

District Councillors' Report for Dry Drayton Parish Council April 2024

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Shared Prosperity Fund – Green space improvement projects

The Council has secured funding of around £100,000 from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to help improve up to six green spaces in South Cambridgeshire during the current financial year. We will be formally launching this project mid-May.. There is two parts to the project and the types of improvements made through both parts will include:

- Tree planting/hedging
- Seating areas/benches
- Wildlife habitat improvements
- Wildflower planting
- Repair work to existing structures
- Paths and resurfacing
- Bat/Bird Boxes

Phase two of the project, launching mid-May

Town and Parish Councils will be given an opportunity to bid for funding if they have land available that they want to put together a project to improve the green space that would benefit their community.

Town/Parish Councils applying will be asked to:

- a. demonstrate that land is in their control, or immediately available for improvement before March 2025.
- b. provide a site location map and explanation of the type of improvements they want to implement.
- c. commit to maintain the site to the necessary standard after the initial works are complete.
- d. ensure their elected district councillor/s are aware of the application.
- e. demonstrate the need for improved green space and impact the improvement would have for local people in terms of health and wellbeing.
- f. demonstrate how local people and volunteers will get involved in the planning, delivery, or maintenance of the green space.
- g. detail if any other funding, from the Town/Parish Council or third party, will be committed to the delivery of the project (this is not a pre-requisite).

The selected Parish and or Town Councils will be supported by a Landscape Architecture Company that SCDC has procured to assist with the planning and delivery of the projects. More details will be shared mid-May as Phase 2 of the project is launched.

If you have any questions in the meantime, contact james.croft@scambs.gov.uk

Pilot Employment Hubs

Officers in the Communities Team are working to deliver a project, on behalf of and funded by Public Health, to establish Pilot Employment Hubs in City and South Cambs.

The hubs will deliver integrated holistic support to people with health conditions and disabilities to move towards, gain and retain employment. It is an action arising from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough ICS Health & Care Strategy, to address poverty through housing, employment and skills.

The initial hub will be based in the Abbey ward of the city, with outreach style 'spokes' into two community settings in Melbourn and Kings Meadows/Orchard Park, these locations have been selected based on multiple data sets. We also plan to offer virtual support for those unable to reach the physical locations.

We are working towards a launch in June. If you would like further information, please email liz.davy@scambs.gov.uk or Lesley.mcfarlane@scambs.gov.uk

Website user testing

We are in the process of improving our online services to the public with our brand-new website. We need your feedback on its appearance, ease of use, and functionality.

Members of the public have also been invited to test the new website and as an incentive, they will be entered into a prize draw to win £50 supermarket vouchers.

Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme re-opened

The Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme has re-opened for applications (closing 2 June 2024). Grants of up to £15,000 are available to parish councils and community groups for projects that reduce carbon emissions or achieve wider community engagement around climate change. See the grant webpage for the application form, full criteria and guidance, and details of past projects - [Zero Carbon Communities Grant - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/zero-carbon-communities-grant-south-cambs-district-council). Please get in touch with the Climate team with any questions or for support with an application - zcc@scambs.gov.uk

Police resource for Milton

Cambridgeshire Constabulary have been successful in their bid to the Home Office Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) 'Hotspot' fund. The 20 Hotspots have all fallen within Wisbech, Huntingdon, St Ives, St Neots, **Milton**, Cambridge and Peterborough, owing to the Home Office funding criteria.

Each of the 20 areas will be subject to increased police presence, specifically *"as a minimum on average, deliver an eligible patrol at least once every three days"*. This presence will be on foot, highly visible and above routine calls for service. In addition, each area has a small £5,000 one-time fund for some community activities. Police will also have three dedicated children and young person's workers attached to their Neighbourhood teams for a year, which will benefit everyone by improving the system response to serious violence and the wider child exploitation and child protection issues.

Updates from DLUHC

Water Restoration Fund – reminder

Earlier this month (9 April), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs launched a Water Restoration Fund (WRF). The WRF will award up to £11 million grant funding to support local groups, farmers and landowners and community-led schemes, to enhance their capacity and capabilities for on-the-ground projects to improve the water environment. This could include activities that improve biodiversity and community access to blue and green spaces in areas where water companies have been issued with fines or penalties. The fund will be open to councils, farmers and landowners, National Parks and National Landscapes. [More information can be found here](#)

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crackdown-on-water-firms-sees-millions-invested-into-local-action>

Plan for Water:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plan-for-water-our-integrated-plan-for-delivering-clean-and-plentiful-water>

Introduction to National Infrastructure Planning guidance published

On 17 April, DLUHC published [an introduction to National Infrastructure Planning guidance](#). The revised guidance reflects knowledge of good practice, changing circumstances and feedback from users. It has been developed with input from across government, industry, and a range of stakeholders, and builds on responses received as part of the government's [consultation on the operational reform of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects process in 2023](#).

Collection:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-infrastructure-planning-guidance-portal>

Rapid Flood Guidance trial for England and Wales

On 14 May, the [Flood Forecasting Centre \(FFC\)](#) will launch a trial of the Rapid Flood Guidance (RFG) service which will run until 30 September.

The RFG service:

- will give short notice updates for England and Wales – to supplement the [Flood Guidance Statement \(FGS\)](#)
- is for responders who need to make decisions at a timescale of 0 to 6 hours

The service aims to support the responder community be better prepared to mitigate the impacts from rapid flooding. The service provides a new:

- advisory badge on the front page of the [FGS](#) for days when there is a heightened risk of rapid flooding
- RFG product that will be issued on heightened risk days

[By signing up for the trial](#), you will receive the RFG product direct to your email inbox or by text.

[Signing up](#) will also mean that you will receive RFG tests in the run up to the launch and invitations to RFG webinars.

Partnerships for People and Place: Guidance and advice for officials working on place-based policymaking – reminder

On 10 April, DLUHC published [guidance and advice for officials working on place-based policymaking](#).

New online training course for small businesses launched

The Department for Business and Trade has today (24 April) launched the [Help to Grow: Management Essentials course](#), a free online course with practical tips and resources for [small business leaders](#). Essentials is the latest addition to the '[Help to Grow](#)' toolkit supporting UK small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The course is suited for leaders of newer or smaller SMEs, or those who are looking to explore the principles of business growth and management. Business leaders can access the course through the [Help to Grow website](#).

Planning

Our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has made the shortlist for the **Planning Awards 2024 "Local authority planning team of the year"**.

Planning awards has been running for 11 years and is a prestigious planning industry award. GCSP is one of 5 shortlisted teams for this particular Local Authority Planning Team of the Year, which is sponsored by the Planning Officers Society.

This the result of the transformation journey that we've been on. Our aim is to be one of the best planning services in the country and this shortlisting shows we are doing our best to get there! For the first time in recent history, the Development Management team is fully staffed, 4DW helping us get there, and we also have 5 new apprentices and looking to take on another set in next few months.

Corinne Garvie
Richard Stobart
4th May 2024

