

Introduction to the May 2023 parish e-bulletin

Welcome to South Cambridgeshire District Council's May 2023 parish e-bulletin. Our e-bulletin contains important notices we would like to draw your attention to, from across the Council. We always appreciate feedback so if you would like to let us know what you think of this e-bulletin, or have suggestions for future topics, please just email communications@scambs.gov.uk

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New Monitoring Officer

We wanted to introduce our new Monitoring Officer, John Murphy, who has very recently started in his new role with the Council. We asked John to write a few words to introduce himself to you:

"I qualified as a solicitor in 2001 and have worked in private practice and commerce until moving into local government in 2014. I had great experience working at Birmingham City Council, being involved with two high profile industrial disputes as well as litigation concerned with the Trojan Horses school scandal before spending a number of years as the Whistleblowing Officer for Birmingham City Council.

"After moving into the field of governance law, I worked at West Northamptonshire Council as it was created in 2021 before taking on the Deputy Monitoring Officer role at Central Bedfordshire Council where I have just spent a number of weeks involved with the election matters and the change of Administration."

You can contact John at John.Murphy@3csharedservices.org

Updates from the Communications and Communities Team

South Cambs Magazine

The summer 2023 edition of South Cambs Magazine is being delivered to residents between 22 May and 3 June. If any residents have not received a copy by 4 June, they can email Smart Distribution on scdc@smartdistribution.co.uk or call them on 0800 6444 011 to report this. You can find out delivery dates for each edition, as well as read the current edition, [on the Council's website](#).

Homes for Ukraine verge signs

We wanted to express our gratitude for helping with our communication campaign to generate more hosts for the Homes for Ukraine scheme. However, the decision has now been made to remove verge signs that were provided during that work, as this communication campaign draws to a natural end.

With that being said, please feel free to re-purpose these signs should you have a need to do so. Alternatively, they can also be recycled as a way of disposing of them. Please also feel free to drop these back at South Cambridgeshire Hall if you would prefer not to re-purpose or dispose of the signs.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk

Support for older people

Life expectancy in South Cambridgeshire is higher than the national and county averages. An ageing population brings with it an increased risk of deteriorating health, loneliness and feelings of isolation. We provide independent living support to the over 65s through emotional, financial and practical support, including:

- providing a free short-term [Visiting support Service](#)
- part funding [Mobile and Community Warden Schemes](#) for almost half of the parishes in the district. This regular and ongoing weekly support is provided at a relatively low cost but means that elderly residents can remain in their own homes for longer.
- offering a [Community Lifeline Service](#) which provides residents and their families peace of mind knowing that they are safe in their homes- a pendant alarm is given out which when pressed contacts a response centre so that help can be raised.
- providing [sheltered housing](#) in 30 villages
- providing information on [disabled adaptations and home improvement grants](#)

Local Authority Prevent Duty

The Prevent Duty requires Local Authorities and their partners (including police and health partners) to work together to counter all forms of terrorism and non-violent extremism, and to safeguard individuals at risk of radicalisation.

We have a Prevent Plan which includes actions to support communities to share concerns about individuals at risk of radicalisation, as well as groups who may

present a threat. We will work to inform communities and raise awareness about Prevent. We want to support you, our communities, to share local intelligence and make appropriate referrals. For more detail [please see our Prevent plan](#).

Prevent training for Parish Councillors

Meanwhile, we are encouraging Parish Councillors to sign-up for a webinar, being run in partnership between local councils in the East and the Home Office, about preventing radicalisation. All the information about this webinar is contained within the PDF flyer attached to the parish e-bulletin email. The sessions in June are 90 minutes long and Parish Councillors only need attend one of them. The webinar will cover:

- An overview of the Prevent programme and statutory duty
- The national and local picture. including the new types of terrorism emerging
- The role Councillors can play in supporting the community
- How to identify when a referral to the Prevent team is needed, and the current support available

Please see the attached flyer for further details and [sign-up to attend one of the webinars](#).

