

Melbourn Parish Council July 2024 District and County Councillors' report

Sports and Leisure facilities: While these are not in the control of district or county councils, we have been keeping in close contact with those in a position to help bring a successful outcome to what has been a time of considerable concern throughout Melbourn and the wider community. Huge thanks to all who have been engaged in these efforts, and here's hoping for better times ahead.

Overgrown vegetation: it's hard to find a path that has not been beset by encroaching plant life! Thank you to all residents who have taken the time to cut back any overhanging hedges or trees from their property. County Highways should be contacted to cut back vegetation on public land – please do use the Cambridgeshire Report a Fault website and keep hold of the reference number to share with Susan, for any concerns.

A10 cycle path: Thanks to a community grant from Bruntwood Sci Tech, the A10 Corridor Cycling Campaign will be able to supplement vegetation maintenance along the A10 path. We've asked County Highways to cut back overgrown hedging and trees as soon as possible and will supplement this work with a hard cutback during the winter.

'Wonderpass': Remedial paint work should happen during the Greenway construction. Thank you to SDC contractors (who built TTP's new premises in Melbourn) for their fantastic support in dealing with this. We recently spotted a cheery local resident walking with secateurs through the Wonderpass and removing a bramble or two! Thank you!

Reporting Highways faults: Thank you so much to all who go to the trouble of reporting any Highway faults on the 'Report it' website. Please make note of reference numbers – and contact Susan with the ref number if you're concerned in any way. It is best not to 'over-report' (duplicate the same item with an additional report) as this doesn't speed things up, just augments time needed to process incoming! The reporting system is due to be replaced, but not for several months yet.

A variety of initiatives from District and County Councils and beyond:

South Cambs Business Support: Youth Engagement Programme

An SCDC 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 be able 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 please contact Business Support Key Projects Team Leader: Katherine.Southwood@scambs.gov.uk

Cambs District Council Four-Day Week Trial:

An independent report by two universities into South Cambridgeshire District Council's performance during its four-day week trial has been published. An independently run health and wellbeing survey has also been published. This comprises a comprehensive pool of information for anyone interested, positively or otherwise, in a scheme which has had a lot of media interest and can all be found on the scambs.gov.uk website.

How Are You South Cambs?

This website offers a brilliant set of resources on activities and support available in South Cambs – a combination of community, health and care, work and employment, and more. Please take a look!

[How Are You South Cambs? | Support \(haysouthcambs.co.uk\)](https://haysouthcambs.co.uk)

Community Vegetable Gardens

SCDC 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! [Community Growing Grant - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://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 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) 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 last year 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. It is hoped that some key services will run more often and at more suitable times.

Children's Services

Children's Services at Cambridgeshire have recently been inspected by Ofsted who say that CCC has created strong foundations to drive improvement in Children's Services, but the service overall requires improvement; acknowledging that "This improvement was initiated by a new chief executive and assisted by the appropriate decision to decouple shared leadership and service arrangements from Peterborough" and that "there has been significant political and corporate investment and commitment to the improvement of outcomes for children in Cambridgeshire." There is still a considerable amount of work to be done.

Coffee Pod Recycling comes to Cambridgeshire Household Recycling Centres

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. CCC is partnering with Podback to provide coffee pod recycling services at all household recycling centres. Podback is supported by numerous coffee brands and recycles coffee pods in the UK, to reduce waste and save 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.

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.

[Police support volunteers | Cambridgeshire Constabulary \(cambs.police.uk\)](#)

Cambs Police: next community meeting 28 August

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.

[South Cambridgeshire Community Engagement meeting August 2024 Tickets, Wed, Aug 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The CPCA is the accountable body for this work which is going well, and we are in the first cohort who will be completing. The Environment and Sustainable Commuters Committee, which Bridget Smith, Leader of SCDC, chairs, has asked the CPCA Board for delegated powers to agree the draft to go out for consultation.

Fen Reservoir at Chatteris and Anglian Water consultation

The much-reported water crisis in our region means 2 new reservoirs are required in the next 15 years. The first to be constructed will be the Fen Reservoir at Chatteris. Even though the reservoir is not on our patch the piping and other infrastructure will be and full details are now available as part of the recently launched non-statutory consultation.

See more here:

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/news/bold-new-vision-unveiled-for-proposed-reservoir-in-the-fens-ahead-of-second-phase-consultation-launch/>

This includes the consultation link:

[Second phase public consultation for proposed reservoir in the Fens now open \(anglianwater.co.uk\)](#)