

**Come & Talk to the
Stagecoach
Officials & Directors
on
Friday 20th January 2023
at
6.30 pm
at the Hub Meeting Room**

Public Consultation



Query?
Contact:
Cllr. Shrobona
Bhattacharya
Cllr.Bhattacharya@
scams.gov.uk

Cambourne High Street

From: Glenda Hansen <Glenda.Hansen@scams.gov.uk>

Sent: 15 December 2022 14:07

To: Cllr Shrobona Bhattacharya (SCambs - Cambourne)

<Cllr.Bhattacharya@scams.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Response to Questions at Council - Cambourne High Street

Dear Cllr Bhattacharya

Please accept my apologies for the late response. Please find below a response from Mike Huntington in regard to Cambourne High Street.

If you require any further information, please let me know.

Will the Leader confirm if there will ever be enough priority given to a High Street in Cambourne by this administration or will we have another 3 years of nothing?

The land on either side of the High Street is privately owned by a developer. The District Council has engaged with and provided advice to the developer and their agent over proposals to complete the High Street with a mix of shops, houses, and apartments. We advised the developer earlier this year to submit a planning application and are now awaiting the submission of such an application for these proposals.

Regards
Mike

Michael Huntington | Principal Planner | Strategic Sites

1. **From Councillor Dr. Shrobona Bhattacharya**

Since the Leader came to Cambourne Town Council in February 2019 to say the council was removing their support for the High Street nothing really seems to have moved on. Will the Leader confirm if there will ever be enough priority given to a High Street in Cambourne by this administration or will we have another 3 years of nothing?

Response from Councillor Bridget Smith, Leader of the Council:

The redevelopment of the privately owned site in Cambourne High Street has been the subject of engagement between the Shared Planning Service and members of the Town Council and the landowner. Pre-application discussions with the developer/owner of the land have taken place for a mixed retail and residential development. In response to concerns about development viability raised by the applicant and their team, the planning officers have advised that subject to justification, they are prepared to be flexible in respect of affordable housing requirements. With the Town Council, the Joint Director of Planning has also met with the applicant to work through design challenges associated with the sites shape and size.

Having highlighted the scope for resolution of these matters, the applicant went away to review and consider their next steps. Since that time however, the economic environment has worsened for all developers. My officers contacted the agents for the applicants recently who confirmed that they were not seeking anything further from the Council at this time. I await positive news from the landowner but in the meantime, I share the ambition of everyone to see the High Street area of Cambourne developed.

Glenda Hansen

Executive Assistant to Bridget Smith
Leader - South Cambridgeshire District Council
and Ward Member for Gamlingay.

Funding for Housing

The Council has been awarded £4.5 million as part of the Government's Local Authority Housing Fund. The funding, which will run over this financial year and into 2023-24 is to help the Council to acquire 30 additional homes. These will initially be used to accommodate refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan, but when they are no longer needed for this purpose the homes will be available through the housing waiting list (as council houses). 28 of the homes will be for Ukrainian refugees, and the council will receive 40% of the cost plus £20k per property (total £139200 per property). The other

2 properties will be larger properties, 4 bedrooms or over, and the council will receive 50% of the cost plus £20k per property (total £282822 per property). Given the tight timescale involved, it is likely that the council will be looking to acquire existing properties either on the open market or from developers, rather than developing new properties for this purpose.

For further details please contact Peter Campbell, Head of Housing

Funding for farmers who protect and enhance the environment

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced on 5 January that farmers will receive increased payments for protecting and enhancing nature and delivering sustainable food production under the government's Environmental Land Management schemes. The government announced funding for farmers and landowners through both the Countryside Stewardship (CS) and the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) schemes, which will provide support to the industry. It also confirmed that it would soon publish an expanded range of actions under the schemes for which farmers could be paid. The CS scheme provides financial incentives for farmers, foresters and land managers to look after and improve the environment. The SFI scheme helps farmers manage land in a way that improves food production and is more environmentally sustainable. Councils are encouraged to share this information as appropriate.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-pay-more-to-farmers-who-protect-and-enhance-the-environment>

Toolkit to help councils maximise the benefits of trees and woodlands – reminder

Funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, a new Trees and Woodland Strategy Toolkit was published last month (1 December). The toolkit aims to help councils create or update Trees and Woodland Strategies and includes guidance and case studies from councils in England.

