

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Comprising Barton, Coton, Comberton, Grantchester, Harlton,
Harston, Haslingfield, Hauxton, and South Trumpington

District Councillors' Monthly Report – July 2026

District Councillor Contact Details

If you have any questions or concerns relating to SCDC services, please contact us using the details below. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc.

Laurence Damary-Homan:	Laurence.damaryhoman@scambs.gov.uk	07968 264637
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Lisa Redrup:	Cllr.Redrup@scambs.gov.uk	07855 324580

Cost-of-living information

Visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/> for information on: benefits, money and debt advice; help with energy and water bills; help for parents and families; help with food and health costs; help with phone bills; help with making your home warmer; Age UK handyman service and; support if you are in distress.

Community Hubs

Community Hubs offer residents somewhere to socialise, take part in new activities and to receive information on cost-of-living support and how to stay healthy and well. Local Community Hubs include:

Toft Community Hub, High Street, Toft, CB23 2RL.

Opening times: Mondays, 10:30am – 12:30pm

Grantchester Communal Hall, Tabrum Close, Grantchester, Cambridge, CB3 9NW

Opening times: Fridays, 10am – 12pm

Caldecote Sports Pavillion, Furlong Way, Caldecote, Cambridge, CB23 7ZH

Opening times: Tuesdays, 11am – 4pm

Find out more at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-and-people/community-hubs>

LGA guide to disinformation for local councillors

The Local Government Association has developed [a guide on approaching and countering disinformation in response to interest from councillors seeking support in this area](#). The guide sets out key tangible actions councillors can take to respond effectively themselves while working closely with officers. Further information is available on the LGA's website and you can also find [a similar guide which was produced for officers earlier this year in LGA's Comms Hub](#).

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

Applications for the Zero Carbon Communities Grant 2026/2027 are now open until **5pm Friday 24 July 2026**.

The Zero Carbon Communities Grant helps communities in South Cambridgeshire to take action on climate change. Besides Parish Councils, other organisations such as schools and sports clubs may apply for a grant for climate-positive projects which benefit the local community, with grants ranging from £2,000 to £19,500. As well as capital costs, salaries of project workers and management staff (in proportion to the staff time spent on the project), reasonable expenses of project staff and volunteers, as well as marketing and publicity for the project (as appropriate) can also be funded by the grant.

More information, as well as a recording from the online ZCC Grant Applicant Workshop (held 20th May), can be found here: (<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant>)

Community groups invited to apply for new Community Pantry Grant

South Cambridgeshire groups can now apply for funding to set up community pantries, thanks to a new grant launched by the District Council.

The Community Pantry Grant offers up to £400 to buy equipment and materials to get a community pantry up and running. The new grant is part of a [£449,000 package of support](#) to tackle cost-of-living challenges over a 2-year period until March 2028, which was agreed by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet at the end of 2025.

Pantries of this type are simple, community-run spaces that provide residents with free access to food and everyday essentials, helping to tackle food insecurity while also reducing food waste. They are generally accessible, do not usually require staffing, and are maintained by the community.

The grant can be used for items such as shelving, indoor or outdoor storage, small venue adaptations, fridges or freezers, advertising, or other essential costs needed to start a pantry or expand an existing food hub to include one.

Eligible applicants include:

- Parish and Town Councils
- Constituted community groups with a bank account
- Informal groups with written support from their Parish or Town Council or District Councillor.

£5,000 has been allocated this year up to 31 March 2027, or until all funds are allocated. Applications will be assessed by Council officers. A further £5,000 will be available next year, depending on demand for the scheme.

Visit www.scambbs.gov.uk/community-pantry-grant to apply.

Applicants can contact duty.communities@scambbs.gov.uk for clarification or advice. Additional support for groups unfamiliar with bid writing is available from Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service via 01223 464 696 or enquiries@cambridgecvs.org.uk

Consultation on High Value Council Tax Surcharge

On 19 May, MHCLG, HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs jointly launched [a consultation on the High Value Council Tax Surcharge](#). The consultation seeks views on the detailed design of the High Value Council Tax Surcharge (HVCTS) including scope, support for those who cannot pay, how the tax will be administered and how owners can challenge and appeal their bill. The consultation also includes detailed information for councils, who will collect the tax on behalf of central government. Revenue raised through the HVCTS will be used to support funding for local government services. Councils will be fully compensated for any additional administrative burdens. More information can be found in the [Written Ministerial Statement](#). You can share feedback on the detailed design set out in this consultation. The consultation closes on **14 July**. If you have any questions, please contact: hvcts@communities.gov.uk

Local Validation Checklist consultation

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning is a joint planning service for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils. In the past, the Councils have produced separate local validation checklists but with a shared development strategy, we have prepared a single local checklist for both Council areas, and now we want our residents' feedback on the proposal.

