

District and County Councillor's Report – March 2024

Civil Parking Enforcement

The County Council have a list of problem areas in each of our villages, supplied by Henry with support from Parish Councils, but if anyone feels that there are specific areas where parking is really an issue, do let him know directly.

Home Energy Support

The District Council is in a partnership with 6 other local authorities in Cambridgeshire, called Action on Energy. This partnership is aimed to help people create more energy efficient homes, therefore making them cheaper to run. There are various grants available which many people aren't aware they may be entitled to. Full information, and links, can be seen here -

<https://www.scamb.gov.uk/home-energy-support-for-south-cambridgeshire-residents/>

Household Support Fund

Earlier this year the government announced that it would stop funding the Household Support Fund, which was administered through the County Council. As this fund was vital to many in Cambridgeshire, and would have put some in difficulty to not have it, the County Council has decided to keep funding it themselves. The County Council website will be updated soon to reflect this.

The same approach from the County Council applies to Free School Meals, which also recently had its funding pulled by central government.

Bespoke Wedding Services

The County Council has broadened its offering of wedding ceremony, should people choose to use the Registration Service. People can now register to get married in non-approved venues, such as private gardens or community centres. It's aimed at making the day more bespoke to suit the couple getting married.

Cambridge 2040/2050

At time of writing, we are awaiting an official announcement from Michael Gove, the minister leading this project, on what the next steps are and, hopefully, a more detailed plan. The announcement will be the first week of March, so by the time many of you are reading this, the news will be available.

Budgets

Both the County and District Councils have set their budgets for the forthcoming municipal year. Both opted to raise Council Tax, which means, in real terms, this equates to:

County Council – increase of 4.99% - £76.98 per year on band D properties.

South Cambridgeshire District Council - £5 per year on Band D properties.

Also, this year will be the second that the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority will have a precept too, meaning that you will still see this line on your tax bill. This money goes exclusively towards public transport.

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

Anaerobic Digestion Plant Proposals

The two planning applications for biodigesters in our area, Acorn in Haverhill and Streetly End Farm in West Wickham, are edging closer to a decision. If you'd still like to comment upon either, email the planning officers directly:

1. Acorn, Haverhill – andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk
<http://suffolk.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=SCC%2F0045%2F23SE&fbclid=IwAR0aj4d4JMd9Yr3cP-Etp9rxdR4kKDwvzX0wMyHkfOomG45fCq0khXRbyrE>
2. Streetly Hall Farm, Streetly End, West Wickham - helen.wass@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
<https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=S0BB1JDYKNQ00>

Weekly Food Collections

DEFRA (the government department that has responsibility for the environment) announced that they will be changing the law around food waste collection and all local councils will eventually need to collect this separately to other green waste. Local councils have been asked how much it would cost for them to do this and have offered money to them to help with the transition.

After some lengthy negotiations an agreement has been reached and we will be getting separate food collections in South Cambridgeshire before the end of 2026.

Contact Details

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