

**Cambourne Town Council**  
**South Cambridgeshire District Council report: Tuesday 3rd October 2023**

Councillor Stephen Drew  
Councillor Helene Leeming

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This is the fifth report to the town council in our second year as district councillors since being elected in May 2022.

### **1. Mental Health in Cambourne**

On Thursday 21st September councillors Leeming and Drew attended the first meeting of a new group set up to explore ways to support mental health provision in Cambourne. The group has been established by Councillor Leeming and has representatives from South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, the NHS, charities and volunteer groups in Cambourne such as the church. Our aim is to bring together the wide range of services and resources that exist in the area and get them focussed upon helping the residents of our town.

The group discussed the particular challenges faced by Cambourne as a still developing new town with a relatively young population, with higher levels of deprivation than the district as a whole, as well as limited local facilities and difficult transport links which leave many isolated from the wider area. It is clear that there is a developed understanding of these difficulties from all the agencies and groups involved, as well as a wish to see services improve for Camourne residents.

The group will meet once every three months and ahead of the next meeting councillors Leeming and Drew will work with partners on a number of projects to deliver for residents.

### **2. Tree planting grant**

At the September meeting councillors Drew and Leeming reported to town councillors about the availability of grants for tree planting. We were delighted to see the town council express interest in taking up this opportunity and were happy to be able to work with the town council and officers at the district council to create a positive outcome.

An application for a grant of £40 000 has been made by SCDC to create three new micro-woodland sites of approximately 300 square metres each in a field identified by the town council in the south east of Cambourne, close to the boundary woodlands. The result of the grant application should be known by the end of October.

### **3. Electric Vehicle Grants**

Information about potential grant funding for the installation of electric vehicles was included in our September report to the town council. Councillor Leeming followed this up with the district council to find more information and was able to share this with the town council.

*“There is not a definitive answer as to what proportion of install costs the max award of £5000 would cover, as I imagine this will naturally vary site by site, and depending on the type of charger installed. However, the costs quoted in Steeple Morden’s 2022 application to the grant might be a useful benchmark. The Parish Council installed 1x Project EV 7kW charger with dual output, and they were quoted £5196 for the charger hardware and installation.*

*It’s great to hear the Town Council would like to pursue an application, and I’d encourage a rep to attend one of our upcoming online information sessions to have these questions answered more thoroughly:*

*Electric Vehicle Charging for Community Buildings in South Cambridgeshire, 12 October 2023, 10am. This session is in collaboration with Cambridgeshire ACRE, and will include info about the SCDC grant, case studies and an introduction to EVs and EV charging, benefits of community charging, types of chargers, operating models etc. sign up here via Cambs ACRE.*

*Green Connect: Funding Your Project. 27 September 2023, 7pm. sign up via Eventbrite. There will be a segment on the EVCP grant (as well as wider info about funding/grant opportunities for green projects) and opportunity to ask questions.”*

### **4. Fence on Wallis Walk**

Earlier in 2023 Councillor Leeming made contact with the relevant housing association regarding the dangers created by the tall fence on Wallis Walk which limits visibility of Sterling Way for residents, as well as placing those coming out of Wallis Walk behind the fence so that they cannot be seen by motorists on Sterling Way.

Although the request was rejected by the housing association in the first instance, we have taken this issue back up again and will be seeking to engage with more senior officers to get the fence lowered as requested by residents.

### **5. Whippet Service 18 to Comberton Village College**

Families whose children attend Comberton Village College rely on the bus service provided by Whippet to get their children to and from school each day. However, in recent weeks the service has deteriorated dramatically. Buses not turning up, frequent late arrivals and the use of a single decker bus when a double decker is absolutely required. This is a service that runs from St Neots through Cambourne before heading for Comberton, so young people in our town are often finding they are left standing on an overcrowded bus for the whole journey. After speaking to affected residents Councillor Drew has written to Whippet and awaits a reply. We will continue to challenge the company on this service.

*Hello*

*I am concerned to hear that residents in Cambourne whose children attend Comberton Village College are facing incredible challenges regarding their children’s attendance and travel to and from school.*

*This service, that you provide for residents, is essential and the lives of families in Cambourne are built around it. The repeated failure of the buses to arrive, coupled with the use of a single decker bus rather than the necessary double decker, needs to be remedied. Parents are having their work patterns disrupted, and*

*children are being left stranded trying to get to school or to get home at the end of the day. The ability of students to take a full part in their education is being damaged by this poor service level.*

*The impact of this is clear to me as a district councillor representing residents in Cambourne. The number of families who are raising this issue with their councillors, or expressing concern about it on social media, is greater than almost any issue I have experienced. Their concerns are huge and their inability to have any impact on the quality of the service is very sad to see.*

*Please can you explain the following things to me in my capacity as district councillor for Cambourne:*

*Why are Whippet currently consistently unable to provide the service they have scheduled to take students to Comberton Village College from Cambourne at this time?*

*Why are Whippet choosing to send a single decker bus on a school route leading to students joining the bus in Cambourne to stand on an overcrowded bus to their school?*

*What are your plans to start running the service properly once again with capacity and regularity of arrival?*

*It is clear to me that families in Cambourne need to see an improved service from Whippet and I would like both to understand what needs to happen and what can be done to support you to do this.*

*Thank you*

*Stephen*

*Councillor Stephen Drew  
Cambourne Ward  
South Cambridgeshire District Council*

## **6. Abandoned vehicle on Cambourne Road**

After a wait of more than three months the white van placed on the land at the northern edge of the town on Cambourne Road was finally removed by the district council. We were delighted to see that this action was taken, although it was disappointing that it took the repeated vandalism of the van to have it declared as abandoned and a danger to road users before it was removed.