It also highlights how councils can draw on current government funding for tree planting, to enhance treescapes for local communities and respond to climate change and biodiversity loss. An online event to introduce the toolkit to councils will be held on 16 January, followed by a series of face-to-face regional workshops to further help councils to develop their strategies. Participants can register for the online launch event at the link below. Councils who are interested in participating in these events and the ongoing programme of research, should get in touch with The Tree Council at scienceandresearch@treecouncil.org.uk

Toolkit:

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/science-and-research/tree-strategies/>

Sign-up:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-introduction-to-the-newly-published-trees-woodland-strategy-toolkit-tickets-474293242857>

Help to Grow: Digital scheme – closes soon

The government announced last month (15 December) that businesses don't have much time left to apply for the Help to Grow: Digital scheme, following a decision to close the programme. The scheme has supported businesses to grow, but with take-up lower than expected, the decision has been taken to refocus efforts towards other support mechanisms for small businesses.

The Help to Grow Digital programme was designed to give 100,000 SMEs free and impartial advice on how technology can help their business and vouchers worth up to £5,000 to cover up to 50% of the costs of buying pre-approved software.

The government continues other schemes to support small businesses, such as Help to Grow: Management and the government-backed British Business Bank's Start Up Loans. The programme will close to new business applications on 2 February. Councils are encouraged to share this information with businesses in their area.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/final-opportunity-for-businesses-to-access-help-to-grow-digital-scheme>

New “Energy Bills Discount Scheme” for businesses announced

On 9 January the government announced a new energy scheme for businesses, charities, and the public sector, ahead of the current scheme ending in March. The scheme will mean that all eligible UK businesses and other non-domestic energy users will receive a discount on high energy bills until 31 March 2024.

A higher level of support will be provided to businesses in sectors identified as being the most energy and trade intensive – predominately manufacturing industries. The Chancellor, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, wrote to the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) yesterday (9 January) asking for an update in time for the Spring Budget on the progress of their review into the non-domestic market.

He has asked for their assessment of whether further action is needed to secure a well-functioning market for non-domestic customers following reports of challenges certain customers are facing, including in relation to the pricing and availability of tariffs, standing charges and renewal terms, and the ability of certain sectors to secure contracts.

Councils are encouraged to share this information with businesses in their area.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-unveils-new-energy-bills-discount-scheme-for-businesses>

Supporting people to vote in the 2023 English local elections – resources to help councils

The government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections. From 4 May, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections. This will apply to:

Local elections

Police and Crime Commissioner elections

UK parliamentary by-elections

Recall petitions

From October 2023, it will also apply to UK general elections. Individuals who don't have an accepted photo ID can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate. Further information about accepted forms of photo ID, how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, and what to expect on polling day can be found below. The Electoral Commission is aware that some groups are more likely to experience barriers with this change and may need support to access photo ID. Organisations working directly with voters, including councils and charities, are encouraged to help voters make sure they have photo ID ahead of the elections.

The Electoral Commission has produced partner packs for organisations in England, including councils, to help them raise awareness and support voters with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate. The packs also include information on voter registration. The Electoral Commission has also produced resources to help those who are likely to need support with the new voter ID requirement.

More information:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id>

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>

Wireless connectivity 2030 report published

Yesterday (10 January), the Government Office for Science published a new report which looks at how public service demand for wireless could change in the future. The report sets out the evidence on the critical uncertainties around demand for wireless connectivity and the implications for delivery of wireless public services in 2030. These uncertainties are combined into a set of scenarios that can be used to help develop more resilient policies. The report describes four plausible future worlds to help policymakers test their proposals and explores alternative ways in which wireless policy might develop in future.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wireless-2030-report-published>

Report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wireless-2030>

Raising Awareness about Disabled Facilities Grants

Cambs Home Improvement Agency (HIA) wanted to remind all members about the range of grants available to people with disabilities living in South Cambridgeshire, to help adapt homes. This may be particularly relevant to those who are elderly, vulnerable or have family members with disabilities; friends or neighbours in their local communities and for the diverse groups with which you may work.

The Disabled Facilities Grant is a mandatory Government grant aimed at people with disabilities and older people on low incomes or low-income benefits, which helps towards the costs of making changes to their home to allow them to continue living there safely and comfortably. Each year Cambs HIA enables around 300 older people and people with disabilities to adapt their homes.

Although some work such as ramps, stairlifts, specialist toilets, automated door entry systems and level access showers require an Occupational Therapist's referral, other work such as new boilers, roofing repairs, new doors and windows do not. The agency can help homeowners or those in housing association properties make a wide variety of adaptations and repairs (www.cambshia.org). We can also help self-funders who are unable to organise and oversee the work themselves.

