

Introduction to the July 2021 parish e-bulletin

Welcome to the July 2021 parish e-bulletin from South Cambridgeshire District Council. As we enter the holiday season, we hope you and your communities are well despite the challenges we continue to face. As usual, this parish e-bulletin contains lots of news for you to read and discuss at your parish council. It covers important notices we would like to draw your attention to from teams across the Council. If you have a suggestion for a topic you would like to see included in a future edition, please [just let us know](#). In addition, we are keeping in touch with you and local COVID-19 community groups to update you on Coronavirus-related news items on a regular basis.

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Health and Community updates

Walk-in vaccine clinics in Cambourne

Following the success of a walk-in vaccine clinic in Cambourne back on Sunday 18 July, three new dates have been confirmed for further walk-in Covid-19 vaccination clinics at The Hub in Cambourne (The Hub, High Street, Cambourne, CB23 6GW). This is to help make it easier for people to access their first and second doses. Here are the details:

- Outdoors (mobile van) on Tuesday 3 August, from 1pm to 7pm
- Outdoors (mobile van) on Tuesday 10 August, from 1pm to 7pm
- Indoors at the Hub on Saturday 9 October, from 10am to 4pm (at which anyone who had their first jab at one of the July/August walk-ins will be able to have their second jab).

There are plenty of other walk-in clinic dates and locations – visit [The Vaccinators website](#) for the latest information. Alternatively, it's really easy to book an appointment at a convenient time and location through the [national booking service](#).

Free toolkit to keep caring for your community

The South Cambs Community Safety Partnership – a partnership between South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridgeshire County councils; the Police, Fire and Rescue Services; the Probation Service; and the NHS – has created a toolkit to help local people keep caring for their community as the pressures of the pandemic ease. With restrictions easing, many volunteers are thinking about putting in place longer-term structures to build community cohesion, and to tackle some of the other concerns that residents have.

The six packs within the toolkit cover: Combating loneliness and isolation; Reaching your community; Making the local environment safer and greener; Crime prevention in your community; Preventing antisocial behaviour; Tackling road-related concerns.



The toolkit also provides advice on how to encourage fellow residents to join in, as well as how to find out what the community thinks about the issues in question, and offers case studies from community groups which have successfully taken similar action before. The toolkit is funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), which awarded the funding to the South Cambs Community Safety Partnership – of which South Cambridgeshire District Council is a partner.

Find out more about the toolkit or share the toolkit in your communities by taking a look at our video on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#), or visit the [press release online](#).

Safe and Well visits

Colleagues supporting the South Cambs Community Safety Partnership are promoting the opportunity for vulnerable residents to have free 'Safe and Well visits'. You can find out more in a [recent update from the Fire Service](#). The Safe and Well team visit residents' homes to assess six key elements:

- Fire safety in the home - including cooking, general safety and escape plans.
- Falls prevention - including simple remedial action such as replacing lightbulbs or taping down loose carpet.
- Alcohol use - alcohol related hospital admissions are steadily increasing.
- Stay well and warm - can residents afford to heat their home? Do they have access to a hot meal? Do they access the all the services available to them?
- Crime reduction – providing advice on making their home more secure in addition to advice to make them less vulnerable to scams or fraud.
- Smoking – if people need a helping hand to quit, our Safe and Well partners can offer the help and advice people need.
- Hoarding – if people need advice in relation to the health and safety of individuals with hoarding concerns.

Find out if someone is eligible for a free safe and well visit by completing a [short questionnaire](#) or contact the automated message line on 0800 917 9994 and leave a message including the person's name, address and daytime phone number to receive a call back.

Zero Carbon Communities grant: Closing date imminent

This is a quick and final reminder that round three of [our Zero Carbon Communities Grant](#) will close **on Friday 30 July at 5pm**. The grant provides funding of between £1,000 and £15,000 to parish councils and voluntary sector organisations for projects that support the shift to zero carbon emissions by 2050. Please [email us before the closing date](#) if you have any questions.

EV charging points: An appeal

If your community building has installed Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points, we would love to hear from you. We're going to be holding a workshop in September on



EV charging points and how parish councils and community groups can get funding to install them on public buildings such as village halls. If you have already done this, [please email us](#) as we would love for you to contribute to this workshop and provide advice to others who may be thinking of doing similar.

Help shape Northstowe Local Centre and Enterprise Zone

We are asking residents and businesses to feed into plans for two future areas of Northstowe. [An online survey](#) to find out what residents want the Local Centre and Enterprise Zone to look like in the years ahead is underway. The survey runs until Saturday 31 July.

Similarly, as part of our work to bring forward the two areas, businesses and local business network organisations are being asked to give their thoughts on what should be included. An online survey – for the district’s business communities – is [now available to compete](#). This questionnaire runs until Friday 6 August 2021.

