

District Councillors' Report to Parish Councils – Nov 2022

Update on Ukrainian Refugees

The most recent data shows that 720 Ukrainian guests have now arrived in South Cambridgeshire involving 71 parishes. SCDC Officers have now made 278 welfare visits and conducted 790 DBS checks.

Due to the rising cost of living, an additional payment of £150 per month is to be offered to hosts and council officers are now contacting hosts directly with more details. The Homes for Ukraine scheme was initially set up for a six-month period and many Ukrainian refugees who came to the UK during the early part of the scheme are now reaching the end of the six-month hosting period. The majority of guests will be able to continue with their current hosts, but some will not. In such a case, the council will try to find a new host (from the existing pool of volunteers) that is as close as possible to the guest's existing host so they can continue with the employment and/or education arrangements that are already set up. It is not always possible to do this, however, since the pool of potential hosts for rematching is limited, so we are looking for more potential volunteers. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in becoming a host, please encourage them to contact South Cambs District Council on HFULiaison@scambs.gov.uk. People who are hosts to Ukrainian guests and/or an have interest in SCDC's ongoing work in this area can sign up to the regular community updates by emailing duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk

“Visit South Cambs” celebrates its first birthday

SCDC's “Visit South Cambs” tourism directory (<https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk>) is now one year old and if you haven't visited the site, it's worthwhile doing so. During the year, around 200 local venues have enjoyed free listings and more than 230 local events have been promoted, from village fetes to art exhibitions. The site now has had more than 8,000 unique visitors from around the world, reaching countries including America, Australia, and Japan. SCDC's Business Support and Development Team will soon be using social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) to ask residents and businesses to share what they love most about South Cambridgeshire using #WeLoveSouthCambs. The idea is to build-up recommendations and insider secrets about the district's hidden gems. You can nominate who you think serves the best ice cream, who gives the friendliest service, where are the most scenic country walks or most relaxing pub garden.

Four day working week trial

You may have heard about SCDC's proposal for a three-month trial of a four-day week for desk-based staff at the Council which will begin in January 2023. There will be further trials involving bin crews to follow if it's successful. Similar trials, involving around 3,300 staff, are already underway at 70 other UK organisations but SCDC is the first local authority to initiate a trial. A four-day week is when people work one less day per week but still get paid the same salary. It is not the same as compressed hours. It is important to note that the

opening hours of the Council during the trial will be maintained so that they are at least the same as they are now.

SCDC and its associated shared services (e.g. Planning) struggle to attract suitably qualified people primarily because it cannot match pay rates available in the private sector and because of high housing costs in the Cambridge area. A four-day week can make an organisation stand out from others and be more attractive to talent. It is also seen as an incentive to encourage staff to stay with the council so that South Cambs residents benefit from the retention of their knowledge and experience. It may seem counter-intuitive, but it has also been shown to increase productivity during trials elsewhere.

The news of this trial has found its way into national, as well as local, news but unfortunately some of the reporting has been inaccurate so a new website page is now available that contains a short form, which members of the public can fill-out if they want to ask a question, or make a comment about, the trial.

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/four-day-working-week-trial/>

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Depot Solar Farm

Plans for a solar farm to power electric bin lorries used by the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service have taken a step forward. SCDC pledged financial support some months ago and now Cambridge City has also pledged financial support. On top of this, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has outlined proposals to help fund the project, which they will discuss in mid-November.

The Shared Waste service currently operates two electric bin lorries and several electric vans; these are powered by solar panels installed on the Depot buildings. However, there isn't enough charging capacity in the Depot's local electricity network to meet the requirements of the Councils' programme and there is an urgent need for an on-site renewable energy supply to enable a higher number of electric bin lorries to be charged using clean energy and this will be achieved by installing solar panels and a battery storage system on land adjacent to the Depot. The new installation will have the capacity to charge around 30 electric vehicles, reducing the councils' carbon emissions significantly. Lorries that operate in parts of the district furthest from the depot will be replaced by ones that use alternative fuel sources such as biofuels.

Electric Vehicle Charge Point Grant

It is expected that proposals will be approved by the end of October for a new grant scheme to parish councils and operators of community buildings, for grants of up to £5,000 to support installation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points in order to encourage electric vehicle uptake within the district.

This would be for 'fast' chargers (7-22kW). Installations of a dual-socket 7kW chargers are typically £6,000-8,000 so this scheme could complement existing funding such as the Government's On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme, or could top up existing funds for EV charging.

In addition to serving residents without off-street parking it also allows anyone visiting South Cambs villages to recharge while they visit, for whatever reason it might be, effectively doubling their EV range.

Waterbeach Community Forum

The next Waterbeach Forum will be on **Wednesday 16 November**. There will be a drop-in from 6-7pm where you can visit information stalls, followed by presentations from the main stakeholders, with an opportunity to ask question from 7pm. Details will be available here when the agenda is confirmed [Waterbeach Community Forum - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.scambs.gov.uk)

GCP North Area Community Forum

The next Greater Cambridge Partnership forum will be held on Tuesday, 29 November 6 – 8pm

The topics to be discussed will be:

- Making Connections 2022 consultation (<http://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/mc-2022>)
- Milton Road
- Waterbeach to Cambridge
- Waterbeach Railway Station
- Greenways

To attend this event, please register on

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vL_bIODJQTuBUiDEJZSSWw

Cllrs Paul Bearpark, Anna Bradnam and Judith Rippeth

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
Active Travel for Cambridgeshire	Strategy	Cambs County Council	Live. Closes 7 Nov 22	https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/active-travel-strategy-for-cambridgeshire-public-consultation
Sustainable Travel Zone	City Access	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Live. Closes midday 23 Dec	https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/making-connections-2022
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 later in 2022	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website

Cambridge South East Transport	Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO)	Greater Cambridge Partnership	Application to Government for TWAO to build busway and active travel route in 2023	Link to Greater Cambridge Partnership website
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	Outline business case being prepared. Consultations on Haslingfield and Comberton Greenways have taken place. Waterbeach Greenway consultation is expected Jan 23. Melbourn Greenway is being consulted on until 28 Oct.	https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/gcp-melbourn-greenway/survey_tools/name-2022-survey
Cambridge South West Travel Hub	Local - A 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