

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

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

District Councillors' Monthly Report – July 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
Ariel Cahn:	Cllr.CahnA@scambs.gov.uk	07455 128924
Lisa Redrup:	Cllr.Redrup@scambs.gov.uk	07855 324580

General election –photo ID requirement

You will need an acceptable form of photo ID to vote at the polling station. 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.cambsacore.org.uk/projects/cambridgeshire-community-hubs-network/>

£1 bus fares for under 25s with the new Tiger pass

Under 25s can apply for a free Tiger bus pass at: <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/onepoundbusfare/>. The pass can then be shown to the bus driver when boarding to receive the reduced £1 fare. This initiative is part of the Combined Authority's efforts to revamp public transport in the region.

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 \(scambs.gov.uk\)](#)

Communities

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@scambs.gov.uk or visit: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/shared-prosperity-fund>

Small grants for community growing projects

SCDC has set up a grant fund to support communities to grow their own food sustainably as part of the wider cost of living response project.

The fund totals £5,000 and is open to the end of the 2024/25 financial year, unless spent earlier. It will provide small (up to £500) grants to Parish Councils, constituted community groups, schools, and informal groups for projects associated with the growing of food.

To find out more and apply, visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-growing-grant>

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
- Visit the website [Cambourne Church : The Harbour Bereavement Cafe](#)

Vape recycling at Cambridgeshire Household Recycling Centres

Vape recycling has been introduced at [Cambridgeshire's Household Recycling Centres](#) – including Milton and Thriplow. The new vape recycling bins offer a safe way for residents to dispose of single use and reusable vapes. Disposable vapes contain lithium-ion batteries which can catch fire if damaged. Three million vapes are currently thrown away each week across the UK, and research by Material Focus shows that electrical items, including vapes, disposed of in the wrong bin cause more than 600 fires in refuse collection vehicles and at waste sites every year.

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 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 to see all locations.

Anglian Water Fens Reservoir Consultation

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 - alongside an interactive map, and instructions on how to have your say.