

District and County Councillor's Report – May 2024

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

The popular Zero Carbon Communities grant from South Cambs District Council is now open again - <https://southcambsweb.azurewebsites.net/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant> - community groups, as well as parish councils, can apply for funding for green and sustainable energy projects. The deadline for applications is June 2nd, so don't hang around.

Rural Prosperity Fund

There is a new fund from central government, facilitated by the District Council, that is aimed at supporting rural communities with the aim to help support local businesses and communities. Worth taking a look at if you are a looking for funding for a project or you're a local business looking to expand and progress - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/rural-england-prosperity-fund/> - applications opened on Monday April 8th and when the money is gone, it's gone!

Local Elections

You'll be pleased to hear there is only 1 local election this year, for the Police and Crime Commissioner of Cambridgeshire. This doesn't get a huge amount of media coverage but is nevertheless an important role, so please do take the time to research the candidates and, if you can, vote.

At some point this year there will also be a general election, with much more media coverage!

Solar Farm Proposal

Kingsway Solar, the company proposing the new solar farm between the A11 and West Wrattling/Balsham, have now given an informal presentation to local residents. The plans were lacking in some of the detail that people would have wanted to see at this stage but, as the applicants said at the meeting, the plans may change before a formal planning application is submitted. Other than the information that was presented at the meeting in March, there is still nothing tangible to link you to, other than West Wrattling Parish Council own write up of the event - https://westwrattling.org.uk/parish_council-planning-applications/solar-farm/

Civil Parking Enforcement

The County Council now have traffic wardens patrolling South Cambridgeshire. They have a list of problem areas in each of our villages, supplied by Henry with support from your Parish Councils, but if anyone feels that there are specific areas where illegal parking really is an issue, do let him know directly.

Cambridge 2040/2050

In the Spring Statement we heard that the Government are pressing ahead with their plans to make Cambridge an economic development hub for the science and tech sector. The catch to attracting companies to move to our area is to build circa 150,000 houses around Cambridge to make this proposal more sustainable. The current idea is to set up a development corporation to manage this, which, currently, local authorities won't be a part of. The local authorities in the affected area, South

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

Cambridgeshire, Cambridge City and the County Council are still fighting to stay 'at the table', if this does progress.

Stagecoach Timetable Changes

Stagecoach made some timetable changes to the 13/X13 service between Haverhill and Cambridge recently. The main changes affect the routes in Haverhill itself but one knock-on effect is that one of the early morning buses that used to stop in Linton no longer does, meaning people that want to catch the bus at that time need to walk to the Police Houses on the A1307.

If you are affected by the changes, please do write to Stagecoach directly -

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/help-and-contact/faqs/im-not-happy-how-do-i-make-a-complaint#>

as well as this, do contact the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, who have ultimate responsibility for public transport in the county -

<https://transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/contact-us/>

Anaerobic Digestion Plant Proposals

The two planning applications for biodigesters in our area, Acorn in Haverhill and Streetly End Farm in West Wickham, are edging closer to a decision. If you'd still like to comment upon either, email the planning officers directly:

1. Acorn, Haverhill – andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk

<http://suffolk.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=SCC%2F0045%2F23SE&fbclid=IwAR0aj4d4JMd9Yr3cP-Etp9rxdR4kKDwvzX0wMyHkfOomG45fCq0khXRbyrE>

2. Streetly Hall Farm, Streetly End, West Wickham - helen.wass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

<https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S0BB1JDYKNQ00>

Contact Details

District Council – Geoff Harvey – geoff.harvey@gmail.com

County Council – Henry Batchelor – henrybatchelor89@gmail.com