

District Councillors 'Report for Dry Drayton Parish Council, February 2024

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Air Quality Strategy Consultation

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) have jointly developed a draft strategy for improved air quality in Greater Cambridge. This is a statutory requirement under the Local Air Quality Management Regulations. The primary objectives of the strategy are to:

- Continue to meet and deliver all legislative and policy requirements associated with air quality
- Continue to improve air quality across Greater Cambridge, enhancing the health of those living in, working in, and visiting Greater Cambridge
- Work towards World Health Organization (WHO) Air Quality Guideline* annual averages, in the longer term.

Please check the consultation form and supporting documents at:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/greater-cambridge-air-quality-strategy-consultation/>

Reminder - Shared Prosperity Fund

SCDC will receive over £1M from the Government's "Shared Prosperity" scheme to allocate as grants to business and community schemes. SCDC is working on the value of the grant awards and the overall objectives to be addressed. We've already let you know about one of the funds, and we will keep you up to date with further announcements.

Heat network zoning consultation – reminder

On 18 December 2023, the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero launched [a consultation on heat network zoning](#) and is seeking views from councils and housing associations. Heat network zoning will help communities to accelerate the development of heat networks and ensure that more homes and businesses can have access to greener and cheaper heat. The consultation covers topics such as how heat network zoning will be co-ordinated locally, the types of building that could be required to connect to heat networks and how zone opportunities will be taken to market. The consultation closes on 26 February. If you have any questions, please contact: heatnetworks@energysecurity.gov.uk

Consultation summary:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposals-for-heat-network-zoning-2023/heat-network-zoning-consultation-summary>

Further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/heat-network-zoning>

Civil Parking Enforcement – ticketing to begin on 1 February and how to provide additional feedback

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) has been live in South Cambridgeshire since late December, but from 1 February tickets, with fines attached, will begin to be issued by Cambridgeshire County Council's Civil Parking Enforcement Officers.

The officers can only enforce restrictions that are in place, such as parking on a single or double yellow lines, or the footpath where restrictions are adjacent. Other parking matters, such as causing an obstruction by parking on the pavement, will remain Police matters.

There will be two enforcement officers dedicated to South Cambridgeshire as part of a wider team that enforce the CPE scheme in Cambridge City. It is not possible for the officers to be everywhere all the time and work has been done by Cambridgeshire County Council, utilising available data and insights, to maximise the time they spend enforcing and minimising travel time across the large rural area they will cover.

Although plans are in place for when tickets begin to be issued, they will look at these over the coming weeks and months as the team learn more from their patrols. The team at the County Council has had feedback from some communities about concerns in some areas too. To ensure they get all the information they need to help increase their understanding of local concerns. We understand that you have been sent a data request in the form of a simple table listing areas of concern. If you feel you have information to feedback please complete the table and email it to parkingcontrol@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Northstowe Western Park Sports Pavilion – Opened

Cllr Fane, Chair of SCDC along with Cllr Paul Littlemore, Mayor of Northstowe Town Council opened the new Sports Pavilion on 20th January 2024 in the presence of the pavilion's management board (involving representations from Northstowe Sport and Wellbeing Group and Longstanton Bowls Club in addition to SCDC and the Town Council) and local residents. Residents had chance to look around the building.

People on low incomes encouraged to check eligibility for energy bill discount

The government is [encouraging people on low incomes to check if they can benefit from a £150 rebate on their energy bills](#). The help is available to over three million households in Great Britain that are most at risk of fuel poverty, with many receiving the discount automatically. However, some customers in England and Wales have been sent a letter asking them to confirm their details by calling the Warm Home Discount Helpline so they can check their eligibility and get the rebate. [Customers should stay alert to potential scams and report them to relevant authorities where they are suspected](#). Households who need to provide more information should call the helpline on 0800 030 9322 by 29 February to get the support they are entitled to.

Cold Weather Payments have also been triggered to help households receiving certain benefits to stay warm this winter. The scheme – which runs until March 2024 – provides low-income households with an automatic payment of £25 following periods of cold weather. Further information about the [Warm Home Discount Scheme](#) is available here and households can check if they are eligible for the support via the [online eligibility checker](#)

Improving Energy Efficiency of Homes

[Action on Energy](#) is a partnership made up of the six councils across Cambridgeshire - helping to support people to create more energy efficient homes, which, in turn, makes them cheaper to heat and more comfortable to live in. The partnership coordinates, and offers advice on a number of grants including:

- The Home Upgrade Grant 2 ([HUG2](#)), [offers funding from government, delivered by Action on Energy](#) and can provide home energy efficiency improvements for people on low incomes with properties not heated by gas. The funding aims to make the

poorest performing homes more efficient by installing improvements like insulation, solar panels, and heat pumps.

- [Boiler upgrade](#) scheme. Grants are available from government to replace gas boilers with cleaner heating systems.
- The [ECO4](#) and [Great British Insulation](#) schemes.

Find out more about the funding schemes and advice available on the [Action on Energy website](#). Simply visit the 'Get in Touch' page and complete the short [grant funding application form](#).

Update from the Economic Development & Investments team: Green Business Impact Programme

The Green Business Impact Programme can help local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) create a practical plan to deliver on Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) targets, through free tailored advice from environmental experts from PECT and Allia. Please encourage businesses looking to reduce their carbon footprint to apply. For any questions about the scheme please contact our Business Support team on OpenForBusiness@scams.gov.uk.

Police Community Engagement

For those who haven't attended before, these meetings are quarterly and held online from 7pm-8pm. They allow members of the public to virtually meet their neighbourhood officers and hear about recent activity. Attendees will also get the opportunity to raise any concerns they have and help shape future priorities.

Forthcoming community engagement meetings:

- 28 February
- 22 May
- 28 August
- 27 November

If you would like to attend, please visit the neighbourhood page and click the link on the date. You will be sent to EventBrite to register for free and will be sent a meeting link:

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/police-forces/cambridgeshire-constabulary/areas/campaigns/nhp/neighbourhood-policing/South-Cambridgeshire/>

On the neighbourhood page you will also see a survey which can be filled out by those unable to attend the meeting so all views can be taken into account.

Recent correspondence from SCDC

You'll have recently received correspondence from SCDC on the subjects of Planning and the trial of the four day working week. If there are any follow-up actions you'd like to propose - including meetings with officers and members of the SCDC cabinet, please let us know.

*Corinne Garvie
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7th February 2024