facilities audit deadline is approaching

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service and our Sustainable Communities and Wellbeing Team are working on an updated audit of publicly accessible community facilities in the district.

The aim of the audit is to understand what community facilities are available and identify whether there are any barriers to their use or gaps in provision. [The previous audit](#) was

published in 2009. The updated study will help us identify opportunities for new or improved community facilities and will inform the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This information will also be used to inform other types of initiative which improve community wellbeing and will be important in helping us understand some of the short and long term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our parishes and how we can improve our response.

This is your opportunity to let us know about the community facilities in your area. [Please help now by completing this survey](#) before **the deadline this Wednesday (2 December)**. If you need the survey in another format, please contact duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk

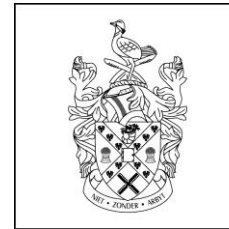
Quarterly liaison meetings in five villages with planned development

Residents in Sawston, Swavesey, Caldecote, Hardwick and Barrington will have a new opportunity to talk to the Council and developers as work on local developments progresses.

Significant housing growth is planned over the next five years in these five villages and we will be hosting quarterly liaison meetings attended by local District Councillors, Parish Councillors, developers, staff from the Council, and a community representative who will be able to raise any potential issues with the group so that solutions can quickly be put in place to prevent or minimise impact on the community. You can read more in the latest issue of [South Cams Magazine](#), or email duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk

Revised bin collection dates during the Christmas period

Usual day	Revised day
Thu 24 Dec	Thu 24 Dec
Fri 25 Dec	Tue 29 Dec
Mon 28 Dec	Wed 30 Dec
Tue 29 Dec	Thu 31 Dec
Wed 30 Dec	Sat 2 Jan
Thu 31 Dec	Mon 4 Jan
Fri 1 Jan	Tue 5 Jan
Mon 4 Jan	Wed 6 Jan
Tue 5 Jan	Thu 7 Jan
Wed 6 Jan	Fri 8 Jan
Thu 7 Jan	Sat 9 Jan



Fri 8 Jan	Mon 11 Jan
Mon 11 Jan	Tue 12 Jan
Tue 12 Jan	Wed 13 Jan
Wed 13 Jan	Thu 14 Jan
Thu 14 Jan	Fri 15 Jan
Fri 15 Jan	Sat 16 Jan
Mon 18 Jan	Back to normal

Contact: Waste.Enquiries@scambs.gov.uk

Keep recycling right

Following a big campaign in 2019, [Greater Cambridge Waste Service](#) is continuing work to improve the quality of the recycling collected from residents and businesses. Since the campaign launched we have seen the weight of incorrect items that have to be removed from the blue bins each month decrease by over 1.3%, but this contamination is still costing around £8,000 per month. Crews report contamination via their in-cab units, and the office team is then able to target communications to those areas that are having repeat problems. Businesses and schools have also been sent posters to display about disposal of PPE, which is a growing problem in recycling bins, and should be put into general rubbish.

South Cambs Magazine – winter 2020 issue

The [winter 2020 edition of South Cambs Magazine](#) has now been delivered to residents. Thank you to parishes who have provided helpful information when delivery issues have been identified in the past. Please continue to encourage residents to flag any issues to Smart Distribution as soon as possible, after the delivery window has closed: scdc@smartdistribution.co.uk or 0800 6444 011

Census 2021

Early next year there will be a national campaign across print, radio, TV and social media channels to raise awareness of the importance of completing returns for the 2021 Census.

This once-in-a-decade survey gives the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales, and has been carried out every decade since 1801, except in 1941. Collecting this information is even more important during a Brexit departure from

Europe and also the difficulties of an ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. Parish councils are being asked for their support in getting the message out to local communities via noticeboards and during meetings and engagement with the local community. The representative who will be helping local communities is [Colin Lippett](#), who will be supporting parish councils with printed materials (including different languages) and will also be available to attend any live events that might be possible (pending lockdown restrictions being lifted or eased).

Consultation on Lettings Policy

Following a detailed review of our Lettings Policy, a consultation has now begun into proposals to make minor changes to how Council and housing association homes across the county are allocated. We own and maintain around 5,500 Council homes and use the Home-Link service to help decide which residents are allocated which homes. The main aim of the review is to ensure that Council and housing association homes are provided to those most in need and are let in a fair and transparent way. There are no changes proposed to any of the 'bandings' that people seeking housing are placed in and which sees those in the highest need of housing given priority. Most of the proposed changes are alterations to wording to make it clearer what the policy means and to ensure it is applied consistently across Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk - the area covered by Home-Link. The proposals also incorporate changes to how a 'local connection' is defined; sets out greater clarity as to what is meant in relation to employment requirements; and proposes changes to give ex-partners or spouses of armed forces personnel the same exemption from local connection requirements as their former partners when they must move out of a Ministry of Defence property due to a relationship breakdown (ensuring we meet the requirements of the Military Covenant).

