

## **District Councillors' Report for Dry Drayton Parish Council and Residents. October 2023**

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### **RAAC**

We have been informed that no schools in Cambridgeshire have the dangerous concrete.

### **Oxford Cambridge Partnership**

The first full board meeting has taken place. Includes a number of leaders from across the region including Oxfordshire and Oxford City and Milton Keynes. 10 environmental projects were approved. Details are on the website under 'Board Meetings and Notes': Oxford to Cambridge Partnership (<http://www.oxford-cambridge-partnership.info>)

### **Bus Services**

The Combined Authority is reviewing all the bus services for which it provides basic financial support in the form of public subsidy. These are services where no commercial operator has come forward, but which are deemed essential – indeed national bus policy has since the 1980s been based on private commercial bus services, with local authorities stepping in as and where they can to serve otherwise isolated areas.

### **Stagecoach is making changes to fares on Sunday 17th September 2023.**

Stagecoach report that "The first objective of fares is to cover the costs of service provision and while the majority of this fare increase is down to rising cost, we've also been making important investments to give you an even better experience when travelling on our network. The new ticket prices will add on average just 43p on to the cost of daily adult bus travel in the Town zone. From Sunday 17th September 2023, we will continue to offer the same ticket types, but at slightly different prices."

### **Community forum autumn 2023 date**

Thursday 2 November is proposed for the North West and West Cambridge Forum. It is held at the Storeys Field Centre in Eddington. It focusses on the development of Eddington and Darwin Green. Please check <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/north-west-and-west-cambridge-community-forum> .

### **Electrical safety campaign – a message from Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service**

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service are urging residents to keep in mind some simple steps when using electrical devices, especially those with Lithium-Ion batteries. The idea is that by following a few simple safety measures, like adding fire safety to bedtime routine and being awake when using and charging some devices or appliances, people can keep themselves and their families safe in their homes.

Over the coming weeks more information, including key advice for residents [to Take Charge and Be Safe](https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/community-safety/take-charge-and-be-safe) (<https://www.cambsfire.gov.uk/community-safety/take-charge-and-be-safe>) will be released on the fire service's social media channels.

Lithium-Ion batteries can be found in many electronic devices that are used every day. Things like mobile phones, laptops and tablets, vape cigarettes and games console controllers, as well as e-scooters and e-bikes.

### **Weed killing Policy Changes**

In recent years the chemicals authorised for use have had to change to avoid health issues and environmental impact. There is now less support for chemical weed clearance within communities

as a result of better environmental understanding. The Highways service, in partnership with Cambridge City Council, is trailing ceasing cyclic weed clearing to reduce chemical use.

The new service will adopt a reactive approach to weed removal. Where the County Council are notified of weeds by the community, we would assess and decide whether to remove the weeds. Only weeds causing an immediate safety hazard would be removed.

### **Greater Cambridge Shared Planning – New Facebook page**

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) Communications has now established dedicated social media accounts for the planning service. The latest addition to the planning service's online channels is [a Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/greatercambridgeplanning) (<https://www.facebook.com/greatercambridgeplanning>).

The accounts will serve a wide variety of purposes including promotion of:

- GCSP news and events
- Recruitment
- Application guidance
- Customer feedback
- Local Plan information
- Consultations
- Youth engagement
- And much more

Links to the GCSP accounts – please do like / follow / share:

[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/greatercambridgeplanning) (<https://www.facebook.com/greatercambridgeplanning>)

[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/greatercambridgeplanning/) (<https://www.instagram.com/greatercambridgeplanning/>)

[Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service | LinkedIn](https://uk.linkedin.com/company/greater-cambridge-shared-planning-service) (<https://uk.linkedin.com/company/greater-cambridge-shared-planning-service>)

[Greater Cambridge Shared Planning \(@GCSP\\_Planning\) / X \(twitter.com\)](https://twitter.com/GCSP_Planning) ([https://twitter.com/GCSP\\_Planning](https://twitter.com/GCSP_Planning))

### **Free Electric blankets will help residents most in need this winter**

South Cambridgeshire District Council will shortly be offering 532 residents the opportunity to claim a free electric blanket (also known as a heated throw) as a cost-effective alternative to central heating. Residents selected to qualify will be those who are (as of 1 July 2023) claiming Council Tax Support and at least one of the following:

- Attendance Allowance.
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) mobility element at the enhanced rate.
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA) mobility component at the higher rate.

