

District and County Councillor's Report – April 2023

Ukrainian Guests

South Cambs has so far hosted more than 780 Ukrainian Guests, more than any other District in the country. This is a great achievement and says much about the generosity of those that have opened their homes to people in need.

We still have new people arriving and others moving on for one reason or another. South Cambs is calling again for more hosts to come forward. If you have a spare room could you offer it to a Ukrainian family in need?

Hosts get a 'thank you' contribution of £500 per month to help with costs.

If you can help text ROOM to 8802 or visit the website at: www.scambs.gov.uk/spareroom

A1307 Works

The last element the of cycle path should be nearing completion and work on the roundabout at the Bartlow Crossing will start early May and go on for about 40 weeks.

For more up to date information go to the Greater Cambridge Partnership website: www.greatercambridge.org.uk and look for the Cambridge South-East project.

Coronation Celebrations

If you are planning something or thinking about it, you might like to take a look at 'The Big Lunch'.

There is lots information and materials to help you on their website: www.thebiglunch.com/

Or for parish councils try www.edenprojectcommunities.com/biglunch/councils

There are also grants available from South Cambs District Council, just check out their website.

Renting Privately

If you are renting privately and having trouble getting your landlord to maintain the property to a decent standard the government has a special advice service to help. Contact: <https://check-how-to-get-repairs-done-in-your-rented-house.form.service.justice.gov.uk>

Combined Authority appoints new CEO

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has appointed Rob Bridge as the new permanent Chief Executive to take over from the interim CEO Gordon Mitchell, under whose leadership, the Combined Authority has been under a very significant programme of change and transformation. It would not be an understatement to say the Authority has had a difficult birth but recent appointments have been of a high calibre and with help and guidance from Central

Councillors Henry and John Batchelor

Government, it appears to be making progress in terms of its governance and clarity of purpose. This cannot be too soon! Rob Bridge has a solid background in local government, and we wish him well.

£2 Bus Fare Extended

The Government subsidy capping bus fare at £2 per journey, due to end this month, has been extended to the end of June.

Zero Carbon Communities Grant

The popular ZCC grant from South Cambs is open again for bids until June 2nd. There is a pot of £125,000 available for community groups and parish councils to bid for up to £15,000 for a project that will help with the reduction of carbon emissions in the district. Full detail and application form can be seen here - <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/zerocarbongrant>

Potholes

The issue of pot holes is raised with us every winter, when the issue is exacerbated due to the colder weather. However, this year the issue seems to be a lot worse than it has in previous years. Pot holes are appearing at a faster rate than previously and holes that have been filled previously are reopening at a larger size than before.

Cambridgeshire Highways, who have responsibility for maintenance of the public roads and footpaths, are attempting to address these as soon as they are able. However, they are up against the usual constraints – staff and money. Their contractor only has a set number of crews that they can deploy to fill them and the Highways dept only has a limited budget for filling them. The County Council pumps more and more money into the Highways budget each year but it is never enough to thoroughly do the job.

The Highways dept are looking at improved technology to try to speed up and improve the quality of the process but this will be some years off implementation. The message from Highways is to keep reporting them via the website - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults> - the more reports of certain holes the more the council sees the issue.

Food waste trial

For those that have voluntarily taken part in the food waste collection trial for the last 3 years, thank you. You will have seen that the trial concluded at the end of March with 3 years of data under its belt. The reason for the trial is because the government will be insisting that food waste is collected separately by the end of 2027 and the District Council (who collect our rubbish) wanted to see if people would take to using a separate food caddy correctly – the good news is that over 90% of participants in the trial did – so this will be the likely new method of food collection in the future.

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