Resource addressing resident hesitation in reporting incidents to Police

We have previously tried to simplify information to share with residents about how to report issues to police and explained that the number of reports that police receive directly impact how resources are allocated. We know that residents can sometimes still be hesitant, and we have created [this social Facebook post](#) you can share to further raise awareness of this need to report. We would be grateful if you could share this from your Facebook accounts.

Police survey and engagement events

The online police engagement event on 2 May saw the South Cambs Neighbourhood Policing Team update residents and councillors on local action and priorities. A survey that can be used to inform priorities is continuously available and can be completed on a repeated basis. For example, once in every three-month

cycle in advance of meetings where priorities are set. Further information can be found on the [South Cambs Neighbourhood Policing Team webpage](#).

Updates from our Climate and Environment Team

Funding for Biodiversity Projects

Our [Community Chest Biodiversity Grant](#) funds parish councils and community groups to carry out biodiversity projects, helping to create space for nature in our communities. Up to £2,000 is available per project; which could include planting native trees, hedgerows, and wildflower meadows; construction and installation bird and bat boxes; or creating and improving wildlife habitats.

If you would like ideas for projects and guidance, advice and support on enabling local nature recovery in your area, then Natural Cambridgeshire's [Local Nature Recovery Toolkit](#) is an excellent resource.

Projects that have recently been funded through the Biodiversity Grant include:

- A multi-use community garden at Meldreth Village Hall
- A community herb bed in Fulbourn
- Wildlife-friendly planting and community engagement in Swavesey
- Nature trails in Whittlesford
- Hedge and tree planting at Duxford allotments

Email climateandenvironment@scambs.gov.uk if you have queries.

EV charging grant scheme

If your area would benefit from more electric vehicle chargers, then South Cambridgeshire District Council's new Electric Vehicle Charge Point Grant may be of interest.

Up to £5,000 per project is available for purchase and installation of EV charger projects at community buildings and car parks. The chargers must be accessible to the public, and applications will be assessed on their deliverability and positive

impact. Funding is allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis with approximately £30,000 available to be awarded this year.

More information, guidance, and the application form can be found on the [grant's webpage](#). If you have any questions, please email evcp.grant@scambs.gov.uk

Update from Greater Cambridge Shared Waste: Metal recycling campaign

Aluminium and steel are some of the most valuable materials the council collects in blue recycling bins, not just in terms of their monetary worth but also their carbon impact. Making a can from recycled aluminium uses 95% less energy than making one from raw materials, saving 9 tonnes of CO2 emissions for every tonne of aluminium recycled. With these benefits in mind, we are launching our Metal Matters campaign along with RECAP partners this month to encourage residents to recycle as much of their metal packaging as possible, including items that are often missed such as aerosol cans and foil. Look or listen out for adverts on social media, buses and radio.

Update from Business Key Projects: South Cambridgeshire Markets Project

The number of markets in South Cambridgeshire continues growing and our [market toolkit](#) provides a fine introduction for aspiring organisers. From location factors to health and safety matters, the foundations are there for more villages to grow their very own market. Additionally, Officers are available to visit our Parishes to lend in-person support where needed with a tailored approach.

Not only does [South Cambridgeshire Markets](#) list these terrific district-wide events, but also highlights the abundance of skilled businesspeople in our region through a [stallholder directory](#). The stallholder directory is free to [sign up to](#), and we kindly ask our parishes share this wonderful opportunity to help businesses become more widely involved with market organisers across the district.

Please encourage any market or event organisers to take advantage of [the free listings on visitsouthcambs.co.uk](https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk), our dedicated tourism economy website, visited by thousands of users from around the world each month.

Contact: businesskeyprojects@scambs.gov.uk



East West Rail update

You may well already have seen an update about the route for East West Rail, which was published at the end of last week. You can read the [route update report](#), as well as a range of factsheets and updated maps, on the [East West Rail website](#).

Greater Cambridge Partnership update

A report outlining the results from the Greater Cambridge Partnership's Making Connections public consultation was also published at the end of last week. More than 24,000 people responded to the consultation, which proposed measures to transform the bus network alongside better walking and cycling infrastructure that would be funded in the long term by the phased introduction of a road-user charge. Read further details on the [Greater Cambridge Partnership website](#).