Please visit our Consultation website (<https://engage.scambbs.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/local-validation-checklist-consultation>) to find an interactive version of the checklist, where comments can be left at any point with a single click (as long as you are registered). Please be aware that any comments you make will show your first and last name to other users.

If you are having trouble commenting, please instead send your comments to planning@greatercambridgeplanning.org.

Paper copies of this consultation are available from reception at South Cambridgeshire Hall. Please return any paper comments in an envelope marked 'Validation Checklist consultation'.

This consultation will run until **Tuesday 28 July**.

South Cambs Neighbourhood Police Community Engagement Event

The next South Cambs Neighbourhood Police community engagement event is on **6th August 7-8pm** online. A presentation from the local Police team is shared with the work they have been doing, and there will be a chance to shape their local policing priorities for the next 3 months, highlighting to them any local issues their residents are experiencing. To register for an online link to attend, please email communitymeeting@cambs.police.uk and quote 'SouthCambs'

Proposed changes to bus services including 75, 26, 17 and T3 – have your say

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) are consulting on changes to CPCA supported bus routes until the **28th July**. To view the proposals and provide your comments, please visit: <https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-network-review-engagement/>.

The changes are intended to consolidate the existing routes into fewer, better used routes that run more frequently and connect communities, hospitals, workplaces, education, and town centres:

75 service – Wrestlingworth – Orwell – Cambridge

This service would be revised and become the D service, running about once an hour for most of the day. It would run from Cambridge bus station along the A603 through Barton, then through Harlton to Haslingfield (no loop around Haslingfield so likely one stop between Harlton Road and Chapel Hill), onto Barrington and Orwell and then back along the A603. It would not go beyond Orwell. There is still provision for accessing Long Road 6th Form College and Hills Road 6th Form College at specific times.

26 service – Royston – Cambridge

This service would be revised and become the E service, running about once an hour through the day and operating for longer hours than the current service. It would run from Guilden Morden through Litlington, Bassingbourn, Royston, Melbourn, Foxton, Harston, Trumpington Park and Ride and then onto Cambridge bus station.

17 service - (Barley)/Guilden Morden - Royston – Cambridge

This service would be revised and become the F service. It would run from Royston to Cambridge North station but would no longer go through Harston and Hauxton.

T3 service Grantchester – Fulbourn

The current T2, T3 and T4 services would be replaced with new services A and B. Service A would run from Milton Park & Ride to Madingley Road Park & Ride, to Grantchester and then end at Trumpington Park & Ride. Service B would run from Trumpington Park & Ride, to Shelford Station, Babraham Park & Ride, Addenbrooke's, Fulbourn and on to end at Newmarket.

This would mean that residents from Grantchester would need to change bus at Trumpington Park and Ride to access Addenbrooke's. The new services would run about once an hour through the day Monday to Saturday with roughly the same first and last bus times as now.

Expansion of Tiger on Demand bus services from 13th July

The Tiger on Demand bus service will expand to cover 12 new villages including Hauxton, Harston, Haslingfield, and Harlton, as well as the Trumpington Park and Ride.

To use this service, residents book journeys between virtual bus stops. It is designed to support everyday journeys, including commuting, school travel, shopping, leisure and connections to other transport services. The service is available between 6.30am to 7pm Monday to Saturday, with bookings available up to 48 hours in advance.

Virtual bus stop locations can be viewed and journeys booked at: <http://www.tigerondemand.co.uk/> or on the Tiger on Demand app. Journeys can also be booked by calling 01480 595440 during the service's operating hours. Virtual bus stop locations in the ward are:

- The Hare and Hounds, Harlton
- High Meadow (opposite BP garage), Harston
- London Road (adjacent to Queens Close), Harston
- Royston Road, Harston
- The Village Shop, Haslingfield
- Barton Road (adjacent to New Road), Haslingfield
- New Road (adjacent to The Meadows), Haslingfield
- High Street (adjacent to Chapel Hill), Haslingfield
- Hauxton Meadows Park, Hauxton
- War Memorial (Church Rd), Hauxton
- Hauxton Village Green, Hauxton
- The Lane (opposite Jopling Way), Hauxton
- Trumpington Park and Ride

Adults will pay £2.50 per journey, while [Tiger Pass holders](#) and children aged 5-16 will pay £1 per journey. Under-5s, concessionary and disability bus pass holders can travel for free.

2025/26 Accounts published

For those interested in the District's financial situation, the District Council's accounts were published on the 30th June and can be found here: [Council accounts and Annual Governance Statement - South Cambs District Council](#). Many thanks to the Finance team and especially [@Farzana Ahmed](#).

EWR Consultation

The response from Greater Cambridge Shared Planning to the recent EWR consultation is available at: [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning: East West Rail](#). Officers at South Cambridgeshire District Council continue to work with EWR Co. on areas of concern.

Lisa and Laurence have both also submitted responses to EWR Co. as councillors; they would be more than happy to provide copies of their responses upon request.

