

September 2016 parish e-bulletin – news and information from South Cambridgeshire District Council

Welcome to the latest parish e-bulletin. As in every edition, this one includes information that parish councils may want to discuss, important notices we want you to be aware of, as well as news from around the district.

1) A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme

The latest information about the A14 upgrade can be found on [Highways England's website](#). On the webpage there is an events tab. This has details of events running through until the end of October.

Contact: Claire Spencer on claire.spencer@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713418

2) A14 upgrade information exhibitions

Work on the A14 upgrade is scheduled to begin in late 2016, with the road opened to traffic by the end of 2020, and includes:

- a major new bypass to the south of Huntingdon
- widening the A1 between Brampton and Alconbury
- widening the existing A14 between Swavesey and Milton
- improving junctions at Swavesey, Bar Hill and Girton
- demolition of the A14 viaduct in Huntingdon

Some work will carry on beyond the opening of the new road. Find out more from the Highways England team at one of their public information exhibitions this October:

Bar Hill Village Hall - Saturday 1 October, 10am - 4pm

Madingley Village Hall - Tuesday 4 October, 2pm - 8pm

Alconbury Memorial Hall - Wednesday 5 October, 2pm - 8pm

Brampton Memorial Centre - Saturday 8 October, 10am - 4pm

Milton All Saints Church Hall - Tuesday 11 October, 2pm - 8pm

Oakington Pavillion - Saturday 15 October, 10am - 4pm

Swavesey Memorial Hall - Wednesday 19 October, 2pm - 8pm

St Ives United Reform Free Church - Thursday 20 October, 2pm - 8pm

Godmanchester Judith's Field Hall - Monday 24 October, 2pm - 8pm

3) A14 community grants

The A14 Community Fund has been launched by Highways England, offering up to £10,000 to not-for-profit organisations for projects relating to the transformation the new road will bring to the area.

Projects can range from environmental schemes to arts and heritage events or employment and skills schemes.

The fund's focus is to bring communities closer together, reflecting the lasting impact the scheme will have on those living along the A14 corridor. Full details can be found at www.cambscf.org.uk/A14.html

You can also keep up to date about the progress of the road scheme by signing up for email alerts at www.highways.gov.uk/A14C2H

4) City Deal proposals to tackle Cambridge congestion

The Greater Cambridge City Deal (GCCD) wants your views on plans to tackle peak-time congestion in Cambridge - the consultation closes on 10 October.

The proposals are part of a wider plan to protect quality of life in South Cambridgeshire by developing better transport options alongside planned growth in the number of jobs and homes in the area over the next 15 years. They include:

- Better public transport and investment in Park & Rides
- Better cycling and walking
- Workplace Parking Levy
- Smart transport technology
- Public space and air quality
- On-street parking controls
- Peak-time Congestion Control Points
- Travel planning

Find out more detail and have your say by visiting www.gccitydeal.co.uk/congestion

Contact: City Deal team at city.deal@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or 01223 699906

5) Devolution update

Thank you to those Parish Councils who took part in the devolution consultation, which closed in August. Results show that the majority of people support devolving powers from Government.

An Ipsos Mori poll of 2,280 residents - which has a 95% level of confidence that the views expressed represent those of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough population - found:

- Support for the principle of devolution - 55% for and 15% opposed
- Should powers be devolved from Government to District, City and County Councils as part of a Combined Authority - 61% for and 15% opposed
- Support for a mayor as part of a combined authority to access the benefits of the proposed deal - 57% for and 25% opposed

An open online poll was also filled in by a further 1,500 people, and found:

- Support for the principle of devolution - 55% for and 37% opposed
- Should powers be devolved from Government to District, City and County Councils as part of a Combined Authority - 44% for and 47% opposed
- Support for a mayor as part of a combined authority to access the benefits of the proposed deal - 31% for and 59% opposed

Business and stakeholders gave clear support for devolution, a combined authority to access the deal and an elected mayor. A report on the consultation has been sent to the Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, so that the Government can see the level of local support for the proposals. The proposals will now be debated and voted on by all partner Councils and the Local Enterprise partnership in October and November.

