

Councillor Peter McDonald Duxford Division & Ward:
District Councillor for Parishes of Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Babraham, Pampisford.
County Councillor also for Foxton, Fowlmere, Shepreth, Thriplow, Heathfield, Heydon, Chishills, Whittlesford

Parish Council Report – September 2023.

South Cambs Council

Bin Collection Days

Bin collections are going to change for approximately 80% of households in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire from mid-September.

- New bin collection arrangements for around 104,000 residents will be introduced from the week beginning Monday 18 September 2023.
- Greater Cambridge Shared Waste, a partnership between Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, is sending a letter in the post to every household affected which will confirm their new collection arrangements.
- Bin collections will not change for any resident who does not receive a letter.
- Residents of Cambridge City can [check their bin collection dates online](#) and South Cambridgeshire residents [can check online too](#). There will also be reminders on the councils' social media channels and websites.

The changes follow a review of bin rounds which are typically completed by all councils every few years. This takes into account new homes that have been built across the area and ensures bin collection rounds continue to be spread as evenly and efficiently as possible.

The councils are also moving to collect bins over four weekdays, instead of five. This means that, from the week beginning Monday 18 September, household bins will not be collected on a Monday. One benefit of this is that it avoids the disruption to collections that has previously happened after bank holiday Mondays throughout the year as crews catch-up.

The frequency of bin collections will remain fortnightly with bins emptied on alternative weeks. Initially, some residents may find they have two consecutive weeks of the same colour bins being emptied as the new schedule is introduced. After that, all residents will continue to have their black bin emptied one week and their blue and green bins the other.

As is the case now, bins should always be put out ready to be emptied by 6am on the day of collection.

Fly Tipping Campaign

Fridges to furniture, bedding to builders' waste, children's homework to a letter date-stamped from 1972, no two days are the same for the District fly-tipping investigators. South Cambridgeshire District Council is determined to crack down on illegally dumped rubbish and has prioritised it as a key objective in its Business Plan by:

- Prompt clearance of rubbish to reduce further occurrences at the same site.
- Deterring criminal activity using 'fly tip under investigation' stickers to highlight ongoing investigations.
- Joint roadside check initiatives with the Police, HMRC and other partners.

Fly tipping is a criminal offence which can result in a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £400 or could end up in court with fines of up to £50,000 or even a prison sentence.

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The Council receives around 1,600 reports a year on its [online reporting page](#) which amounts to more than four reports a day, every day, throughout the year - including Bank Holidays. Rubbish dumpers don't take the day off, not even for Christmas.

Once a report comes in, the Council gets to work. This could be arranging for immediate removal if the dumped rubbish is on public land and it looks unlikely that any evidence of ownership can be found eg an empty fridge.

Alternatively, if the report involves a pile of fly tipped rubbish, investigators make an onsite visit to look for vital clues to track down where it may have come from.

Wearing protective clothing, in case of syringes or toxic chemicals, onsite visits involve sifting the rubbish to look for identifying information from things like letters, parcel address labels or invoices from dumped business waste.

Investigations could result in issuing a Fixed Penalty Notice or, with sufficient evidence, launching criminal proceedings.

Everyone has a legal 'duty of care' to ensure their household or business waste is disposed of correctly. You can be prosecuted even if your waste is fly-tipped by someone else on your behalf. If it is your waste, it is your responsibility.

Allison Ogden-Newton OBE, CEO of Keep Britain Tidy, said: "As leaders in our field, we at Keep Britain Tidy know only too well the devastating impacts of fly-tipping and have piloted successful methods of curbing this kind of behaviour and effecting meaningful behaviour change. I am delighted that South Cambridgeshire District Council will be taking this important step forward in combatting this dreadful problem and we continue to offer our support to councils throughout the country in bringing fly-tipping numbers down."

South Cambridgeshire District Council is urging residents to do the right thing and properly get rid of their rubbish by:

- Consider giving it away for free on Facebook marketplace, Gumtree or taking to your local charity shop.
- If possible, reuse, repair or recycle your items before getting rid of them.
- Ensure you choose a reputable [registered waste carrier](#) disposal service.
- South Cambridgeshire District Council can arrange for [collection of bulky items](#) for many common household goods. We collect a maximum of nine items per collection. Up to three items can be booked for the minimum charge of £32.50. Additional items are then £5.50 each.
- Take your rubbish to one of Cambridgeshire's [Household Recycling Centres](#)

What should you do if you see fly tipped waste?

- Report using our [online fly tipping tool](#) Make a note of exact location
- Date and time you discovered the fly-tipping
- Details and photos of the items
- Vehicle's registration number and other identifying features such as colour and model

Did you know?

- South Cambridgeshire District Council can support local communities to run [community clear up days](#). Get in touch and we can provide you with litter

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picking equipment and bags, and also arrange to collect all of your rubbish.
Call [01954 713 000](tel:01954713000) or email streets@scambs.gov.uk.

- Cigarette butts are the most dropped piece of litter with 120 billion dropped globally every year
- Cigarette butts take 14 years to decompose.
- Environmental crimes make up a third (33%) of all crimes by companies, corporations and businesses. Source: Keep Britain Tidy.
- Environmental crime is the fourth largest criminal activity globally. Source: Keep Britain Tidy.
- Environmental crime increases nationally year on year by 5-7%.

£500,000 in Zero Carbon Grants

The District Council is awarding green grants to 10 South Cambridgeshire community groups marking a £500,000 total since the scheme began four years ago.

This year's round of projects, aimed at reducing carbon emissions and engaging communities on climate change, will receive grant funding totalling more than £125,000.

The Zero Carbon Communities grants, awarded by South Cambridgeshire District Council, are part of the Council's vision to help the district become net zero carbon by 2050, to create a greener future for local people.