You can read the full changes proposed, and [take part in the consultation](#). Responses must be received by the end of the day on Friday 18 December.

Climate emergency

Climate Change webpages updated to offer more help

We recently updated our [climate change](#) web pages to provide more information on what we are doing as a Council to tackle climate change. The pages have been designed so that parish councils as well as individuals can find out more about initiatives, grants and funding opportunities, as well as ideas to help reduce carbon emissions and become more sustainable. Our Climate Emergency Toolkit, produced with parish councils in mind, provides links to resources, support and organisations to help get you to net zero carbon. It includes useful sections on energy savings in community buildings, community energy projects and case studies. If you know of any local community renewable energy scheme, or would like to set up a scheme, we would love to hear from you. Please email us at zcc@scamb.gov.uk

LEAP – energy and money saving advice

The Council has partnered with [LEAP \(the Local Energy Advice Partnership\)](#) which offers: energy saving advice and debt advice; free LED bulbs, radiator panels and draught proofing; help to understand tariffs and meters, and to find the cheapest energy tariffs; referrals for funding for home improvements such as loft insulation; some free replacement fridges, freezers, washing machines and electric cookers; help to register residents for a Warm Home Discount (£140 off their electricity bill), a Social Water Tariff, and Priority Services Register.

The service is available to anyone who is already in or is at risk of falling into fuel poverty. It is open to all types of householders – homeowners, private renters and social housing tenants. You can check the [eligibility criteria](#) on the LEAP website.

Government funding for a greener, warmer home

The Government's [Green Homes Grant scheme](#) could fund improvements to reduce energy use and lower the amount of carbon dioxide residents' homes produce. Homeowners (including park homeowners on a residential site) or residential landlords could receive vouchers to cover two-thirds of the cost of improvements, up to a maximum of £5,000

Residents receiving certain benefits may be eligible for vouchers covering 100 per cent of the cost of the improvements, to the maximum value of £10,000. We are helping to promote this scheme, including with an article in [South Cambs Magazine](#) as well as via social media.

NetZero Collective – tackling climate change

It is our aim to halve carbon emissions by 2030 and, as part of our Zero Carbon Strategy, the Council has joined forces with the [NetZero Collective](#), a growing group of property services businesses, manufacturers and building owners who are part of a nationwide research project by Southampton University. Along with other councils, housing associations and landlords, we are putting forward a small number of properties which will have energy monitoring equipment installed into them to gather real-life energy use data. After analysis a list of tailored retrofit works will be specified for each individual property, designed to reduce or eliminate carbon emissions whilst not increasing the cost to the resident to heat or cool their home. The information gathered from this study will enable us to assess what heating systems work best in different types of properties and how new technologies can help us maximise our efforts to be more energy efficient.

You can subscribe to our [Zero Carbon Communities e-newsletter](#) for more support and advice by emailing zcc@scambs.gov.uk

Wood burning stoves – advice on reducing air pollution

Defra has issued some timely advice on how to use wood burning stoves safely, what type of wood to use to ensure air pollution is kept to a minimum, and how to keep fire risks from chimneys low. Wood-burning stoves produce much less smoke than open-fires, but with the rise in the popularity of both in recent years there has been a negative effect on air quality which can cause breathing problems such as asthma attacks and contribute to other health conditions. This [Defra leaflet](#) provides simple steps to help those who use wood burning stoves or open fires to reduce environmental and health impacts, while maximising efficiency, bringing down fuel and maintenance costs and keeping chimneys in a better condition.

Free Woodland Trust tree packs for schools and parish councils

The Woodland Trust is offering [free community tree packs](#) to schools, community groups and parish councils. They are issued in two batches each year and the Trust is currently taking orders for delivery in March. The free community tree packs could be an ideal next step for parish councils which took up our three trees offer earlier in the year and have land available to plant a small wood. Earlier this year Woodland Trust published an [Emergency Tree Plan](#) for the UK which sets out the role that trees and woods can play in tackling both the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

Supporting local businesses

Businesses invited to sign up to our local business directory

We have created a [local business directory](#) to help residents find out more about what local businesses are offering. Included in the listings will be details of Covid-secure measures that businesses have put in place, and information about current opening arrangements/online ordering/click and collect facilities. Businesses can add their details to the directory via the link above. We will be promoting the directory to residents throughout December and beyond to help those wishing to support local businesses to be better able to do so. During December, businesses are also invited to tag us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in their own posts with information about any festive offers or seasonal specials, so that we can help to share these promotions with our followers.