However, following the communications undertaken by councillors Leeming and Drew with senior council officers, the leaders of the council and the developers who own the land on Cambourne Road, there has been a significant improvement in their communication which supported the removal of the van. We are hopeful that should the van be put back again by the protester involved, that more rapid and coordinated action by the responsible parties will be undertaken based on their commitments in recent weeks.

## **7. 20mph limits for Cambourne**

Councillors Leeming and Drew are delighted that Cambridgeshire County Council is continuing to progress the implementation of the 20mph limit that is proposed for all of Cambourne except for the Cambourne Road entrance which will be 40mph.

The Joint Administration in control of the county council committed to expanding the 20mph speed limits programme across Cambridgeshire when they were elected in May 2021, and many villages and towns have already benefited from this plan. We look forward to 2024 being the year when the safety of pedestrians and cyclists in Cambourne is pushed further to the forefront of thinking and action. Whilst of course the

implementation of 20mph speed limits does not mean all vehicles will obey the new limits, it will certainly lead to a general slowing down of traffic in our town which is absolutely a good thing for everyone who lives here.

## 8. New bin collection schedules for Cambourne

As discussed at the previous town council meeting, the district council has carried out a review of the provision of bin collection services across the district. This is something that is done every few years to reflect changes in technology, the pattern of collections and the growth of new housing. As an area of high population growth and new housing constructions, South Cambridgeshire has even greater need for this than many other areas.

Feedback from the new collections being implemented has been very positive. The waste service ensured that there was a team of staff and vehicles available to deal with all reported missed bins and these have been working hard alongside the regular crews on the new routes. It is always the case that when routes are changed that mistakes are made in the short-term while crews learn the new routes, but having capacity to go back and catch up on either the same day or the following day has been very effective.

Cambourne's bin collections in the next few weeks are as follows:

Location	Blue	Green	Black
Great Cambourne south of the High Street	Thursday 28 September Thursday 12 October Thursday 26 October Thursday 09 November Thursday 23 November	Thursday 28 September Thursday 12 October Thursday 26 October Thursday 09 November Thursday 23 November	Thursday 05 October Thursday 19 October Thursday 02 November Thursday 16 November
West, Upper, Lower and Great Cambourne north of the High Street	Thursday 05 October Thursday 19 October Thursday 02 November Thursday 16 November	Thursday 05 October Thursday 19 October Thursday 02 November Thursday 16 November	Thursday 28 September Thursday 12 October Thursday 26 October Thursday 09 November Thursday 23 November

If your bin is not collected you can report this using an online form here:

<https://forms.scams.gov.uk/WASTEANDRECYCLING-MISSEDBIN/launch>

You can email the bins service here:

[refuse@scams.gov.uk](mailto:refuse@scams.gov.uk)

Or you can call the council:

01954 713000

## 9. Street names

Councillors Drew and Leeming continue to remain concerned at the lack of diversity on the plans for street naming in West Cambourne. We have once again made it clear to the planning service and the district council more widely that we do not support the list of names for West Cambourne streets that are currently in existence and wish to see this reviewed.

The district council is supportive of this, and has been in contact with the town council as the body responsible for putting forward the names. In our August report we provided a list of suggested diverse street names for the council to consider. We will continue to raise this issue whenever new street names are due to be assigned by the district council for West Cambourne and are happy to work with the town council to pursue this matter in

any way we can. Cambourne residents are rightly proud of the diversity of our community and this must be reflected in how we name our streets.

## **10. Mobile wardens**

A successful mobile wardens scheme has been in operation across South Cambs for a number of years. Councillor Leeming is in discussions with relevant officers at the district council with a view to whether this service can also come to Cambourne in the future.

## **11. Support for under-21s from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Hong Kong**

The Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing has launched the Children and Young People's Resettlement Fund. Up to £2.5 million is available in 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025 to provide grants for projects which support the specific needs of children and young people aged 21 and under who have come to, or settled in England via specific pathways from Ukraine, Hong Kong and Afghanistan. Councils and voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations based in England can submit bids for grants for suitable projects. If you have any questions, please contact: [cyprfund@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:cyprfund@levellingup.gov.uk). The deadline for applications is 1 November.

## **12. Adventures Away From Home Fund and next phase of the Million Hours Fund launched**

On 26th September the government launched the £1.5 million Adventures Away From Home Fund, to help more children and teenagers take part in activities to give them new experiences and expand their horizons. Participants such as young people with special educational needs and disabilities and young carers will be given the opportunity to try exciting new activities such as zip-lining, kayaking and cooking, supporting the development of skills like teamwork and problem solving. The government is today also announcing the next phase of the Million Hours Fund, which is open for applications, in partnership with The National Lottery Community Fund. The £19 million fund will pay for additional youth workers, volunteers, venue hire and activity resources for youth clubs.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-boost-for-young-people-with-plans-to-transform-youth-centres>

## **13. Consultation on Disability Action Plan – reminder**

On 18 July, the government launched a consultation seeking views on the proposed Disability Action Plan and the new areas for action it includes. The consultation is aimed at anyone with an interest in the action the government will take during 2023 and 2024 to improve the lives of disabled people. Disabled people and disabled people's organisations may be particularly interested but anyone, including any organisations or individuals, may respond. The consultation closes on 6 October. If you have any questions, please contact: [disabilityactionplan@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:disabilityactionplan@cabinetoffice.gov.uk) Councils are encouraged to respond to and share the consultation as appropriate.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-reveals-plans-to-improve-disabled-people-s-lives>