

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

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Shared Prosperity Fund – Green space improvement projects

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) has secured funding of £100,000 from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) to help improve up to six green spaces in South Cambridgeshire during the current financial year. Improvements may include:

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

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:

- demonstrate that land is in their control, or immediately available for improvement before March 2025.
- provide a site location map and explanation of the type of improvements they want to implement.
- commit to maintain the site to the necessary standard after the initial works are complete.
- ensure their elected district councillor/s are aware of the application.
- demonstrate the need for improved green space and impact the improvement would have for local people in terms of health and wellbeing.
- demonstrate how local people and volunteers will get involved in the planning, delivery, or maintenance of the green space.
- 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.

SCDC is now opening applications to all Parish and Town Councils in South Cambridgeshire, to submit a bid for a site they feel could be improved. There is an 8-week window to complete applications, beginning on Tuesday 4 June 2024, and ending on Thursday 1 August 2024.

At least four sites will be selected for improvement out of the applications received, and project costs could range from small works, up to around £15,000 per site. Once applications have been assessed and the projects selected, we will work with local Town/Parish Councils to deliver these improvements which will be funded from this scheme. We are particularly keen on working with Parish/Town Councils who have volunteers interested and keen to support the green space improvements.

The application form includes more information and needs to be completed in full in order for the application to be considered. But please do make sure that the land you are suggesting is readily available for this type of improvement.

To submit your application, please complete the [application form](#). If you have any questions, contact james.croft@scambs.gov.uk

Pilot Employment Hubs

Officers in the SCDC 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

Planning Awards

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.

Adjustments to South Cambs Magazine summer 2024 edition

Following the general election announcement, SCDC has adjusted the approach to the delivery of the summer 2024 issue of South Cambs Magazine, to ensure we comply with our pre-election period guidelines. The recently printed version will be held until after the general election. In the meantime a simpler version with facts about council services, contact information and reminders about Voter ID will be distributed during week commencing 10th June.

Corinne Garvie
Richard Stobart
4th June 2024