

District and County Councillor's Report – September 2024

Bus Franchising Consultation

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority launched a consultation on the concept of bus franchising in the county and how the authority can help reform bus travel. It's a very big step forward, as the idea of introducing a road charge in Cambridge to pay for more busses in Cambridgeshire has been binned, this is a more realistic alternative to improving public transport, but will involve more public funding to get it off the ground and possibly an increase in the Mayor's precept to help fund it, so please do contribute to the consultation if possible.

<https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-franchising-consultation/>

Household Support Fund

We were under the impression a few months ago that the much used household support fund, which is central government money distributed by the County Council, was due to cease. We were pleased to hear recently that it is now set to continue. This year Cambridgeshire was awarded £3.5 million to help with cost of living support.

There is free advice on the cost of living support available from the County Council for anyone who may be in need of it - <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living>

Small Business Support Grant

The District Council have announced a new grant which is available to support small businesses in South Cambs. Small businesses can apply for up to £5,000 from a £100,000 pot and is a part of the wider Rural Prosperity Scheme, mentioned below, from the Combined Authority.

SCDC still offers free advice to small businesses and startups. Full detail can be found here - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/small-business-grant/>

Community Energy Consultation

The County Council are consulting on how they can support communities with local clean energy projects. If you'd like to participate in this, more info is here -

<https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/community-energy-project>

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.scambs.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!

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.scamb.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/grants/physical-activity-grant-for-long-term-health-condition-management>

Waste Partnership

The District Councils in Cambridgeshire have recently entered into a contract with a new provider for the recycling of our blue bin waste. The contract with the current supplier, Thalia, who run the waste facility at Waterbeach, expired at the start of September and the new contract has been awarded to a company called Re-Gen.

Active Travel Hierarchy Consultation

Another consultation to tell you about... the County Council are asking for people's views on which roads should be prioritised for active travel (not in a motor vehicle). There is an interactive map which can be seen via the link - <https://consultcamb.gov.uk/engagement/active-travel-hierarchy> - it mainly affects Cambridge city and some of the bordering villages, but do take a look if interested.

War Memorials Grant Scheme

The War Memorials Trust is providing grants for the repair and conservation of free-standing war memorials in England intended to help those who are responsible for the upkeep of war memorials. The grants support the care and preservation of war memorials to a high standard, and to prevent the decay of this important part of our built heritage. Grants will normally be for between 25% and a maximum of 75% of eligible costs. The maximum grant is £5,000 for non-freestanding war memorials while freestanding, non-beneficiary war memorials may be considered up to a maximum grant of £20,000. Application close on October 31st 2024. <http://www.warmemorials.org/grants/>

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