

Cambourne Town Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council report: Tuesday 5th December 2023

Councillor Stephen Drew
Councillor Helene Leeming

Contact details for Cllrs Drew and Leeming:

Cllr Drew
cllr.drew@scambs.gov.uk
07445380811

Cllr Leeming
cllr.leeming@scambs.gov.uk
07974219202

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

1. Post Office

Work with officers at South Cambridgeshire District Council is continuing in order to prepare the paper that will be presented to the council in the near future.

2. Christmas Market

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) are proudly hosting a Christmas Market on Sunday 10 December 2023.

The time of the event is from 11am to 3pm at Cambourne Village College, Sheepfold Lane, CB23 6FR.

This is a follow-up to the highly successful indoor Christmas Market of 2022. It will be held in the same place as last year, across Cambourne Village College's Performance Hall and the neighbouring gymnasium sports hall. Mobile caterers for food and drink will be available outdoors nearby.

Forming the market itself, there will be 70 local independent market stallholders who will deliver a range of Christmas artisan gift ideas, crafts, edibles, decorative pieces and much more.

If you are able to, please walk or cycle to the event rather than drive. A bicycle lock-up will be available at the college. If you do need to drive, please park in the Cambourne Village College car park or designated overflow parking. Parking will not be permitted along Sheepfold Lane or the approach to Cambourne Village College to prevent congestion.

The safety of all attendees is a top priority for us, so if you are displaying Coronavirus symptoms this winter, please reconsider your attendance at the event.

There will be approved SCDC photography and video recording taking place during the event.

We sincerely look forward to welcoming you all on Sunday 10 December 2023.

3. Leaf clearing on Broad Street

Acting on the request of residents, councillors Drew and Leeming arranged for South Cambridgeshire District Council to send a street cleaning vehicle to sweep up the fallen leaves. A second visit will take place soon to catch any remaining leaves in the two side streets that run parallel to Broad Street. This is an ongoing issue related to the avenue of trees that line the entrance to our town, and is the second year that this service has been provided. We will continue to ensure residents have the leaves swept as needed by the district council.

4. Civil Parking Enforcement

Councillors Leeming and Drew attended a briefing held by officers from South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. This explained the process by which the enforcement of on street parking regulations will pass from the police to the county council. The briefing was attended by district, town and parish councillors. The timeline for the introduction of civil parking enforcement in 2024 was outlined, including the first two months during which the council will take a softer line on enforcement and not issue fines. This will be supported by a wide ranging public information campaign to ensure people are aware of the changes that are coming to South Cambridgeshire in terms of parking enforcement. There is a recording of the briefing which is available to all councillors and can be seen on the link below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPfluU_21TM

5. The Autumn Statement

In the chancellor's recent statement to the House of Commons, there were specific announcements related to the development and growth of Cambridge. £2 million was granted to the plans to deal with water scarcity in the area, whilst a further £3m was allocated to Cambridge Delivery Group to support its work in developing the case for a development corporation to manage the overall strategy for the area. The chancellor reaffirmed the government's commitment to the building of East West Rail, and the planned statutory consultation scheduled for 2024.

6. Remembrance Sunday

Councillors Leeming and Drew attended the Cambourne Remembrance service on Sunday 12th November. It was good to once again see hundreds of residents attending the event either as part of the uniformed youth groups or as individuals.

7. CSP

On 7th December the Cambourne Community Safety Partnership will be meeting at 10am in person at Sackville House in Cambourne. If you wish to attend please notify Councillor Helene Leeming. The CSP works to support residents in Cambourne on matters such as mental health, the development of West Cambourne and youth support work. Updates are also given to the group from the health centre and the library.

8. Climate Committee Meeting

On 28th November South Cambridgeshire District Council held its first Local Climate Action Conference in Cottenham. Seeing the work communities are doing to tackle the environmental and climate crisis was inspiring and demonstrated how all of us across South Cambridgeshire can help do our bit. The conference brought together parish and district councillors, officers and local climate action groups to celebrate the work being done at both grassroots and regional levels to meet net zero objectives and to help nature recover.

A couple of good examples of this work at a local level included:

- Steeple Morden Parish Council have installed a new community electric vehicle charger point. This fantastic scheme, which was part funded by SCDC's EV Charge Point Grant, is helping to remove EV blackspots and making EVs more accessible for people without off-street parking.
- Alison Giles from Natural Cambridgeshire spoke about Girton's local nature recovery plan. Alison spoke about her work engaging with young people and how people can get involved in their communities' work to support nature on their doorsteps.

There were many other speakers and the event was packed with people who came along to share ideas and work together for a greener South Cambridgeshire.

9. National Highways legacy funding for communities – A428

National Highways has launched a £2 million legacy fund to support not-for-profit groups in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire as part of the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvement scheme. National Highways is now calling on all local not-for-profit groups to apply for the grants, including local schools, charities, community groups and environment and heritage groups. Two funds available for applicants are:

- A **£1.7 million** Social Value Fund to maximise the wider benefits of the scheme available for all not-for-profit organisations – grants between **£15,000 and £200,000**
- A **£250,000** Community Fund to support the local community and provide social value available for non-for-profit groups or small voluntary and community organisations – grants of up to **£15,000**
- This is the first of five funding windows and is open to application until **1 February 2024**. To find out more about the application process and submit an application, applicants should visit: www.nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet/leaving-a-positive-legacy/

10. Cost of living support winter comms campaign

SCDC are launching a campaign encouraging residents to claim all the cost-of-living support they are entitled to. The campaign will include sponsorship of the Cambridge Independent newspaper, Facebook adverts, and adverts on Guided Busway stops in South Cambridgeshire. The campaign will run until Christmas and will direct people to www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living to see what they can claim.

Applications must be completed using this form by 17 December 2023.

11. Protections for families by tackling rogue landlords

OPn 15th November DLUHC tabled amendments to make it illegal for landlords and agents to have blanket bans on renting to people who receive benefits or who have children. Changes put forward to the Renters (Reform) Bill will still allow landlords to carry out referencing checks to make sure a tenancy is affordable and will still have the final say on who they let their property to. This will apply to England and Wales and will be extended to Scotland via a further amendment at Report Stage. Alongside these amendments, a Decent Homes Standard will be applied to the private rented sector for the first time. The new standard will set a clear bar for what tenants should expect from their home ensuring it is safe, warm and decent. Councils will be given new enforcement powers to require landlords to make properties decent and to investigate landlords who rent substandard homes, providing them with the tools they need to identify and take enforcement action. The amendments will now be considered at Committee stage for the Bill in the House of Commons.

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3462>