Upcoming community forums

The next round of Community Forums will take place between the 13 October and 24 November 2021.

The Northstowe forum has been confirmed for 13 October from 7pm to 9pm. This will be held via a Zoom webinar. [Joining details can be found](#) one week prior to the forum.

All other forum dates will be confirmed in the weeks ahead. [Keep an eye out](#) for further dates to be finalised.

Recycling and waste update

Possible disruption to green bin collections

Last week, [we gave advance warning](#) that fortnightly green bin collections could be disrupted in the weeks ahead due to the pandemic causing staff shortages – though collections remain as scheduled for now. If any changes to the schedule are needed the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service will let residents, parish councils and residents’ associations know, and keep people up to date via the two councils’ websites and social media channels.

New Washable Nappy Discount Scheme

Nappy and sanitary waste makes up nearly 10% of what we send to landfill from the black bins, and households with children in disposable nappies will know that they fill up their black bin very quickly. To encourage parents to switch to washable nappies, even for just one nappy change a day, the Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) partnership has teamed up with suppliers to offer a 10 to 15% discount off the cost of washable nappies, washable wipes, and reusable period



products. The scheme is open to residents across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, who can apply through their own council's website. [South Cambridgeshire residents can apply now.](#)

Please [email our recycling and waste team](#) if you have any questions.

Elections updates

2021 Annual Canvass

As part of our annual canvass, we have written to all households to check that the information we have on our register is correct. Please support and encourage residents to read their letter and respond if needed to report any changes or confirm that the information is correct.

Casual vacancies

A casual vacancy occurs on the parish council when a seat becomes vacant. You must display a notice of casual vacancy when this occurs, and send a copy to elections@scambbs.gov.uk so that we can check the dates have been calculated correctly and then let you know when you can co-opt to the seat, or if an election has been called. Please note that if a casual vacancy occurs within six months of the seat normally being up for election then you do not have to follow this process.

Elections 2022

All parish council seats will be up for election in May 2022, except for in Willingham and Longstanton. More information about the cost will be in the precept letter due to be sent out later this year. We will write out to you early in the new year with information on nominations and when you will need to publish certain notices within your parish. There is nothing you need to do now, but if you have any questions please get in touch with the team.

If you have any questions about the three updates above, please [contact our Elections team.](#)

Communications updates

Contact us online rather than call us

Our Communications Team are working hard with service areas to improve and widen the services that we have available online. During the last six months, the team have implemented many self-service options enabling customers to carry out transactions online at a time that suits them without needing to call our contact centre. Below are some examples of things you can now do online, that customers couldn't before:

- [Book your bulky waste collection service](#)

- [Book our hazardous electrical bulky waste collection](#)
- [Request planning pre-application advice](#)
- [Request to run a business from your home](#) (council tenants)
- [Request permissions to have a pet](#) (if you live in a council property)
- [Register a non-commercial society](#)
- [Report a Licence holder licensed business or premises complaint](#)
- [Apply and pay for your taxi licences online](#)
- [Apply for a temporary event notice](#)
- [Report abandoned bin\(s\)](#)

Other website changes we have made over the last six months to improve the experience for customers include:

- Reduced the number of services on the homepage from 18 to 12 – making it easier to find what you are looking for
- Started to reduce the number of clicks it takes to get to an action
- Made our website accessible against the Accessibility Regulations (WCAG2.1)

If you have any feedback about our website, portal or online options, please [email our Communications Team](#). We would love to hear your ideas and work with you to make our website and portal better.

Local knowledge: Request for help

We are working to improve our ability to communicate urgent, local messages in our communities, by creating a directory of community and village contacts – and platforms used in different communities – to help spread important local messages. This would not be for regular promotion of information – but to access at times such as flooding, village-wide missed bin collections due to a broken down vehicle, or other time-sensitive communications to a small area within the District.

If you are, or know of, someone in your town or village who has an effective way of sharing news with others, or if you have a local Facebook group, email group or WhatsApp group, please let us know by [emailing the Communications Team](#). Similarly if you run a local Facebook noticeboard group or email group and would like to be involved, please email [the Communications Team](#). We are working to create a list of the key individuals and groups in each community who may be able to help us spread awareness of important news at short notice.

Business Support updates

Growth Fund

[Our new Growth Fund](#), using Government funding, is designed to support South Cambridgeshire based businesses' growth and expansion plans. These could be start-ups looking to scale and grow quickly, or established companies which can clearly demonstrate ambitious growth plans. Businesses from any sector can apply,



including sole traders and partnerships, for one-off grants of £1,000 to £50,000. The scheme will end when all funds have been allocated. [Find out more details and apply now.](#)

Visitor economy website

The Council is building a new stand-alone website to help promote tourism within South Cambridgeshire. Called Visit South Cambs, it will help boost economic recovery in our district by promoting the area as a place to visit, for both traditional tourism and the increasing number of **staycations**. The website will showcase the many attractions and **open spaces** we have to offer, along with places to eat, drink and stay.

