

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Report to Harlton Parish Council June 2018

South Cambridgeshire District Council news

One of our first actions upon taking over control of SCDC has been to establish two new committees and one new working group. The Climate and Environment Committee will be looking at all the ways in which the Council can positively influence matters both in its own and its partners' operations to reduce damage to the climate and improve our environment.

The new Grants Committee is reviewing all the grants currently administered by the Council to make sure that they are providing maximum benefit where it is most needed. Money is very short these days and so no council can be as generous as it was 10 years ago. We are spending your money and so need to be able to be confident that we are spending it well and to best effect.

While the review is underway, the Community Chest Scheme is not accepting new applications (as of Thursday 31st May). All applications received on or before Thursday 31st May will be assessed against the existing scheme criteria.

The Brexit Working Group is investigating ways in which the Council can help businesses in and around South Cambridgeshire to cope with any anticipated or actual consequences of Brexit. We already know that farmers are struggling to get the workforce they used to be able to get easily to harvest their crops and that some of the high-skills industries, which are reliant on a European workforce, are seeing a reduction in applicants from outside Britain. This would not be a problem if we had all the skills they need within British-born people but we do not and so there is a risk that these big employers could consider relocating abroad. On top of this is the reliance of our already overstretched health service – especially hospital-based services – on people from other countries. This covers all professions from our top consultants to the physios, emergency responders, nurses and cleaners.

Combined Authority and Greater Cambridge Partnership

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board agreed the Mayor's Interim Transport Strategy Statement on Wednesday 30th May, which called for a two-month pause and review in Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) decisions on new park and ride and busways. This is particularly relevant to the proposed Cambourne to Cambridge busway and the proposed park and ride at Hauxton, which were due to come before the GCP board in July.

Developments will be closely monitored by all three of us in our roles as South Cambridgeshire District Council representatives at the respective bodies: Cllr Sollom is on the GCP Assembly; Cllr Mason is on the Combined Authority Audit and Governance Committee; and Cllr Allen in on the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which will meet this Friday to consider the CA Board's decision to approve the Mayor's Interim Transport Strategy Statement.

Greenways

Proposals for Cambridge Greenways (cycleways from surrounding villages into Cambridge) are being brought forward by the GCP. Haslingfield and Barton Greenways are the first two to be consulted on over the summer (likely to begin late June). Each route has different options and the final preferred option will be chosen based on the results of the consultation.

Village Design Statements

As you may be aware, the district council was awarded some money whereby village communities will have input into new “Village Design Statements”. The aim of these is for villages to be able to articulate their priorities in terms of landscaping and design in new developments and for them to become adopted planning documents. The council is now inviting parish councils to find out more and express interest in being involved. The project will work with 6–8 villages and can link in with work on Neighbourhood Plans or stand alone. The launch event is on Tuesday 26th June from 6–8pm at South Cambridgeshire Hall. Any interested parties, please get in touch with Hana Loftus (Special Projects Officer) at South Cambs (Hana.Loftus@scambs.gov.uk).

Bins

If you regularly accrue more rubbish than fits into your blue or green bins, you can now request additional ones. Simply go to <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling> to apply.

Parklife

The annual South Cambridgeshire free family fun day is happening on Sunday 1st July. There are plenty of free activities ranging from cycling to canoeing to Scalextric. It is a great opportunity for adults and children to try new activities. More information can be found at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/parklife>.

The Council is also offering a number of summer sports camps in athletics, netball, rounders and kwik cricket. www.scambs.gov.uk/sportscamps. The cost is £24 per day and camps are open to children aged 7–14.

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