

District and County Councillor's Report – July 2024

Elections

Following the General Election at the beginning of July, we now have a new MP for South Cambridgeshire, Pippa Heylings.

You'll be pleased to hear that was the last planned election of 2024, so no more leaflets for the foreseeable!

One side-effect of the General Election is that in the 6 weeks prior, both local councils (District and County) were in what's called 'pre-election period' so couldn't make any major decisions that could be seen as political, so there isn't a huge amount to report this month.

Four Day Week

The District Council are nearing the end of their trial of a four-day working week, which has been in effect since January 2023. There is an independent report of the results of the trial, by Cambridge and Salford Universities, which can now be read. The internal press release from the Council has links to the report in full -

<https://www.scamb.gov.uk/independent-report-analyses-council-s-four-day-week-trial/> - the next important date for this to be discussed is July 18th at the next full council meeting. A decision will need to be made on whether to take the trial permanent, or not, shortly after this.

Rural Prosperity Fund

There is a new fund from central government, facilitated by the District Council, that is aimed at supporting rural communities with the aim to help support local businesses and communities. Worth taking a look at if you are looking for funding for a project or you're a local business looking to expand and progress -

<https://www.scamb.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/rural-england-prosperity-fund/> - applications opened on Monday April 8th and when the money is gone, it's gone!

Cambridge 2040/2050

Now that we have a new government in place, it will be interesting to see if they want to take the proposal for circa 150,000 new houses, plus infrastructure, forward. This was originally a proposal from the previous government, so there is no guarantee that the incoming one will have the same priorities. At time of writing, we've had no indication one way or the other.

Anaerobic Digestion Plant Proposal – Streetly End

The planning application for a new anaerobic digestion facility at Streetly End, West Wickham is coming to the County Council's planning committee on July 17th for a decision. All those that have submitted comments to the County Council will have been invited to speak at the committee, should they want to.

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>

Councillors Henry Batchelor and Geoff Harvey

Physical Activity Grant

The District Council has launched a new grant for members of the voluntary sector, specialist group or leisure centre. It is to help with classes aimed at people with long-term health conditions. There is up to £2,000 per applicant available and full details, plus an application form, is available on the website -

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/grants/physical-activity-grant-for-long-term-health-condition-management>

Contact Details

District Council – Geoff Harvey – geoff.harvey@gmail.com

County Council – Henry Batchelor – henrybatchelor89@gmail.com