You can reach Cambs HIA colleagues at hia@cambshia.org or take a look at their Facebook page (Cambs Home Improvement Agency | Cambourne | Facebook) for more info.

Cambridgeshire County Council Refreshed Strategic Framework – message from Stephen Moir, CEO CCC

I wanted to share with you all the current version of the County Council's refreshed Strategic Framework, which has been reshaped this year to more clearly focus on our Joint Administration's vision of creating a Greener, Fairer and More Caring Cambridgeshire.

Underpinning this vision for Cambridgeshire, from the County Council's perspective, are our 7 Ambitions:

Net Zero Carbon Emissions
Safer, Sustainable Travel
Reduced Health Inequalities
Healthy, Safe and Independent Lives
Anti-Poverty
Places and Communities Prosper
Children and Young People Thrive

Our strategic framework will be part of the suite of key strategies and plans which will work their way through our Committee system to the County Council's budget setting meeting in February. Importantly, we have referenced and included the single, shared system strategy we collectively endorsed through the C&P Public Service Board this year and all agreed to reflect in our own strategies/plans.

Combined Authority awarded £822k funding for cycling and walking plans

Please see the link for more details of this very good news: [Combined Authority wins Government funding for cycling and walking plans - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority \(cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/news/combined-authority-wins-government-funding-for-cycling-and-walking-plans)

New funding for defibrillators

On 29 December, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced £1 million of funding to increase the number of automated external defibrillators in communities – providing an estimated 1,000 new defibrillators in community spaces in England. DHSC will invest the funding through an independent partner who will manage grant applications from bidding organisations. Those selected will be asked to match the funding they receive fully or partially, potentially doubling the number of new defibrillators created by the fund.

Applicants will also be asked to demonstrate that defibrillators will be placed in areas where they are most needed. Examples could include town halls, community centres, local shops, post offices and local parks to ensure that defibrillators are evenly spread throughout communities and easily accessible if someone is experiencing cardiac arrest.

The independent partner managing the fund will be announced in due course. The fund is non-recurring, meaning DHSC will provide funding for the purchase of defibrillators, but upkeep will be funded by organisations or individuals who receive them. State-funded schools in England that do not already have a

defibrillator will receive one from the Department for Education by the end of 2022/23 academic year. Councils are encouraged to share this information as appropriate.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/number-of-defibrillators-to-be-increased-with-new-funding>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/every-school-will-have-a-life-saving-defibrillator-by-2223>

The 'Great Winter Get Together' scheme

Inspired by the Jo Cox Foundation, established in 2016 by friends and family of the late Jo Cox MP, the 'Great Winter Get Together' will run from 16-29 January with events and activities around the country where individuals can make meaningful connections with new people.

The scheme highlights to residents that there is a place for connection in their local area this January, where anyone – whether currently experiencing loneliness or not – can come along and get to know others.

Organisers are encouraged to share details of their event and can use the organiser pack linked below to help them with their communications. Details will be added to the online map so people can find their nearest Great Winter Get Together and come along. Councils are encouraged to share this information as appropriate.

More information:

<https://www.greatgettogether.org/winter>

Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy consultation

On 22 December, DLUHC launched a consultation to seek views on the department's proposed approach to updating to the National Planning Policy Framework.

DLUHC is also seeking views on preparing National Development Management Policies, how we might develop policy to support levelling up, and how national planning policy is currently accessed by users. The consultation closes on 2 March.

If you have any questions, please contact:

PlanningPolicyConsultation@levellingup.gov.uk

Consultation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/levelling-up-and-regeneration-bill-reforms-to-national-planning-policy>

Stagecoach East Bus Fares Update

Fares on local Stagecoach buses will be increasing from Sunday 8 January 2023. There will be the same ticket types, but at slightly different prices. The changes will add on average 39p onto the cost of daily adult bus travel.

Please take a look at the attached PDF booklet for full details on the new fares. Further information is available on the Stagecoach website. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Stagecoach East at east.headoffice@stagecoachbus.com

Campaign for more Hosts

District Council is still looking for new potential hosts via our [Spare Room](#) campaign [Spare rooms for people from Ukraine - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](#) which appeals for anyone who would like to get involved to apply to re-match existing guests via the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Hosts receive up to £500 per month as a thank you payment.

