

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

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The move towards franchising of bus services - a consultation

This last July the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) decided to conduct a public consultation on a franchised bus service (where there is control over the bus services provided), as opposed to 'enhanced partnership' (which releases most control to the bus service provider).

There are several steps to a franchised bus operation, and the consultation is the first. The consultation is hugely influential on the outcome. Just before the CPCA's decision was announced, a 'Better Buses Bill' was promised in the King's Speech, which included options for public ownership and franchising. So the political climate is developing for franchising and a bus service that meets local needs.

Details of the consultation can be found here (and continues until Wednesday 20th November 2024):

<https://tinyurl.com/bdhvf34y>

Everyone is invited to have their say on how to improve bus services across the area. A series of online and face-to-face events will take place.

Fens Reservoir Consultation

The proposed reservoir to be constructed at Chatteris will meet Greater Cambridge's water requirements from the mid-2030s. As an interim measure a pipeline from Grafham Water will begin operation in the late 2020s.

The Cambridge pipeline will carry water from the new reservoir (and treatment plant) to an underground reservoir just south of Madingley.

The interactive map on the project web site shows the pipeline that will carry treated water passing just to the east of Dry Drayton and feeding an underground holding reservoir just to the south of the A428/A1303 roundabout. The issues appear to be construction traffic and noise, while there are potential gains coming through landscaping and the addition or improvement of rights of way for active travel and amenity.

For more detail, please check the Fens Reservoir web site: <https://fensreservoir.co.uk/>

The Phase 2 consultation is now closed ... We hope that Residents responded. Raising concerns at this stage of the consultation will embed your concerns as residents - and also the hope for tangible benefits emerging from the works. The DCO (development consent order) process will permit further feedback as the project proceeds - and our understanding is that as the details are presented to Greater Cambridge Planning there will continue to be the potential to influence, for example, the routing of construction traffic.

We will keep you up to date with developments and our thoughts on how best to intervene for the benefit of Dry Drayton. We'd like to underline that there will be positives as well as negatives.

Civil Parking Enforcement - How's it Going?

Between February and June, 2024, 555 parking tickets have been issued in South Cambs. Councillors get a detailed report of the streets covered by the two vans on a day to day basis. The parking team have made a few visits to Dry Drayton since the scheme started in February, but so far there have been no tickets issued. If there are any hot spots where there is a parking issue you can let a Councillor know or send the information directly to: parkingcontrol@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

How Are You South Cambs?

This website (<https://tinyurl.com/y8bbtnmh>) offers an excellent set of resources on activities and support available in South Cambs – a combination of community, health and care, work and employment, and more.

Coffee Pod Recycling comes to Cambridgeshire Household Recycling Centres

In June this year, the County Council introduced *coffee pod* recycling at all nine of its Household Recycling Centres. The new coffee pod bins offer residents an environmentally friendly way to separately dispose of both aluminium and plastic coffee pods. Over 1 billion coffee pods are sold each year in the UK alone. Waste from these 'single-use' pods will lead to a huge environmental impact if not recycled properly, in the UK and globally. CCC is partnering with Podback to provide coffee pod recycling services. Podback was initially created by Nespresso, Nescafe, Dolce Gusto and Tassimo to help their customers recycle their coffee pods and is now supported by many more coffee brands. Podback recycles coffee pods in the UK, to reduce waste and saving on new materials. Collected pods are shredded and cleaned of coffee. The shredded pods can be made into new products, while the coffee grounds are used to help create renewable energy and soil improver.

For more details please check: <https://tinyurl.com/3jxcsmn2>

South Cambs Connect

We are pleased to let you know that the new ground floor space, called [South Cambs Connect](#), is now open for bookings. As a reminder it's been set up as an affordable and modern workspace designed to provide a creative and dedicated co-working environment for use by local entrepreneurs, start-up businesses, Community Interest Companies, community groups and professional partners of the Council. Careful consideration of security for colleagues and privacy of staff and data has been undertaken, and a range of precautions has been implemented, for example, we have employed an extra Security Guard as part of the project. In addition, anyone using the new space will wear bright green lanyards so they can be easily identified and remain in the round floor space.

National Fraud Initiative (NFI)

SCDC participates in the [National Fraud Initiative](#) to help proactively detect fraud and error in our systems. Since its creation in 1996 there have been cumulative savings of [£2.4 billion](#) nationally. While there is not a huge amount of fraud and error at the Council, it is important that we remain vigilant. This data matching exercise helps us to proactively safeguard our public funds. The Council submits various data sets to the Cabinet Office for data matching. These include data from: Licensing, Trade Creditors, Housing, Council Tax, Benefits, Electoral roll, plus our Payroll and Pensions. This happens at least every two years, with the Council Tax and Electoral roll data also being submitted annually.

The data is matched across all of the Councils and this helps us to detect any payments or benefits which may not have been correct. We can then recover the money for the Council. This process also helps us to learn where our processes can be improved to prevent further risks. All data is handled according to General Data Protection Regulations using secure Cabinet Office computer systems. Further information about the processing of data is included in the [Councils NFI webpage](#) and the Cabinet Office's [Fair Processing Notice](#).

Small Business Support

Small businesses in South Cambridgeshire are being invited to apply for funding of up to £5,000 each in a new grant programme that just been launched. The funding is available to those already trading with ambitions to grow and will provide grants, advice and support for existing businesses with up to nine employees. The new [support grants](#) are available as part of the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#). Cambridgeshire

and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) is the lead authority for delivery of the Fund, while the District Council is responsible for grant scheme delivery and allocation.

For those looking to start a business and get their foot on the ladder, there is free advice on offer, including how to create a viable business plan. The startup advice will be delivered by the [Business and Intellectual Property Centre](#) and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority [Growth Hub](#).

Applications are open until 31 October 2024. Businesses may only make one application. The District Council reserves the right to close the application window earlier should the level of demand exceed the maximum funding available. More information can be found [online](#) or please email businessgrants@scambs.gov.uk quoting Small Business Grant.

We hope you find these items of interest. If you have questions or comments, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us by email or phone.

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