

District Councillors' Report to Dry Drayton Parish Council – May 2023

Cllr Corinne Garvie 07780 932267 cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Richard Stobart 07950 934793 cllr.stobart@scambs.gov.uk

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) News

Taxis registered in South Cambs will be required to have CCTV installed in the cabs. This is for the safety of the drivers and their passengers.

SCDC Zero Carbon Communities Grants – now open for applications

A grant scheme has opened for 2023 to encourage community projects that reduce carbon emissions and engage local people about climate change. Community groups are invited to bid for a share of £125,000 with the scheme closing on June 2nd.

Previous projects have included installation of solar panels, heat pumps and infra-red heating, landscaping, planting of trees and wildflowers, and raising community awareness of sustainability techniques. Parish councils and non-profit groups or organisations that are based in the district can apply. Other groups, such as social enterprises and community interest companies can apply as part of a partnership led by a parish council or not-for-profit group. Those interested can check out the scheme and start an application at: www.scambs.gov.uk/zerocarbongrant. For further information contact Kath Sansom in SCDC's communications team, kath.sansom@scambs.gov.uk

Grant award for the Planning Service

The Government has awarded Greater Cambridge Shared Planning £290,000 to improve feedback processes for its emerging Local Plan. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) is a partnership between South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Councils.

The funding seeks to build upon the earlier work in producing a “digital” Local Plan by speeding up the processing and the review of the thousands of comments made by communities and developers through the process. This will shorten the time between people making comments and Councillors and communities.

More Money to Decarbonise Council Houses

SCDC has successfully bid for £1.7 million Government funding, to continue work to decarbonise Council homes. This will be added to the projects the Council has already started to improve the fabric of Council homes. It will also support other measures being put in place to help the Council achieve its own and the Government's Net Zero targets. The District Council owns and maintains around 5,600 Council homes. The new funding will go towards energy efficiency upgrades within these homes. Energy saving measures such as exterior wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, new windows and doors, draft proofing measures, as well as heat pumps and solar panel installation will be provided with the funding. These measures could save tenants between £220 and £400 a year on their energy bills.

East–West Rail route announcement due this month

SCDC Leader Bridget Smith recently wrote to the rail minister with an invitation to visit the district to view the impact the new railway would have on some villages. A number of Parish Councils co-signed the letter. Unfortunately, the minister declined the invitation, claiming a previous visit. Since then, we have had the announcement in the budget that the government is progressing this scheme. In the Spring Budget policy paper released following the Chancellor's Budget speech, it was confirmed that the route announcement will be made in May, and that the government will provide up to £15 million local capacity

funding to support local authorities along the East West Rail route to maximise economic opportunities.

£224k funding approved for Community Wellbeing Hubs

We're pleased to announce the Integrated Care System (ICS) have approved a bid by SCDC, securing a further £224,000 of funding to develop the Cost-of-Living Project work, namely the evolution of Warm Hubs to Community Wellbeing Hubs. These will continue to provide much needed social connection for residents but also improve outreach to other services for local people which support health and wellbeing. Further information will be available as the projects develop.

Rural bus summit

Following a local rural bus summit that took place back in February, SCDC has received some further information from Stagecoach about the actions that arose from the event. The aim of the event was to look into the key transport needs for the region, as well as the priorities for bus improvements across our local cities, towns, villages and rural areas. One item that generated discussion was a new 'One Transport Need: One Transport Solution' initiative that aims to bring together all relevant local authorities and transport operators to deduce current needs and work together towards achievable solutions. If you'd like more information on the actions proposed, we'll be pleased to forward a copy.

An update from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)

Find a job: Homes for Ukraine guidance update – reminder

On 3 April, DLUHC updated the Find a job: Homes for Ukraine guidance, which includes information on where to find work, signposting support and how to access skills-based training for employment. The update includes information added on working in a regulated profession in the UK. Some professions in the UK, such as teachers and lawyers, are regulated by law and individuals need to have specific professional qualifications or experience to be able to enter and practise these professions. For these roles, independent regulators decide what qualifications individuals need to have to practise a profession and assess whether applicants are suitably qualified. To help navigate this process, the UK government has established the UK Centre for Professional Qualifications (UK CPQ). The UK CPQ can provide advice and guidance on the recognition of professional qualifications and will signpost individuals to relevant regulators, where appropriate.

Warm Hubs – Evaluation Report published

Using funding provided by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System, SCDC was able to commission Cambridgeshire ACRE to establish and run Warm Hubs in locations across the district through the winter. Twenty-five Warm Hubs ran across South Cambridgeshire this winter, with more than 3,000 visits recorded up to the start of March. Some will now evolve into Community Wellbeing Hubs, offering more services. In the meantime, Cambridgeshire ACRE have just published an interesting and useful Evaluation Report on the project. This gives extensive insight into the difference Warm Hubs have made whilst they have been open in our communities this winter. You can [view the full report here](#) or the [shorter infographic-based version here](#). Note that Cambridgeshire ACRE were also commissioned by East Cambridgeshire District Council to run Warm Hubs in East Cambs, and the report covers both districts.

Corinne Garvie, Richard Stobart
7th May 2023