

District and County Councillor's Report – August 2025

4 Day Week

The District Council recently made the decision to make its 4-day working week trial, permanent. This decision came off the back of the lengthy trial period where KPI performance was studied closely. It also followed a consultation with the staff and the public.

Having said all of this, we are looking at local government reorganisation in a few years, and it's difficult to predict what format the staff contracts will form within a new local authority.

Allotment Improvement Grant

There is a grant available from the District Council that can provide 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 <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-and-people/community-action/allotment-improvement-grant>

Local Developments

There are a few sites in our area that have been promoted recently by landowners/potential developers for housing development.

Little Linton – this is the site in the fields to the west of Linton Village College. The promoters of this site, Bloor Homes, are presenting plans for 250 houses and the possibility of a new health centre. The drawback here is that this parcel of land is outside of the 'village framework' which is the boundary within which development can take place. To have land included in the village framework requires it to be submitted to the District Council through the Local Plan process, which is the plan for identifying sites in South Cambridgeshire for housing growth. This site has been put forward multiple times over the years but has never been taken forward, as it's deemed to be an unsustainable location for a variety of reasons. This is still the case, so any planning application that is submitted today, would very likely be refused on this basis alone.

Pampisford Road, Abington – a similar story to the above. This is a site promoting a housing development but is, again, outside of the village framework, so is currently very unlikely to achieve planning permission, should they submit a formal planning application.

Grange Farm, Abington – a slightly different situation here. The Grange Farm site, which is north of Cambridge Road, Abington, has been put forward several times over the years for housing development but is now being looked at more seriously by the District Council. This site can take around 5000 houses and SCDC are considering including this in their forthcoming Local Plan. Having

said that, the site is highly dependant on other factors. These include the new Travel Hub (park & ride site) on the Babraham side of the A11 being granted approval. It's also dependant on the relocation of the sewage works in northeast Cambridge being cancelled, as this relocation would have included large scale housing with it, which the Grange Farm site would replace. It's also dependant on having funding confirmed to create a bridge crossing of the A11 to access the new Travel Hub, should it go ahead. So, a lot of external factors will influence this going ahead. This site is deemed to be a more sustainable location than others given its proximity to large employment sites (Granta Park, Babraham Institute, Cambridge Biomedical Campus etc) and its positioning adjacent to major A roads.

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