

## **Councillors' Report for June 2024**

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**County Councillor:** Edna Murphy [edna.murphy@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:edna.murphy@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

### **Simpler Recycling**

Changes to waste laws will be in place from 31st March 2025 meaning everyone recycles the same materials wherever they live or work across the country.

The team at Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Commercial are passionate about recycling and can help you cut the waste you produce, saving you money too.

Their fleet of fuel-efficient vehicles includes an electric bin lorry, further reducing emissions and noise. All trucks are being fitted with measuring equipment to comply with the new regulations.

The team can help with skips, bulky collections, and ordering sacks or more bins. Contact them for more information.

### **Energy efficiency support for VCSE organisations**

Voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to the VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme for support to improve their energy efficiency.

The support includes an independent energy assessment and then capital grants to install energy efficiency measures.

The energy assessment part of the scheme closes on 20 June and the application period for capital funding is open until 14 August Webinar: <https://shorturl.at/X24IS>

### **How to do business with the council**

Want to know how to win work with local authorities? On 25 July our Procurement Officer will be hosting a free webinar explaining how to write successful bids - and how not to.

Sign up for this practical, interactive online session and learn: how to find open tenders, how to sell to local government, using the right language and avoiding getting it wrong, what is social value and why is it important?

Apply for your free place :

<https://6iv38.ra.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/sh/SMK1E8tHeG1QOfQ0Zl1LnWtOgRb1/IP0kJIOAxZl6>

### **ICT, Information and Computers Technology, review**

As the five-year partnership agreement with Hunts DC and Cambridge City anniversary approaches, the Council are reviewing their 3C shared services. The ICT review is probably the most significant piece of work, and they have commissioned consultants to support it. A key element of the review is getting feedback from users, and we'd therefore be really grateful if you could take 10 minutes to respond, by clicking on the link here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCDCICTMembersurvey>. The survey will close on Friday 28 June

## **Fens Reservoir Consultation**

The public consultation for the proposed reservoir in the Fens is open and will run until 9 August . It focusses on the following areas:

The emerging design for the main reservoir site. This shows opportunities for recreation, wildlife, nature and other features.

The early stage proposals for areas of land in the vicinity of the main reservoir site which could be used for environmental mitigation and enhancement, construction, and wider uses.

The proposals for the associated water infrastructure is needed to transfer water from its sources to the reservoir, treat the water, and supply it to homes and businesses.

A range of consultation materials have been published on the project website - **[www.fensreservoir.co.uk](http://www.fensreservoir.co.uk)** - alongside an interactive map, and clear instructions on you can have your say.

## **Business Support's Youth Engagement Programme**

Together with Cambridge City Council, we have launched two programmes of work to support market traders. These are being funded by the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which is being administered locally by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

20 traders in South Cambridgeshire will be able to access advice and support to enhance their current business operations, and may be eligible to apply for £1,000, grants to help develop their business.

Meanwhile, a Youth Enterprise Support Programme will support young people who want to start their own business, to get started. The programme will work with young individuals aged 16-25 to develop essential skills, knowledge and will include opportunities to gain real market experience. Candidates will also have the opportunity to apply for £1,000 grants to transform their business ideas into local market ventures.

Young people who are interested in the Youth Enterprise Support Programme can register to start their journey from conception to commerce at <https://nxgconnect.co.uk/youth-enterprise-programme/>

If you have any queries on either scheme, please contact Business Support Key Projects Team Leader Katherine Southwood on [Katherine.Southwood@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Katherine.Southwood@scambs.gov.uk)

## **Tiger Bus Scheme**

Anyone under the age of 25 can now apply for a Discount Card which entitles them to travel anywhere within Cambridgeshire for £1. Obviously you need to be able to get on a bus to do this but the Mayoral Led Combined Authority is developing the business case for 'bus franchising' which will mean control for the bus service rests with the Combined Authority rather than with the bus operators. Had a congestion charge for Cambridge been approved there would have been an additional £50 million per year to subsidise rural services but since that is not the case we are unlikely to see all of our villages connected by bus. What we hope is that some key services will run more often and at more suitable times to cater for children getting to school and people getting to work.

## **Community Vegetable Gardens**

South Cambs District Council is awarding small grants of up to £500 to community groups to grow vegetables. Details of the simple application process are on the website. The Community Growing grants will enable local groups to buy equipment and tools to help start a Community Growing Project. It is envisaged that funding will be spent on items such as raised beds, seeds, soil, and gardening equipment. Anyone can apply for this grant, as long as they are able to demonstrate they have brought a group together to look after the project!.

### **Quality of Life Survey**

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched the second annual countywide Quality of Life survey, speaking to a random sample of 5,500 residents to understand their views on the quality of their lives. The survey – run by an independent market research company Thinks Insight – aims to speak to 1,100 people aged 18+ living in each of the five Cambridgeshire district areas. In addition, they will be talking to people from specific groups who are less often heard from including people who may have been homeless or are from migrant or Gypsy/Roma/Traveller communities. The online version of the survey can be found on the website so any resident who wants to can take part can

### **Five year land supply**

Souths Cambs has published the most recent Greater Cambridge housing trajectory with housing land supply calculations. This is important as without it a lot of protective planning policies fall away as happened in the years to 2018. In any event, the trajectory - which shows anticipated delivery of new homes across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire up to 2041 - demonstrates that jointly for Greater Cambridge there are 6.5 years of housing land supply for the 2024-2029 period.

### **Visit South Cambs**

Our website for the local tourism, hospitality, leisure and independent retail sectors offers businesses and event organisers a free listing on the site, which is seen by nearly 2,000 visitors worldwide each month. If you would like a free listing for your events, or know any businesses or organisers who would, please use this link to fill in the submission form or email [visit@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:visit@scambs.gov.uk)

### **Community Cooking Programmes**

South Cambridgeshire District Council, in partnership with Let's Cook Project, are delivering FREE sessions, aiming to support residents of South Cambridgeshire to improve their confidence and knowledge in healthy eating and cooking. We are looking to deliver 4 cohorts across the district, and we offer 2 different programs for adults and families. All equipment and ingredients will be provided.

For more info please contact Emma Jarvis [emma.jarvis@letscookproject.org](mailto:emma.jarvis@letscookproject.org)

### **Police want to hear from you!**

Cambridgeshire Police is undertaking community engagement events with the next on Wednesday 28 August at 7pm. You can register now to receive the meeting link and more details of both the engagement event on the Police website.

### **Have you considered being a Special Constable?**

Cambs Police have just launched a recruitment drive for Special constables - Specials have all the powers of a police officer and work alongside their regular colleagues. It only requires a

minimum commitment of four hours a week and is a great opportunity to give something back to your community, while receiving professional training, skills and experience that can be used in everyday life and career progression.

Over the past 12 months, Specials have racked up more than 23,000 hours on the job, launched an impressive 400 investigations and stopped 1300 vehicles. If you, or someone you know, would like to find out more about becoming a Special, and maybe even apply, please visit the Police website pages.

Your Councillors are here to help you. Please do feel free to contact us with comments, questions, problems or complaints. We hope we can help but if we can't we are likely to know someone who can!