If you are interested in hosting, or know of someone else who may be interested, please take a look at our [website](#); [Spare rooms for people from Ukraine - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](#) for information and for details of the support available to new hosts. Anyone who can offer help simply needs to text **ROOM** to **88802**.

Please Note: If any Parish Councils, local organisations or individuals have a small space on their roadside verge in a safe and appropriate location and are willing to put up a sign (like those communities put up for village fetes) giving details of our Spare Room campaign, they can be collected from our offices in Cambourne.

The A2 signs have a stake attached for pushing into the ground. There is no need to contact us first and the signs can be collected any time between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday. If you would like to support us but would need to collect signs outside of these times, then please email us on duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk and we will make arrangements with you. We can also supply posters for noticeboards and fliers. Thank you for your support in aiding us to spread the word to help to find accommodation for all our Ukrainian guests.

Returning Guests

If guests originally left the property but are now wishing to return, then please let the Council know. Notify on HFULiaison@scambs.gov.uk and complete the arrivals form, which can be found [here](#), [Homes for Ukraine arrivals form \(office.com\)](#) once the guest/s have arrived.

Hosting Survey

The Council needs to ensure that they have an up-to-date and accurate log of the hosts' intentions so they can plan our future support for Ukrainian guests accordingly, and this week all hosts should have received an email from us which includes an online survey. The purpose of this survey is so they can understand the likely duration of hosting agreement and to provide host with some feedback.

Employment Survey

Ukrainian Employment/Skills Survey will help Council to assess how Council can best support guests into suitable employment. Ukrainian refugees are able to work in the UK for up to three years and Council is collaborating with local partners, communities, and businesses to ensure we understand the barriers they may face in finding suitable employment.

For further query: Email to Communities Duty Duty.Communities@scamb.gov.uk

Online meeting place for young Ukrainians

The Council recently established a Facebook Group for Young Ukrainian guests aged 13-19, however the numbers of young people joining are still quite low.

Council is actively exploring the need for a potential WhatsApp Group for the same age group, a place where young people may meet, develop friendships and share information. A Ukrainian Adult would moderate this, making it a safe place.

Please let Council know if any Ukrainian parents staying with you to fill out the [form](#) [WhatsApp Group - Young Ukrainians aged 13-19 \(office.com\)](#) to know what they think about it and whether or not their child would be interested in joining and using such a group.

Drama classes for young Ukrainian Guests

Free drama sessions for Ukrainian guest children and young adults aged 9-15 have now started at Cottenham Community Centre.

Running from 3.45-5.15pm, the first session was held last Thursday. The next sessions are scheduled at the same time for Thursdays 19 January and 2 February, with further fortnightly dates to be confirmed.

The group is led by Sheila Gosling, a Drama Worker For more information email Sheeba3434@hotmail.com

Online forum for hosts – 18 January

The next online session from the Association for Family Therapy and Systemic Practice (AFT) - virtual meetings where all current hosts and hosts-to-be can meet with others in their position to share the experiences and challenges of hosting – takes place on 18 January. The exact content of the session will be decided on the evening by those who come but may include self-care, preparing for your guests to arrive, the challenges and

opportunities of hosting, accessing resources in your community, thinking about the impact of trauma on guests who are displaced from home, country and family, and helping with anonymised specific challenges. Sessions are free but hosts will need to register for tickets [here](#)

[Support for Hosts of Ukrainian Families Online Event Tickets, Wed 18 Jan 2023 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

CamCare UK offered free Electronics and Robotics classes for young Ukrainian Guests

CamCare UK offered the free seats for the young Ukrainian children for Electronics, Robotics, and Technology training. The session will run at the Blue Space on Sunday afternoon.

CamCare UK also received the requests for other war effected asylum children. The course will be taught by Dr. Sujit Bhattacharya, an EdTech specialist who is the Micro:bit Global Champion 2022 and works for aerospace and defence industry will be mentoring the Ukraine and other children for Robotics and Electronics training.

No prior experience is required to participate, Ukraine children can join by registering at <https://tinyurl.com/cerc-jan-2023> for the free session.

Cambourne Community Bus

Cambourne Community Bus has been hired by many community groups last month, and more requests have come as well.

Bluebell Community Group
Crafty Ladies, Cambourne
Words for pleasure group (Cambourne)
CERC
Hockey Team

Cllr. Shrobona Bhattacharya

Cllr.Bhattacharya@scambs.gov.uk

07852753216