Recognition of SCDC's work using data to help people receive support

The council's work to use data to help ensure South Cambridgeshire residents are receiving the support and benefits they are entitled to is being recognised nationally.

Its targeted Healthy Start Campaign saw the number of Healthy Start claimants in South Cambridgeshire increase by more than anywhere else in the country, ensuring that young children in low-income households have access to healthy and nutritious food. This campaign was a finalist in the [LGC Award's](#) Public and Population Health category.

Two other Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) projects have also been shortlisted for the [IRRV Performance Awards](#):

- The council's joint data sharing initiative with Cambridgeshire County Council to support more eligible households to claim free school meals saw over 80 children start to receive free school meals. This has been shortlisted in the Excellence in Partnership (Fight Against Poverty) category.
- The council also ran six community events last year, using benefits data to personally invite local older residents to attend and see if they could receive support. 192 people attended, with over £13,000 of relief distributed immediately and a further 33 people identified as likely to be eligible for Attendance Allowance with support offered to claim. This initiative has been shortlisted in the Excellence in Social Inclusion category.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme - Summer 2026

Cambridgeshire County Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme provides children in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals with a fully funded place at participating holiday schemes for up to 64 hours. In addition, recently arrived refugee families and families experiencing financial hardship are also eligible. Further information can be found here:

- [Cambridgeshire Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)
- [HAF Provider Directory | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Planning training for Parish Councillors

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) will be hosting a training session on **Tuesday 21st July, 6 - 7pm**, for the benefit of new Parish Councillors, or those wanting a refresher.

The session will cover the need-to-knows of Planning from a Parish Councillors' perspective and allow you to meet some of the GCSP team.

The session will be fully online, via Microsoft Teams. This is to ensure the maximum number of people can participate. The session will also be recorded for the benefit of those who may be unavailable.

Link to the Microsoft Teams meeting:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/330926108416026?p=U5SlYd3yRhK7DabSdX>

Meeting ID: 330 926 108 416 026

Passcode: 3Yz7Ha66

Development Corporation

– feedback from Cllr Bridget Smith, Leader of SCDC

Parish Councils are probably aware that the last government and this government have both had designs on increasing the growth of housing and jobs in Greater Cambridge far beyond what we have identified through our local plan process: 150,000 by 2050 “theirs” compared with 77,000 by 2045 “ours”.

This aspiration has now taken a leap forward with the Labour Government formally announcing its intention to create a Government led Development Corporation covering the whole area. This is vastly larger in geography and population than has ever been seen before anywhere in the UK.

There is no doubt that this will result in loss of greenbelt land though where, we cannot as yet say. The emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan gives a very high level of protection to all of our villages and the greenbelt but it would be naïve to say that the Development Corporation would respect this. Currently, anyone wanting to build anything at all in Greater Cambridge has to submit a planning application to the Greater Cambridge Planning Service and the decisions are taken either by our expert planning officers or by the planning committee which is made up of elected members from both political parties that hold seat in South Cambs.

It would be a travesty if these plans damaged the Greater Cambridge Planning Service which has recently been awarded the title of Best Planning Authority in England.

If the government does not amend its plans, as they currently stand, all planning applications above 250 units will be submitted to the Development Corporation and decided by its own planning committee which will only have 4 elected members with the majority being 'experts'. This represents a huge democratic deficit, with a Westminster minister having ultimate say.

We are talking to government to see if we can move this situation into something acceptable to our council and communities based upon the large amount of consultation we have conducted and the responses we have seen to their consultation, most of which align with our strongly held views.

As a minimum, that would mean increasing the thresholds for housing by a significant amount and getting assurance that the Development Corporation will concentrate its resources on sorting out the infrastructure gap that is actually slowing growth of our area. This includes the shortage of water, electricity, health and education provision and public transport links.

To find out more, please see the following links:

- The government's announcement is here: [Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](#)
- The government's response to the consultation (which took place earlier this year) is here: [Greater Cambridge Development Corporation: Analysis of consultation responses and next steps - GOV.UK](#)
- The SCDC press release is here: [South Cambs District Council: Council warns that government's urban development corporation risks sidelining local communities](#)

Men B vaccine offered to thousands of people

The [Department of Health and Social Care \(DHSC\)](#) and devolved nations announced that thousands of young people will get protection against meningococcal B disease (MenB) through a one-off vaccination programme launching ahead of the 2026 academic year. The one-off vaccination programme will be offered to:

- Everyone in England and Wales born between 01/09/2007 and 31/08/2008 (current school year 13) or equivalent final year of school age (Year 14 or S6) in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- Everyone turning 25 after 31/12/2026 who will be starting higher education for the first time, or who will be living in further education accommodation or halls of residence for the first time, in autumn 2026. This includes international students and students in the UK Devolved Administrations and Crown Dependencies.
- International students under 25 entering their first year of university should receive their first dose in their home country where possible.

Eligible people will need two doses for protection, with the first being offered from July and the second dose provided from August.