

## **County and District Councillor Report: June 2025**

### **Following the County Council elections, your new team of local councillors are:**

Sally Ann Hart and Jose Hales - South Cambs District Council

Adam Bostanci - Cambridgeshire County Council

### **Cambs County Council**

#### **Annual County Council Meeting and Committee Appointments**

The new council administration is led by the Liberal Democrat Group with Lucy Nethsingha as leader and Lorna Dupre as Deputy Leader. Adam has joined the Environment and Green Investment Committee for which he serves as vice chair, and Assets and Procurement Committee.

#### **Schools funding**

The Cambridgeshire Schools Forum received a report on the final closing balance of maintained schools, i.e. schools that are not academies, in the county. Some of our local schools are affected by funding and other pressures, and we are talking to principals to support schools where we can.

#### **Civil Parking Enforcement - quarter 4 report**

Cambridgeshire County Council's latest report (up until the end of March 2025) on Civil Parking Enforcement reports on recovery rate but also shows a continued decrease in the number of PCNs issued, which indicates that compliance is increasing.

Requests for parking enforcement can be made via: E-mail:

[parkingcontrol@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:parkingcontrol@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or on- line: South Cambridgeshire Civil Parking Enforcement - Cambridgeshire County Council.

Further information regarding PCN codes, and their descriptions can be found on the PATROL website: <https://www.patrol-uk.info/contravention-codes/>

SCDC Scrutiny Committee will be looking at Civil Parking Enforcement at their June meeting.

### **Bus services**

Changes to the timetable of the 17 and 26 have come to our attention. We are liaising with the Cam Vale Bus User Group who are seeking further information from the Combined Authority.

### **Roads and footways**

With the better weather, maintenance work is being undertaken, but there is still a long backlog. We are liaising with officers to expedite maintenance where we can.

### **Third Cambridgeshire Quality of Life survey**

This third annual survey seeks to understand and track residents' views on a range of topics – such as life and community, transport, health and wellbeing, children and young people, the council and its services – to inform the work of the County Council. There is an opportunity for everyone to take part if they want to until Monday, 21 July, with the survey available via [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/quality-of-life-survey](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/quality-of-life-survey). Residents may also be approached by an independent market research company, on behalf of the council.

### **Reminder: NHS national vaccination booking system open for eligible people**

On 25 March, the NHS national booking system opened for 7.5 million eligible people to book in their COVID-19 vaccination. Those eligible for this year's spring Covid-19 vaccine include adults aged 75 years and over, residents in care homes for older adults, and people with a weakened immune system who are at a greater risk from severe illness. The offer closes 17 June

### **Find your family in the library**

Did you know that Cambridgeshire Libraries give you access to Ancestry, the database where you can search millions of historical documents and genealogy resources, including the 1921 census? Ancestry is available at the County Council's 33 libraries and is free to access with your library card.

### **South Cambridgeshire District Council**

### **Grant funding - Zero Carbon Communities Grant open for applications \**

South Cambs District Council's popular Zero Carbon Communities Grant is open for applications, closing Tuesday 1 July 2025. Parish councils and voluntary/community

organisations are invited to apply for grants of between £2,000 and £15,000 for projects that a) reduce carbon emissions e.g. from a community building, or b) foster greater community engagement on climate issues and encourage sustainable behaviour change. For full eligibility criteria, please consult the guidance documents on [the website](#).

Email [zcc@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:zcc@scambs.gov.uk) for any further info.

### **Grant funding - Allotment Improvement Grant is open for applications**

The grant provides up to £10,000 in funding to support projects that enhance the productivity, sustainability, and social value of allotment spaces. Key priorities include:

- - improving water access through reliable connections and rainwater harvesting
- - implementing pest control measures, such as fencing
- - upgrading facilities such as waterless toilets
- - delivering measurable social benefits, such as promoting mental well-being, outdoor activity, and community engagement.

Other allotment improvements will also be considered, ensuring that allotments remain thriving, inclusive spaces for all.

For more information, visit the [Allotment Improvement Grant webpage](#).

### **Energy boost for hundreds of South Cambridgeshire Council homes**

More than 600 Council homes in South Cambridgeshire are set to benefit from major energy efficiency upgrades helping to cut tenants' energy bills. The project is part of a wider investment programme of around £19 million being delivered by South Cambridgeshire District Council in partnership with Mears. Almost half of the funding is from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero under the Government's national Warm Homes Plan. A total of £8,280,376 is being provided for South Cambridgeshire under the latest wave of the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund scheme. SCDC will contribute £10 million from its Housing Revenue Account – consisting of Council house rents – to the improvements too.

