

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Comprising Barton, Coton, Comberton, Grantchester, Harlton,
Harston, Haslingfield, Hauxton, and South Trumpington

District Councillors' Monthly Report – September 2025

District Councillor Contact Details

If you have any questions or concerns relating to SCDC services, please contact us using the details below. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc.

Michael Atkins:	Cllr.Atkins@scambs.gov.uk	07968 264637
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Lisa Redrup:	Cllr.Redrup@scambs.gov.uk	07855 324580

Cost-of-living information

Visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/> for information on: benefits, money and debt advice; help with energy and water bills; help for parents and families; help with food and health costs; help with phone bills; help with making your home warmer; Age UK handyman service and; support if you are in distress.

Community Hubs

Community Hubs offer residents somewhere to socialise, take part in new activities and to receive information on cost-of-living support and how to stay healthy and well. Local Community Hubs include:

Toft Community Hub, High Street, Toft, CB23 2RL.

Opening times: Mondays, 10:30am – 12:30pm

Grantchester Communal Hall, Tabrum Close, Grantchester, Cambridge, CB3 9NW

Opening times: Friday, 10am – 12pm

Find out more at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-and-people/community-hubs>

Discounted menstrual cups available via Recap

Residents from South Cambridgeshire are eligible to buy a Mooncup for £5 rather than the usual £23.50 at: [Get a Mooncup for £5 with Recap](#). This discount is provided by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (Recap). Recap partners work together to improve waste services, increase recycling, and reduce waste. You can find out more at: <https://www.recap.co.uk/>.

Healthy Start vouchers for parents of under 4s

Parents of under 4s may be eligible for free Healthy Start vouchers to help buy food and milk. The vouchers are offered by the NHS to parents receiving certain benefits but are thought to go unclaimed by 38% of eligible parents in South Cambridgeshire.

You can find out more and apply at <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>.

Launch of Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation

The Combined Authority's Local Nature Recovery Strategy public consultation [launched on Friday](#) 18 July, marking a major opportunity for residents to influence how nature is restored and protected across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The public survey invites everyone to have their say on key environmental priorities and propose ideas that will guide long-term nature recovery efforts. The consultation runs until Thursday 11 September and is accessible online, with additional 'drop in' sessions scheduled throughout the region to make participation easier and more inclusive. Please encourage members of your local community – residents, farmers, landowners and everyone who looks after landscapes – to share their views:

- **Take the survey**
online: yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/lnrs/consultation
- **Prefer a paper copy?**
 - Download a Word version online from the consultation page or email localnaturerecoverystrategy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to request one.
 - Return printed surveys to: The Biodiversity Team, New Shire Hall, Emery Crescent, Enterprise Campus, Alconbury Weald, PE28 4YE
 - **Visit your local library:** View the draft strategy and share your feedback in person (available from 22 July 2025)

Save the date! SCDC Local Climate Action Conference 2025

South Cambridgeshire District Council will host its third climate conference in October, open to councillors, community groups, charities, and anyone interested in meeting the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. Attendees will also have the opportunity to input into the upcoming SCDC Climate and Nature Strategy 2026-2030 and learn about different climate-friendly initiatives around the district. Further details to follow, including the agenda, speakers, and how to register.

- **When:** Friday 17 October 2025, 12pm - 5pm
- **Where:** Storey's Field Centre, Eddington Ave, Cambridge CB3 1AA

Improving the High Street grant

The deadline for the Improving the High Street grant has been extended to Sunday 14 September.

There is at least £90,000 worth of grant funding available to support projects that boost the heart of communities. Grants of between £5,000 to £20,000 per project are available to local businesses, charities, community groups and Parish Councils within the district.

The scheme aims to improve the look of our high streets, promote rejuvenation, encourage residents to shop locally and attract more local businesses to the area.

Find out more: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/grants-and-funding-for-businesses/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/improving-the-high-street-grant-open>.

Parents reminded to register for Tax-Free Childcare

[HM Revenue and Customs \(HMRC\) is encouraging working families to save money by signing up to Tax-Free Childcare and using one of the thousands of facilities accepting it as payment](#). Tax-Free Childcare means working families can save up to £2,000 annually for each child up to the age of 11, and £4,000 for a disabled child up to the age of 16, when they're paying for their childcare.

There are now 75,000 childcare settings accepting Tax-Free Childcare as payment including nurseries, registered childminders, holiday activity clubs and, for when school starts back in September, before and after school clubs.

Families yet to [sign up for Tax-Free Childcare](#) can do it now to pay for their summer activities or start paying into it ready for breakfast and after-school clubs when the new term starts. Once families have opened a Tax-Free Childcare account, they can deposit money and use it straight away or keep it in the account to use it whenever it's needed. Any unused payments can be withdrawn at any time.