The latest round of grants means half a million pounds has been awarded to 71 projects since the scheme began in 2019.

Designed to equip community groups to take action at a local level, previous grants have helped upgrade community buildings, educate people around their carbon footprint, and help nature recover in the District. Projects have included tree planting, energy efficient heating and lighting, food production and distribution, plus waste reduction.

Awards range from £1,000 up to £15,000 under one of two categories: reducing or locking up carbon, and community engagement around climate change. Projects to be funded in the carbon reduction category are:

- Wysing Arts Centre, Duxford Community Centre and Landbeach Village Hall will receive £15,000 each to install solar panels.
- The charity Hope Against Poverty will receive £15,000 to buy an electric van for their mobile food hub, replacing the current diesel van.
- Milton Community Centre will receive £8,321.67 to upgrade to energy efficient lighting throughout the community centre and recreation ground.
- Swavesey Squash Club will receive £1,484 to install cavity wall insulation.

Projects to be funded in the community engagement category are:

- Cambridge Carbon Footprint will receive £15,000 to continue expanding and developing their repair café network. Staffed with skilled volunteer repairers, the cafes fix items (from clothing and small electricals to bikes) free of charge and educate people around circular economy and consumption habits.
- Cambridge Carbon Footprint's thermal imaging scheme will receive £11,095 to continue their thermal camera loans to households across the District. They will also continue their Open Eco Homes scheme and employ a Home Energy Officer to support households making energy efficiency upgrades to their homes.

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- Cambridge Sustainable Food will receive £15,000 to develop and extend their network of sustainable food and local growing projects and continue outreach to educate people around food and greenhouse gas emissions.
- The Let's Cook Project will receive £15,000 to continue sustainable food education. Thirty representatives from 10 community-facing settings will be trained to deliver practical cookery sessions with their own beneficiaries with a focus on reducing avoidable food waste.

Mahesh Hettiarachch, founder of Hope Against Poverty CIC, said: "We are delighted to have recently launched our new Mobile Food Hub, funded by the District Council, to further support communities during the ongoing crises of high living cost. Receiving this grant will make a huge difference as it means we will be able to purchase an electric vehicle for deliveries. This thinking approach aligns with the increasing awareness of issues and the importance of reducing carbon emissions. To find out the scheduled stops in villages across South Cambridgeshire, please follow Hope CIC on Facebook."

Cambridgeshire County Report

Zero Carbon Training for Businesses

Cambridgeshire businesses have an invaluable opportunity to join low carbon experts on a free two-day course aimed at cutting costs and cutting carbon.

Businesses across Cambridgeshire are running out of time to find out how to cut carbon and cut costs on a free two-day course that's offered as part of Cambridgeshire County Council's Low Carbon Business Support Programme.

The programme provides small and medium sized businesses with tailored advice that will help them to reduce their carbon footprint, increase energy efficiency, and explore new green technologies and opportunities for renewable energy generation.

Whether businesses are already on a low carbon journey, or looking to take their first steps, the programme offers something for them with business diagnostics, technology reviews and training available from expert business advisors.

There are a few remaining places available for the final two-day training sessions offered by the programme taking place on 18 and 19 September 2023 in Alconbury Weald.

The workshops involve learning how to audit your energy usage, an introduction to the concept of carbon footprinting and an overview of low carbon technologies including LED lighting, air source heat pumps and solar as well as guidance on how to find funding and procurement support.

Interested organisations can find out more on the Low Carbon Business Support Programme's website: <https://lowcarbon.deytonbell.com/>

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RAAC

The new school year starts as normal this week with no schools in the county closed because of concerns over Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC).

All but three of Cambridgeshire's schools have been surveyed and no RAAC has been found. We have no concerns about the remaining schools, but they will each require a survey to rule out RAAC.

We have been working closely with school leaders to reassure parents, carers and pupils before the start of the new school year.

20 mph Schemes

20mph schemes are being rolled out in Cambridgeshire to help improve road safety and reduce pollution.

The 20mph areas being installed, and in some cases completed, are Stilton, Godmanchester, St Neots, Woodhurst, Somersham, Great Gransden, Toft, Oakington, Barton, Hauxton, Melbourn, Sawston and Duxford. The work involves installing signs, lines and markings and all schemes will be in place and completed by the end of July.

Speed kills. Studies have shown even a 1mph drop in speed reduces collisions by 6%. Reducing speed limits from 30mph to 20mph can cut pollution by 30% and reduce the chance of a severe or fatal injury in the event of a collision by a staggering 60%. This is why it's important we continue to create more 20mph areas.

Cambridgeshire County Council recently put in place a new process for communities to access additional funding to install more 20mph zones or limits. This year's schemes will be going to committee later in the autumn.

Improving road safety through 20mph schemes is a priority of the council's Joint Administration which has highlighted several benefits from the programme, including safer streets which allow residents to feel safe when walking or cycling and reduced noise and pollution.

Another area benefitting from a new 20mph zone is Oakington.

Overall, 13 areas have seen 20mph zones created and installed more quickly this year thanks to the council's Highways and Transport Committee agreeing to speed up the process and identifying funding. In addition to the £400,000 for this process (until 2025), a further £800,000 has been secured in partnership with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, for area-based schemes, across the county.

A 20mph limit is prioritised against the following criteria:

- evidence of traffic incidents or potential dangers within an existing 30/40mph zone
- vulnerable road users
- visible homes, shops and businesses

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- a school or a school route
- a cycling route
- an area that would benefit from more active travel such as cycling and walking.

Either a 20mph limit or a 20mph zone will be installed depending on the specific location. A 20mph limit typically covers individual or a small number of streets and requires signs only, whereas 20mph zones typically cover larger areas and require both signs and markings.

Peter McDonald

Sep 4th 2023