Find out more: the full report to Government can be found by visiting www.scambs.gov.uk/devolution

6) Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Area

We have received a joint application from Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils to have their two parishes designated as a neighbourhood area. The consultation started on 5 September. For more information visit the [Neighbourhood Areas](#) page of our website for more details. The consultation closes at 5pm on Monday 17 October 2016

Contact: Alison Talkington on Alison.talkington@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713182

7) Parish Council referendum requirement

A requirement to introduce referendums for large parish councils that increase council tax above a yet to be determined threshold has been proposed by Government. The proposal is included in a consultation on the 2017/18 local government financial settlement, which launched earlier this month, and closes on 28 October: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-finance-settlement-2017-to-2018-technical-consultation>

The relevant text states: "referendum principles are introduced for town and parish councils whose Band D precept is higher than that of the lowest charging district council for 2016/17 (£75.46), and which have a total precept for 2016/17 of at least £500,000, while taking account of transfers of responsibilities, and that consideration is given to the extension of referendums to all local precepting authorities."

While no South Cambs parishes would be caught by this proposed requirement, councils should note that views are being sought on whether or not to widen it out to cover all parish councils.

8) Community Chest fund now closed

Our successful Community Chest grants scheme is now closed after final grants were awarded in recent weeks.

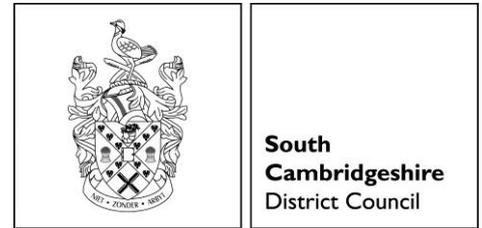
From a starting fund of £79,600 in April, a final £14,863 has been allocated across 12 projects. Find more information about grants awarded in [August](#). Awards made in September will be reported in the next bulletin. We plan to reopen the community chest in April 2017.

Contact: Nutan Patel on nutan.patel@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713461

9) Mobile Warden Scheme Grants 2017/18

The mobile and community warden grant scheme will open to applications from 9am on Monday 24 October until 5pm on 16 December - please note that this is earlier than previous years.

This year, we have supported 12 schemes covering 22 villages and supporting approximately 300 residents. The schemes support older people to live independently in their homes and the community



they know. They are complementary to statutory care services and can help to combat loneliness and social isolation.

Please visit www.scambs.gov.uk/content/mobile-warden-scheme-grants for the criteria, guidance notes and application form.

Contact: Siobhan Mellon on siobhan.mellon@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713395

10) South Cambridgeshire Community Awards

Celebrate the people and organisations that make an outstanding contribution to your village by putting them forward for our Community Awards. Nominations open on 10 October 2016.

These annual awards celebrate the massive contribution made by volunteers to our communities and will be presented at a celebration evening in the Chamber at South Cambridgeshire Hall in Cambourne on Thursday 9 March 2017.

The six award categories are:

- Village Hero
- Parish Councillor of the Year
- Outstanding Youth Initiative
- Outstanding Local Service/Amenity
- Environment Award
- Wellbeing Award

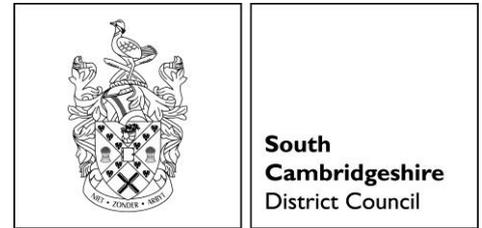
For more information and to make your nomination visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-awards>
The closing date is 20 January 2017 at 5pm.

Contact: Siobhan Mellon on siobhan.mellon@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713395

11) Cabinet and Parish Council Liaison Meeting

The next Cabinet and Parish Council Liaison Meeting will be held on Wednesday 30 November 2016 from 6.30pm to 8pm at South Cambridgeshire Hall. Further details will be circulated in early November.

Contact: Gemma Barron on gemma.barron@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713340



12) Cambridgeshire Parish Council Conference 2016

The 2016 Cambridgeshire Parish Council Conference will be held from 9am to 1pm on Friday 18 November at Burgess Hall, St Ives.

The conference steering group would like to hear from parish councils, large or small, who are willing to showcase innovative initiatives they are delivering.

The conference is organised by CAPALC, the Cambridgeshire Society of Local Council Clerks, Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire ACRE in association with district councils.

Contact: Cambridgeshire ACRE on alison.brown@camsacre.org.uk

13) Local Facebook and Twitter accounts

If you have a Parish Council Facebook or Twitter account, or know of a key village account that represents your community, the communications team would love to hear about it.

The Council's Facebook and Twitter feeds are building up followers and we'd like to be able to share content, events and photos from your community social media accounts whenever we can.

Give us a follow on Facebook at facebook.com/south-cambridgeshire and @southcambs on Twitter, and we'll follow you back. You can also pass on details or links to the team at the email below.

Contact: The Communications Team at communications@scambs.gov.uk or 01954 713262