

District Councillor report to parish councils – December 2022

Cost of Living Crisis support: Last month Cabinet approved a range of measures to help residents and businesses during the Winter months in the current climate of rising bills and inflation. The help will be targeted at those who are most vulnerable and residents who until now have been 'just about managing,' alongside those who run community groups through an increase in various grants available.

£180 000 is being provided directly from SCDC and a further £211 000 from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System (ICS) which totals almost £400 000. The ICS are providing this funding to ensure support is co-ordinated effectively and directed at those in need locally.

The approved support package agreed includes:

- £100,000 top-up for Discretionary Housing Payments to support an extra 100 eligible families with housing costs.
- £60,000 for Discretionary Council Tax discounts for anyone who can show they are in financial hardship and are not claiming from a scheme elsewhere.
- A proposal to provide Localised Council Tax Support to provide up to 100% discount to some households and increase support for working claimants.
- £15,000 towards a Charitable giving fund www.gofundme.com/SCDCcostofliving that residents can also donate to. Money will go towards low-cost methods of staying warm and cooking such as slow cookers and electric blankets for people struggling and those only just managing.
- Expansion of [Warm Hubs](#) which are free cosy spaces which residents of all ages can visit to socialise, work, catch up with friends.
- £15,000 to expand the Warm Packs that are provided to Council tenants so that they include an electric blanket, hot water bottle, thermos flask, blanket, thermal socks, gloves and hat. Contractors, Mears, are providing 75 warm packs per year over a 10-year contract distributed to the most vulnerable tenants. The warm packs scheme will be expanded so Environmental Health officers can distribute to residents living in very cold conditions.
- Food parcels for people attending the Warm Hubs who are identified as being most in need, in parishes where there is no foodbank already in place.
- Financially and logistically supporting the creation of new foodbanks within South Cambridgeshire, providing grants to other foodbanks to help continue their provision.

The Council's Community Chest grant fund criteria has also been expanded to support projects to help residents deal with the cost of living crisis. **Parish Councils of any size** and Community groups can apply for up to £2,000 until April 2023. More details, including details on how to apply, can be found in the recent [news release](#)

More news from the Grants Advisory Committee: First Electric Vehicle Charge Point grant approved.

Last Friday (25th November) the committee granted approval to Steeple Morden Parish Council of £3500 towards the capital costs of installing an Electric Vehicle Charge Point in the village hall car-park. Currently there isn't national provision for on street charging so unless you live in a property with off street parking it is difficult to run an electric car. Residents of Steeple Morden will soon have access to an EV charging point along with other members of the public who may be using the facilities at the village hall or visiting the village. Parish councils of any size can apply to the EV charge point scheme for a grant of up to £5000. Parish councils within the 'Milton & Waterbeach' ward may wish to consider making their own application. For more information visit the South Cambs website. The deadline for 2022/2023 applications is 31st March 2023.

Support For Ukrainian refugees: Many Ukrainians who fled the ongoing war in their home country and have been staying with host individuals and families in South Cambs are now reaching the end of the initial six month period. Many hosts and guests are continuing with the arrangement but not all. South Cambs have launched the 'Got a Spare Room' appeal for anyone to get in touch who thinks they may be able to help. In the first instance, residents can text ROOM to 88802 to make contact and to find out more information. We have some laminated flyers to help advertise the scheme which we will be seeking permission to display in key locations across the ward.

Horningsea Greenway: A consultation on the Horningsea Greenway proposals opened on 21 November. It will close on 16 December.

Key elements of the scheme are:

Benefits include:

- Shared use paths between Horningsea and Fen Ditton
- Safer streets with traffic speed reduction measures, including reduced speed limits where the Greenway runs on the road
- Widened shared use path along parts of Horningsea Road
- High quality parallel crossing at the junction of B1047, High Street and Ditton Lane
- Fen Ditton Church junction safety improvements
- Easier to follow signs to guide people along the Horningsea Greenway route

Energy Prices – Potential Help for Parish Councils:

Some parish councils are experiencing extraordinary increases in energy costs. There is an existing framework which parish councils can use to reduce their energy costs. [Eastern Shire Purchasing Organisation \(ESPO\)](#) work with number of parishes across the East of England as part of their energy framework portfolio.

If the Parish wishes to explore this option, then the contact details are as follows:

Rowena Reid

Customer Relationship Manager - Energy

Mobile – 07747 868021 | Email – r.reid@espo.org

ESPO, Barnsdale Way, Grove Park, Enderby, Leicester, LE19 1ES

Cllrs Judith Rippeth, Paul Bearpark and Anna Bradnam

Noteworthy schemes/strategies and projects to be consulted on in future / consultations recently closed

Scheme name	Type of scheme	Main consultation contact	Status of consultation	Website link
Sustainable Travel Zone	City Access	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Live. Closes midday 23 Dec	https://consultcambs.uk/engagementhq.com/making-connections-2022
Horningsea Greenway	Greenways	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Live. Closes midday 16 Dec	https://consultcambs.uk/engagementhq.com/gcp-horningsea-greenway
North East Cambridge Area Action Plan	Area Action Plan	South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridge City Council	Approval to progress to consultation Spring 22. Formal engagement phase (Reg 19) to follow conclusion of Development Consent Order process for Cambridge Wastewater Treatment plant relocation (see above)	Link to Greater Cambridge Shared Planning website
East West Rail	Nationally significant infrastructure project	East West Railway Company (Created by Department for Transport in 2018)	Latest consultation closed in June 2021. Next steps are uncertain.	Link – East West Rail company
Cambourne to Cambridge	Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO)	Greater Cambridge Partnership	EIA consultation closed on 11 July 22	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website
Waterbeach to Cambridge	Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO)	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Aim is to undertake a public consultation on the preferred route for the Waterbeach to Cambridge project in Q1 2023	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website

Cambridge South East Transport	Transport and Works	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Application to Government for TWAO to build busway and active travel route in 2023	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website
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	Act Order (TWAO)			
Cambridge Eastern Access	Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO)	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Consultation was held in late 2021. The results of this consultation will be taken back to the GCP Executive Board - alongside further technical work – in 2022 to decide on next steps on the preferred options.	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website
Greenways	12 x local greenways feeding into Cambridge	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Consultations on Haslingfield, Comberton and Melbourn Greenways have taken place. Horningsea and Sawston Greenway consultations are live Waterbeach Greenway consultation is expected Q1 23. Melbourn Greenway is being consulted on until 28 Oct.	https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/active-travel-projects/greater-cambridge-greenways
Cambridge South West Travel Hub	Local - new Travel Hub site at Junction 11 of the M11	Greater Cambridge Partnership	County Council planning application has been approved.	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website