For every £8 deposited in a Tax-Free Childcare account, the government tops it up by £2, which means parents can receive up to £500 (or £1,000 if their child is disabled) every 3 months towards their childcare costs. Parents are encouraged to visit GOV.UK to check eligibility and register for [Tax-Free Childcare](#).

Council Tax Modernisation Consultation

On 20th June, the MHCLG launched [a consultation to modernise the administration of council tax](#). The consultation will explore options to improve support and the council tax collection, and enforcement processes to deliver a fairer and more efficient system for taxpayers and councils. The consultation will close on 12th September. MHCLG is encouraging all those with an interest in the sector to respond to the consultation and provide feedback. The consultation can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/modernising-and-improving-the-administration-of-council-tax>

New Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Website Launch

The District Council is excited to announce the launch of our new dedicated website for bins, recycling, and waste services across Greater Cambridge, serving both residential and business users.

Launch Timeline:

- *Soft Launch:* Tuesday 2 September.
- *Full Launch:* Tuesday 16 September.

Website Access:

- The new site can be explored now via our [UAT \(User Acceptance Testing\) environment](#).
- From 2 September:
 - The new website and both existing council waste webpages will run simultaneously (there will be a button at the top of the page to switch between the two).
- From 16 September:
 - The 'Bins and Recycling' links on council websites will redirect to the new site.
 - The new site will be accessible directly at www.greatercambridgewaste.org.
 - The current commercial waste website will move to www.greatercambridgewaste.org/business.

Next Steps:

- From 16 September, the new website will become the single platform for all waste-related services.
- The Council encourages residents and businesses to begin using the new site from 2 September and share their feedback via the links provided on the site during the soft launch period.

If there are any comments or suggestions regarding the website's functionality or user experience, please email the team at engage@scambs.gov.uk. The feedback will be reviewed and actioned by a member of the team.

Reminder: Full message of second national Emergency Alerts test revealed

A message that will be sent to mobile phones during the [second national test of the Emergency Alerts system was revealed](#) on 28 July. The national test of the Emergency Alerts system was announced by the Cabinet Office alongside a new Resilience Action Plan to improve the way the government prepares for and responds to emergencies.

Millions of mobile devices will vibrate and make a siren sound for around 10 seconds at around 3:00pm on Sunday 7 September along with a text. The message, which will be sent to all 4G and 5G phone networks in the UK, will make clear that this is a test and no further action is required.

The test will be the second of its kind and follows a government commitment to test the system regularly to make sure it works optimally and familiarise the public with the alerts.

Ahead of the national test, the government is running a public information campaign to notify people it is taking place, including communications targeted at vulnerable groups such as victims of domestic abuse. The campaign has also featured the first national [information video in British Sign Language](#).

Since the first national test of the Emergency Alerts system in April 2023, five alerts have been sent, including during major storms when lives were at risk.

Councils are encouraged to [share this information as appropriate](#).

Applying for a memorial grant

Last month (30 July), the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) [updated the guidance on how to apply for a grant towards VAT on the construction, repair and maintenance of public memorials](#). The Memorial Grant Scheme gives grants for work which took place on or after 16 March 2005.

This is a UK-wide grant, available for memorials in any part of the UK (or overseas memorials in some circumstances). The grant scheme is managed by East Midlands Business Ltd on behalf of DCMS.

If you have questions about the grant scheme or whether your memorial is eligible, please contact grants@memorialgrant.org.uk for advice.

The deadline for applications to be reviewed in this round is 30 September. Councils are encouraged to share this information as appropriate.

Further consultation on Greater Cambridge Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) is reconsulting on the draft [Greater Cambridge Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\)](#).

This follows updates to the draft SPD being made in response to feedback from an initial consultation held between November 2024 and January 2025.

The SPD provides detailed guidance on how planning obligations, also known as Section 106 contributions, will be used to mitigate the impact of new developments across Greater Cambridge. The SPD outlines when developers might need to make these contributions and what they could involve. Examples of this may include affordable homes, better transport options like cycle paths or bus improvements, and protecting nature by improving habitats and planting more greenery.

The feedback gathered from during the consultation will play a crucial role in shaping the final version of the Supplementary Planning Document .

Once adopted, the SPD will replace existing planning obligations guidance currently used by Cambridge City Council and will also help to guide development in South Cambridgeshire.

The SPD will provide further information and detailed guidance on policies in the councils' current adopted Local Plans.

Have Your Say

- Comments can be made on the SPD between 9am on Friday 22 August and 5pm on Friday 17 October 2025.
- To read the updated draft SPD and to find out how to submit your comments, visit: <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/spd>
- The councils are also holding in-person and online consultation events during the consultation period. These events are an opportunity to connect with Planning Officers, share your thoughts, and find out more about the SPD out for consultation.