

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

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

District Councillors' Monthly Report – April 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
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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 being 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 provide capital funding for local businesses for things like diversifying or creating jobs, plus a range of community initiatives such as rural travel, volunteering opportunities, digital projects or schemes that 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>.

Planning

Statement of Community Involvement Formally Adopted

South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Councils have formally adopted a new key planning document – which sets out how they will help residents have their say on a wide range of planning matters during the next five years. This includes planning applications and appeals, preparation of planning policies through the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans, National Significant Infrastructure Projects, and allocation of planning obligation funds.

A draft version of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was open for public consultation from 18 October to 29 November 2023, inviting residents of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire to share their perspectives on how they could actively participate in planning decisions. During this period, two in-person consultation events were held, providing opportunities for face-to-face discussions, while an online webinar facilitated a virtual question-and-answer session with council representatives. The feedback gathered from the public was used to shape the final SCI.

The Councils aspire, through the aims of the SCI, to:

- Ensure that engagement is managed efficiently by consulting at the earliest possible stages of the planning process, providing clear information about the proposals and by conducting early engagement with Councillors, stakeholders, community groups, applicants, and individuals in a meaningful way.
- Set clear and concise objectives of consultations in order to be transparent by keeping people informed, being clear on what the councils are asking for responses on, publishing outcomes, and setting realistic timelines for consultations and being open and clear about our decision making.
- Be proportionate and cost effective in resource and promote best practice by exploring new and evolving methods of consultation and communications including digital to engage more easily with local communities.
- Ensure consultation is inclusive, fair, equitable and supports local communities in feeling heard through consultation methods that are consistent to all, including those people without access or find it difficult using digital communication.
- Be accountable in the decision-making process, by explaining how the responses to consultations will be considered, how people will be informed of outcomes or decisions, and ensure that the planning stages are robust, justified, and consistent.

You can view the final Statement of Community Involvement document at:

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/about-us/statement-of-community-involvement/>

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://scamb.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=12427>

Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme launches

Applications are now invited for the 6th years of the popular Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The scheme underscores the Council's commitment to being green to the core and encourages residents, community groups and parish councils to find ways to reduce carbon emissions and raise awareness to meet the climate challenge.

Projects are invited under two themes:

- Reducing carbon emissions or locking up carbon.
- Community engagement around climate change.

Grants of between £2,000 and £15,000 are available to parish councils and community groups in the district, with a total pot of £125,000 available.

Previous projects have included community building retrofits, food waste and climate-friendly cooking education, as well as e-bike rental schemes. Examples include:

- In 2023, [Cambridge Carbon Footprint](#) received £15,000 to expand their network of repair cafes in the district, diverting items from landfill and educating residents on sustainability and repair culture in a sociable setting.
- Duxford Community Centre, Landbeach Village Hall and Wysing Arts Centre each received £15,000 to install solar panels and reduce their buildings' grid electricity consumption.
- [Hope Against Poverty CIC](#), who operate a mobile foodbank, received £15,000 to replace their current diesel van with an electric vehicle

Anyone interested in applying is encouraged to attend an online application support workshop on Wednesday 24 April from 7 to 8:30pm. Sign up via [Eventbrite](#).

All applicants should consult the updated application guidance and criteria when making an application. Applications can be made via the [eform](#) on the South Cambridgeshire District Council website. For questions or support, please email zcc@scambs.gov.uk

Allotment toolkit launch

A new 'allotment toolkit' has been created by South Cambridgeshire District Council to support the provision of good quality allotments across the district. The toolkit includes advice on areas such as governance, pest control, and community engagement, and finishes with a case study on Swavesey Allotment. It is available at:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-action/allotment-toolkit/>

50th Anniversary of South Cambs District Council

SCDC recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. A civic ceremony was held at South Cambridgeshire Hall in Cambourne. You can find out all about what happened as well as some of the history of the district council at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/50-years-of-south-cambridgeshire-district-council/>.

Cambridge 2050

A Ministerial Statement has been released stating that a Growth Company (which will eventually become a DevCo) will be established with no elected representation on the board. Council leaders, the Mayor and an unspecified number of others will be on the Advisory Council. Local councils have expressed concerns that there will be a loss of democratic accountability. The statement is available here: [Next Steps on Cambridge: 26 Mar 2024: Hansard Written Answers - TheyWorkForYou](#). A recent article is available here: [A vision for 150,000 homes but no water to supply them. Does Gove's Cambridge plan stand a chance? | Features | Building](#)

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. Events in this area are:

- 2-7pm 10th May at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, CB23 6EA
- 2-7pm 21st May at St Philip's Church Centre, 185 Mill Road, Cambridge, CB1 3AN
- 2-7pm 22nd May at Comberton Village Hall, Green End, Comberton, CB23 7DY