They have been selected because of mobility issues so are more susceptible to cold weather pressures and are experiencing at least some financial hardships, so are less able to afford their heating bills this winter. Qualifying residents will receive a letter in the coming weeks from the Council telling them they are eligible and how to claim their free blanket. Only people who receive a letter will be able to claim a free blanket.

Analysis has shown that running an electric blanket costs just 5p per hour, compared to an average central heating cost of £2.03 per hour. The accumulation of these savings over the winter months has the potential to provide financial relief to those residents.

### **Who are these local government organisations?**

We are asked about how the organisations fit together, so here is a brief summary:

The Greater Cambridge Partnership comes from one of several 'city deals' signed by central government in 2014. It is worth up to £500M in funding to 2030 for infrastructure improvements to boost economic growth. It's comprised of South Cambs District Council, Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council elected representatives who hold voting powers; plus representatives of the business and university communities, who are part the legal agreement.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority was formed in 2017, as a national government initiative agreed by a majority vote at the respective councils. The CA became the Local Transport Authority, taking over from the County Council. Meanwhile the County Council remains the Local Highway Authority. The CA is led by the Mayor and its committees are made up of councillors representing Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Within this mix, the GCP delivers significant transport infrastructure projects for the Greater Cambridge area. Strategic planning and decisions about publicly supported bus services and road charging can only be taken by the Local Transport Authority (CA) and the Local Highway Authority (County Council) respectively.

### **Update from South Cambridgeshire Business Support Team on the Markets Programme**

The Economic Development Team is delivering the South Cambridgeshire Markets programme as part of the Council's wider business plan objective to 'support businesses'. This work includes working with small businesses to identify meanwhile pop-up market and trading opportunities across the district, as well as working with market and event organisers to ensure that these events are successful.

Over the last year the team has:

- Created a South Cambridgeshire Markets brand which includes a [Market Toolkit](#), [Market Directory](#) and [Stallholder Directory](#). This contains information to support event organisers and help to promote Council services such as Environmental Health Services, ensuring the organisers adhere to legislation. We extensively promote local Markets and events through our visitor economy website [Visit South Cambs](#) as well as running campaigns on the SCDC main social media platforms to promote our markets.
- The team delivered hands-on market support to 22 different markets and events over the last year. 7 of these are new markets in the district namely Cottenham Community Market, Hauxton Food & Craft Market, Marleigh Market, The Gransdens Farmers Market, Great Shelford Village Market, Histon Farmers Fayre and Northstowe Market
- For each event supported in the last year, we estimate this has created 450 additional trading opportunities overall for small South Cambs businesses.
- We hosted the South Cambridgeshire Christmas Market (Dec 2022), which had 70 stallholders and 1,500 – 1,700 visitors in attendance. We estimate that collective income for the stallholders was in the region of £20,000-£25,000.

We are now in the process of planning a Christmas Market for 2023, as well working with market organisers to start-up, reinstate or help expand additional markets in South Cambridgeshire. We also have an exciting project as part of the Shared Prosperity Fund in the pipeline to establish a Youth Enterprise programme for disadvantaged groups to develop future market traders.

For any further information please contact Katherine Southwood  
[businesskeyprojects@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:businesskeyprojects@scambs.gov.uk)

### **In conclusion**

If you have any questions, please get in touch with either of us and we'll get an answer to you.

*Richard Stobart  
Corinne Garvie  
2nd October 2023*