

District Councillors' Report for Dry Drayton Parish Council, 9th April 2024

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Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme 2024

This grant aims to empower community groups and parish councils to take local action on climate change. Applications are once again invited for projects under two themes: reducing carbon emissions or locking up carbon, and community engagement around climate change. Grants of between £2,000 and £15,000 are available to parish councils and community groups in South Cambridgeshire, with a total pot of £125,000 available.

Projects funded previously have included community building retrofits, food waste and climate-friendly cooking education, and e-bike rental schemes. You can find more past projects, case studies and the application form on the SCDC website: [Zero Carbon Communities Grant - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.scdc.gov.uk/zero-carbon-communities-grant-south-cambs-district-council)

All applicants should review the updated application guidance and information documents. Please note especially, all solar PV projects are now asked to have received three quotations from potential suppliers.

Weekly food waste collections

Weekly food waste collections will be implemented by 31st March 2026. Government funding is being made available to cover new food waste containers and specialist collection vehicles. We will provide more details as soon as they are available.

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) - progress report

Here's a brief extract from the CPE report produced by County Officers for the period up to the end of March 2024.

"Due to the widespread locations within South Cambridgeshire, it was determined that patrols would be divided into two zones, north and south to ensure frequency of patrols. Two vehicles were procured, delivery of the second vehicle was slightly delayed, both vehicles are now fully operational.

A total of 331 town patrols covering 1170 street visits in South Cambridgeshire have been completed by the Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO) since 1st February 2024. Patrols have predominantly focussed on areas where parking is in the greatest demand, such as commuting and shopping areas. A total of 154 penalty charge notices have been issued, with 85 paid within the 14 day discount period. A total of 53 are outstanding."

Requests for parking enforcement can be made via:

E-mail parkingcontrol@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

On line [South Cambridgeshire Civil Parking Enforcement - Cambridgeshire County Council](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/civil-parking-enforcement)

Local Plan Timetable Update

A timetable update has become necessary for producing the Greater Cambridge Local Plan. This is a key planning document which would ensure that growth is delivered in a sustainable way for people and the environment. It is clear that the existing timetable for the Local Plan can no longer be met, owing to multiple external factors, including restraints posed by a lack of water availability, the failure to deliver a sustainable transport strategy and the intervention of the government which is demanding the building of homes in significantly higher numbers ("northwards of 150K new homes") than that proposed by the Local Planning Authority (50K).

We are awaiting further information about the Government's plans for Cambridge 2050. At the moment it seems local councils will have involvement via an 'advisory council' but we don't have details. Recently published documents give more detail on Government plans:

- [The case for Cambridge - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/case-for-cambridge)
- [Addressing water scarcity in Greater Cambridge: update on government measures - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge)
- [Joint statement on addressing water scarcity in Greater Cambridge - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/joint-statement-on-addressing-water-scarcity-in-greater-cambridge)

The Council's response to the Case for Cambridge was published as a news release on 6th March 2024: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/council-leaders-react-to-case-for-cambridge-update-published-today-alongside-spring-budget>

Statement of Community Involvement for Planning

SCDC, together with Cambridge City Council has formally adopted a new key planning document which sets out how they will help residents have their say on a wide range of planning matters during the next five years. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is intended to increase public participation in the planning system and, in doing so, empowering residents to play an active role in shaping the future of Greater Cambridge. This goes much further than previous SCIs in ensuring that residents' views are better reflected in the emerging Local Plan. More detail can be found here:

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/about-us/statement-of-community-involvement/>

50th Anniversary of South Cambs

SCDC recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary. A civic ceremony was held at South Cambridgeshire Hall in Cambourne. You can find out all about what happened as well as some of the history and successes of the district council over the years here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/50-years-of-south-cambridgeshire-district-council/>

East West Rail Community Conversations

East West Rail have organised 'community conversation events' over the next couple of months to talk about their plans. There are three in the Greater Cambridge area: Cambourne 10th May, Cambridge 21st May and Comberton 22nd May. The discussions are not part of the statutory consultation for EWR but should prove to be interesting and informative events. You can find out more here:

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/news/latest-stories/community-conversation-events>

Find a grant digital service

In March 2023, the Cabinet Office launched a 'Find a Grant' digital service, a single place for eligible individuals and organisations to find and apply for government grants. The Cabinet Office is offering councils, and grant administration colleagues in any local government organisation, access to use 'Find a Grant' on a free trial basis until at least March 2025, for the administration of your grants. To give councils a flavour of 'Find a Grant', the Cabinet Office has created [a short video](#). And, if you'd be interested in a further demonstration of the service, please contact:

findagrants@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Pre-election period

Due to the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May, the pre-election period started on Tuesday 26 March and runs until the close of polls on Thursday 2 May.

Accessibility

If you cannot open the links to get information, please contact us. The Council phone number is 01954 713000

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6th April 2024