A total of 610 properties will be upgraded with more than 2,300 individual energy efficiency measures. These include:

- • Cavity Wall Insulation: 576 homes
- • Loft Insulation: 397 homes

- • Air Source Heat Pumps: 356 homes
- • Solar PV Panels: 388 homes
- • Ventilation Improvements: 596 homes
- • External Wall Insulation: 14 homes

The upgrades aim to bring every home involved in the programme up to at least an EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) rating of C helping tenants reduce their energy usage and lower their bills by over £200 a year.

### **Low Income Family Tracker scheme: helping residents secure unclaimed benefits**

The Council's innovative Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) software identifies households likely to be eligible for benefits but not claiming them. They are then sent a letter or text encouraging them to apply – with follow-up phone calls also made.

A report to be discussed at the upcoming [Scrutiny and Overview Committee](#) outlines how hundreds of South Cambridgeshire residents are now getting extra money as a direct result of the Council's support and advice.

For example, the Council has helped over 110 households who were eligible for Pension Credit but weren't claiming it. Pension Credit is a benefit for people over State Pension age (currently 66) with low incomes. It provides extra money for living costs and can lead to other support. If they remain eligible for the rest of their lives, these households will receive up to £3.2 million in Pension Credit between them.

Households that applied for Pension Credit before last Christmas were also eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment following a change in eligibility criteria last year. This is a payment of either £200 or £300, depending on a person's age. The projected extra income this Winter Fuel Payment will bring new claimants across South Cambridgeshire, as long as they remain eligible for it, is just over £229,000.

In addition, the programme has been used to promote the availability of the Household Support Fund. This is a one-off hardship payment of £110 administered by Cambridgeshire County Council. Just under 250 South Cambridgeshire households went on to claim it during the past 12 months – with a total claim value of £26,400.

The Council also identified nearly 70 households that only just missed out on being eligible for Pension Credit – and therefore the Winter Fuel Payment. They were all contacted and offered a free electric blanket and financial advice through 'Income Maximisation' appointments with Council officers. These appointments identified unclaimed benefits – that could be worth a total of more than £500,000 shared between just five households, as long as they remain eligible. Two of those claims have already been approved.

The next areas of focus for the Council's Data Team – using the LIFT software – will include encouraging more eligible residents to claim grants to retrofit their home with energy efficiency measures. There will also be a campaign to raise awareness of Cambridge Water's 'Assure Tariff' – which offers discounts on water bills for those eligible.

### **Residents feature on council bin lorries to give recycling advice**

The 'Let's Waste Less' campaign launched by Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service (GCSWS) aims to shine a light on good recycling habits including rinsing out tins or not putting non-recyclable items like polystyrene into recycling bins.

Nearly a dozen volunteers from Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire took part, attending photo-shoots and sharing the actions they take which help to reduce waste or aid recycling. As part of the campaign volunteers have been featured on the side of nine new bin lorries to take their messages all around Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

Recent research\* on climate action shows that people usually underestimate how many other people care about environmental issues, and this affects how much action they are willing to take.

GCSWS staff also volunteered to help the campaign, with bin lorry driver Lee and loader Hayley giving tips on making space for recycling by flattening cardboard and remembering to recycle aerosol cans. Aerosol cans are often missed out of recycling collections but as they are made from aluminium there is a big environmental benefit to recycling them – it takes 95% less energy to make them into new products than using new material.

Some residents taking part in the campaign are Recycling Champions. These are volunteers who help communicate about recycling and reducing waste in their communities, for example by speaking to people at events.

Tell us what you do to waste less or make a pledge to take further action at [www.scambs.gov.uk/letswasteless](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/letswasteless) and you'll be entered into a prize draw to win one of three £50 vouchers for a supermarket, Cambridge Junction or Cambridge Corn Exchange.

### **South Cambridgeshire District Council Annual Meeting**

The SCDC Annual Meeting was held on 22 May 2025. At this meeting the following appointments were agreed:

- Appointment of the Chair and vice-Chair - Peter Sandford & Eileen Wilson
- Appointment of the Leader and Deputy Leader - Bridget Smith & Brian Milnes
- Appointments to the Cabinet: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/councillors-and-committees/our-cabinet-members><https://www.scambs.gov.uk/councillors-and-committees/our-cabinet-members>
- Allocation of seats on Committees and appointment of Committee Chairs
- Appointments to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
- Appointments to other bodies including the Greater Cambridge Partnership

For more information see:

<https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=410&MId=10037&Ver=4>