We would love to hear about any events taking place in the area (from September onwards) and from independent retailers and services operating in the tourist sector, for example galleries, gift shops, artisanal bakeries.

Ahead of the website's launch in early autumn, please share information of your village's events and facilities, and encourage any of your local businesses [sign up free of charge](#).

Growing your business webinar

Are you a small business owner wondering how to grow your company? Do you know how to use your business data to improve efficiency and savings, and inform decision making to increase turnover? Are you unsure what funding is available to support you to do this?

The Council is running a free webinar on Tuesday 10 August, from 1pm to 2pm, with Futures by Design to help you innovate using knowledge and data you already have in your business, and how to successfully apply for funds to invest in the tools you'll need. Speakers include Alan Todd, Project Consultant at Futures by Design and Adele Gritten, Business and Economic Development Manager from South Cambridgeshire District Council. [Register online now.](#)

If you have questions about the above three updates, please [email our Business Support Team](#).

Planning updates

Biodiversity SPD

We have released new planning guidance on how to increase levels of biodiversity in new developments across the Greater Cambridge area. The main [Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document](#) was published for public consultation on Friday 23 July. The new guidance aims to increase levels of biodiversity by at least 10% across new sites.

No amendments procedure

From Monday 5 July, changes were made to the process of amending a planning application. This has been introduced to provide a streamlined planning process, resulting in applications being determined faster. We will, therefore, no longer be accepting amendments to applications unless they meet the specific criteria set out on our [amending an application](#) webpage.

Planning policy database update

Many parishes and parish councillors have registered on our Opus Consult consultation system. In accordance with the GDPR regulations and our privacy policies, the Planning Policy team must periodically check that people on this database, but who have not registered comments on the system, still wish to be contacted. This is done through automated emails and letters from the Opus Consult system. If you receive a notification, please respond - otherwise your account will be deactivated, and you will have to set up a new account. If you have any queries, [please email us](#).

Digital consultation launched to shape the future of the OxCam Arc

The Government has launched a 12-week consultation on the future vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc; the Spatial Framework. They are keen to hear from people who live, work, travel and have a business based in the area, as well as those who just have an interest in the future of the Arc and the area it covers. They are seeking help to create a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework, and in doing so, guide the future growth of the area to 2050. You can read the recent announcement in full [on the Gov.uk website](#). The full consultation documents are also [available to view](#).

Updates from our partners

Summer Holidays - Holiday Activities and Food Programme from Cambridgeshire County Council

Are you aware of any families who would benefit from attending a holiday scheme for free over the summer? The [Cambridgeshire Holiday Activity and Food Programme](#), administered by Cambridgeshire County Council, could assist. The programme is aimed at providing healthy food and enriching, fun activities for primary and secondary school aged children who are eligible for benefit related free school meals. During the summer holidays, eligible children will be able to access up to 64 hours at a holiday scheme at no cost to their families (usually four lots of 4-hour sessions for 4-weeks of the holiday – but this may vary with providers). The sessions will include a healthy meal, a variety of exciting activities, sports and the opportunity for your child to socialise with other children. Find out further details – such as eligibility criteria and how to apply – on the [Cambridgeshire County Council website](#).



Fostering and adoption

Cambridgeshire County Council has brought to our attention that Independent Fostering Agencies are advertising in the county at the moment. The County Council has said that independent foster carers cost nearly double what local authority foster carers cost, often taking children and young people who are not from our local area. The County Council is always running campaigns for foster carers and we would be grateful if you could share and promote those by the local authority. For more information visit the fostering and adoption pages of [Cambridgeshire County Council's website](#).

Wanted: Health Champions to help improve how services work for local people

Do you know anyone who could be part of a small team listening to the views of local people and making recommendations to improve care? They would be paid an involvement fee for the time they give.

Local NHS and care services want to recruit ten people across Cambridge, South and East Cambridgeshire for a new community listening project. As a Health Champion, you will talk to local people about services, including urgent and emergency care at Addenbrooke's Hospital. And listen to the views of people with long term conditions, like diabetes, and those who find it hard to access services. This role will include running surveys, workshops and patient interviews, and writing reports. You will get full training, support and be paid an involvement fee for your time.

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire is managing the Health Champions programme for local health and care teams. It makes sure NHS leaders and other decision makers hear your voice and use your feedback to improve care. [Find out more and get further details on applying](#), or call Healthwatch Cambridgeshire on 0330 355 1285 or text 0752 0635 176