

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

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

District Councillors' Monthly Report – August 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
Ariel Cahn:	Cllr.CahnA@scambs.gov.uk	07455 128924
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 handyperson 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](#).

Grants & Consultations

Greater Cambridge Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation begins

The Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan consultation is now open and will close on Friday 25 September. The consultation is the last opportunity for communities to comment on the Plan before it is submitted to Government and examined by an independent Planning Inspector. Unlike earlier consultations, this final stage is more narrowly focused on whether the Plan is "sound" and meets national planning requirements. Responses will therefore need to focus on whether the Plan is justified by the evidence, effective in achieving its objectives, deliverable and consistent with national planning policy.

Please help raise awareness of the consultation in your communities to encourage residents, businesses, and local groups to take part and share their views. There are plenty of social media posts being placed on our Greater Cambridge Shared Planning channels for you to share:

[Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Facebook](#) | [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Instagram](#) | [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning LinkedIn](#) | [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning X](#)

To view the Plan, submit comments and find details of the engagement events we will be holding during the consultation, visit www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan

The Long-Term Health Condition Grant is now open

Applications for the Long-Term Health Condition Grant opened on 9 July 2026. It is a funding opportunity to create programmes and activities that support adults with long term health conditions to keep active, aiming to provide a wider range of activities and inclusive engagement opportunities across the district. An application can secure a maximum of £2,000 of funding, which can be used on e.g. venue hire, equipment purchases, staff training, or improving accessibility to engagement.

The following people/groups or businesses can apply:

- Small fitness businesses/entrepreneurs (must show public liability insurance, qualifications, and safeguarding if applicable)
- Community facilities (e.g. town/village halls)
- Voluntary sector organisations
- Specialist groups

Applications close **5pm on Friday 25 September 2026** and applicants will be notified of the outcome on Monday 9 November 2026. Please apply/find more information on our website: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/long-term-health-condition-grant>

Cool spaces across South Cambs

We've compiled a list of venues across the district that people can visit to stay cool, particularly on high temperature days. It also has tips to help keep homes cool. Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/staying-cool

PSPO introduced at Babraham Road Park and Ride

You may have seen recent news coverage that – together with Cambridge City Council – we have introduced [a Public Spaces Protection Order \(PSPO\) at Babraham Road Park and Ride](#). This enables fines to be issued for anti-social driving and vehicle-related nuisance behaviour using CCTV and ANPR enforcement. The action responds to persistent reports of speeding, racing, loud music, engine revving, and other disruptive activity that has affected residents, visitors and neighbouring organisations, including the Arthur Rank Hospice.

If you witness anti-social driving after 5:15pm at the site, please report it to Cambridge City Council via the out-of-hours phone line on 0300 303 8389. Alternatively, you can submit a report online at www.cambridge.gov.uk/resolve-or-report-a-noise-issue

South Cambridgeshire Clerks Conference

We are holding a Clerks Conference, all Clerks and Deputy Clerks in South Cambridgeshire are invited. The last of these, in March, attracted 30 attendees, representing 35 Town / Parish Councils, and we hope to expand on this. The Conference will be held on **Wednesday 30th September 2026, 9.30am - 2.30pm**. The location is **South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, CB23 6EA**. The agenda will be distributed very soon, and will include presentations on LGR and Housing, in addition to a catered lunch and networking opportunity.

A dietary requirements form is here: [South Cambridgeshire Parish Clerks Conference, 30th September 2026 - DIETARY REQUIREMENTS](#). A selection of supplementary presentations, as well as the ones covered at the event, will be sent out as soon as possible following.

Any prospective attendees can contact jack.bullimore@scambs.gov.uk to be added to the list of attendees. Please also contact Jack if there are any questions.

Tiger on Demand expanded to 13 villages

You'll be pleased to note that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has expanded its Tiger on Demand bus service to 13 villages in South Cambridgeshire, following the withdrawal of the route 32 bus service.

The demand-responsive transport service allows residents to book journeys when needed, rather than relying on a fixed timetable, helping improve connectivity for commuting, shopping, leisure trips, and onward travel connections. The service operates Monday to Saturday (6:30am to 7pm) and journeys can be booked via the Tiger on Demand app, website or telephone up to 48 hours in advance. Affordable fares remain in place, with free travel for concessionary and disability bus pass holders. Further details are available in the attached briefing note from the Combined Authority – and we hope you find useful.

Zero Carbon Communities Newsletter

Whether you're a long-standing member or recently elected, I'd like to highlight our quarterly Zero Carbon Communities (ZCC) newsletter, which is a great way to connect with the latest climate, nature and communities-related work across the district. Inside you will find updates on the ZCC grant programme, local stories and achievements, funding opportunities, upcoming events, useful resources, and examples of projects from councils and communities. If you'd like to receive the newsletter directly to your inbox, you can subscribe by emailing us here: ZCC@scambs.gov.uk. You can also access previous versions of the Newsletter here: [Zero Carbon Communities Newsletter - South Cambs District Council](#)

MHCLG updates

Machinery of Government changes: Factsheet

The Prime Minister has made a number of changes to the machinery of government to empower local leaders and drive economic growth across the whole country.

Factsheet: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/machinery-of-government-changes-fact-sheet>

Planning guidance: letters to chief planning officers

On 22 July, MHCLG issued [a planning update newsletter to chief planning officers of local planning authorities in England](#). It contains details about the latest announcements relating to planning practices and policy. The newsletter draws attention to the final regulations on the national scheme of delegation and size of planning committees which Ministers made on 15 July 2026 following parliamentary debates, as part of the government's reforms to modernise planning committees. The government has also published [statutory guidance to support local planning authorities in applying the national scheme of delegation: Planning Committees and the National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions](#). These regulations will come into force on 31 October 2026.

In addition, this edition also draws attention to forthcoming changes to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). Defra Ministers laid regulations on 13 July which will introduce the first set of changes arising from the BNG consultation held last year (as set out in the government response published in April).

Finally, it also includes information on regulations laid by the government on 16 July to increase planning application fees and published its response to the consultation on planning fees and local fee setting.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, the new fees will apply from 8 December 2026. The new fees are expected to achieve around 90% cost recovery nationally, providing a substantial uplift in funding for planning services.