For more information contact the [Reopening the High Street Safely team](#).

Help for local businesses hit by lockdown

Having helped distribute £24,177,500 in Government grant funds to 2,183 local businesses during the first Covid lockdown, we are currently helping those affected by the month-long November national lockdown to access financial help. If you know of local businesses in your

parish who were forced to close their doors during November, or who have suffered severe financial hardship, then they may be eligible for Government grants of up to £3,000. They can find details of [eligibility and how to apply on our website](#). Help may also be available for those who fall outside of the grants criteria. The Council has also just produced a [digital marketing guide](#) to help local businesses understand how they can trade online or market digitally.

For more information contact the [Business Support team](#).

Funding

Mobile Warden Scheme 2021-2024

The Mobile Warden grant scheme is [open for applications](#) until 5pm on Friday 29 January 2021. This year, funding is available for a three-year period (2021-2024) instead of just one year, and the level of funding available per year has increased from £27,000 last year up to £52,255. The Council expects to be able to provide the same funding to the groups that regularly apply successfully, but encourages applicants to demonstrate how they would use any additional funding to enhance their offering and be eligible for an increase in the funding they are awarded. For more information please contact Robyn Kerrigan: robyn.kerrigan@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713254.

Innovate & Cultivate Fund

The next deadline to apply for Cambridgeshire County Council's [Innovate & Cultivate Fund](#) for £2,000-£15,000 is 1 February 2021. The fund supports initiatives that strengthen communities and reduce pressure on the County Council's adult social care and children's services. It is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. The County Council strongly advises organisations to seek pre-application advice on their project ideas before submitting an application – you can book an advice slot for Thursday 10 December [on Eventbrite](#). Application guidance is also available to run new projects such as Mobile Warden Schemes and Digital Inclusion Projects – or for Timebanks, Good Neighbour Schemes, Dementia-Friendly Communities and Men's Sheds. You can find guidance on how to apply for a start-up grant for each of these projects [on the Cambridgeshire Insight website](#).

Fundraising in rural communities

The Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service is running an online webinar session on [Fundraising in Rural Communities](#) on Thursday 10 December, 6pm to 7.30pm. Aimed at community groups and looking at successful online fundraising ideas and other ways of raising finance beyond grant funding, the event is funded by the Council and priority will be given to groups/communities from our district. The session will offer the opportunity to hear from other community groups about running a successful crowdfunding campaign and hosting an online

community fundraiser including raffles and competitions. A representative from the Coop will also talk about their role in creating local forums to share resources and make things happen, and there will be a talk on social finance and community share schemes which some communities have been able to utilise to save crucial community assets.

Neighbourhood Watch grants

The Trustees of Neighbourhood Watch Network have set aside funds for a six-month trial community grants programme for local groups delivering or setting up Neighbourhood Watch activities within their communities. Grants of £100 to £500 can be used for one-off project work or core costs. Find out more [information and apply](#).

Reminder: Community Safety Partnership Micro Grants available

Micro Grants of between £50 and £500 are available to local voluntary and community sector groups, charities and parish councils wishing to improve community safety in their local area, in line with the Community Safety Partnership's objectives: to make sure we know what makes our communities vulnerable and to give communities the knowledge and skills to tackle concerns themselves.

[Check the criteria for the grant](#) or contact Linda Gallagher for further information:
Linda.Gallagher@scams.gov.uk

Northstowe

Northstowe Town Council

A new Northstowe Town Council is to be created to govern Northstowe. The decision was made at [South Cambridgeshire District Council's Full Council meeting \(26 November\)](#) and follows a Community Governance Review with local parish councils and communities to consider the governance options for the new community.

Upcoming Community Forum

The next Northstowe Community Forum will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 20 January 2021. Anyone wishing to ask a question in advance can [email the question to the team](#).

It will be streamed via our [Facebook page](#). Depending upon your device, you may see a 'live' button that you need to press. Otherwise go to videos and click on the 'live' video from 6.30pm. For more information email: duty.communities@scams.gov.uk



**South
Cambridgeshire**
District Council

Hospice needs volunteers for Christmas tree recycling scheme

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity is asking local community volunteers to help with its annual Christmas Tree collection on Thursday 7, Friday 8, Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 January 2021. The charity hopes to collect around 2,800 trees and raise £40,000. After costs, 90% of the money goes to the hospice and the remaining 10% to the Rotary Club of Cambridge to distribute amongst local charities. The charity is appealing for more volunteers who can drive, with preferably their own van and crew members. To offer help, contact the hospice fundraising team on 01223 675888 or email fundraising@arhc.org.uk.