

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caxton and Papworth Ward

District Councillor's Monthly Report – November 2022

Service Quality Survey

South Cambs District Council's survey to help deliver service improvements for residents and businesses across the district is still available. This is your chance to say what you think what is going right and where the council needs to get better. The survey takes 5 minutes to complete and is available on the website for residents to complete.

Cancelled Stagecoach Bus Services Reassigned

The bus services that Stagecoach are withdrawing have been reassigned to other operators, except for a partial route between March and Chatteris. The new operators took over the reassigned services effective from 31st October.

The number 18 service to and from Cambridge will be operated by Whippet and continue to serve most of the villages on its current route, including Caxton. The route will also be extended to Abbotsley and St Neots.

Eltisley will now be served by an additional Whippet X3 service, which will divert between Papworth and Cambourne, once in the morning inbound and once in the evening outbound.

Whippet also proposes to introduce a late evening service between Huntingdon and Cambridge via Papworth from mid-November. Check their timetable regularly for the current information.

The V4 service that connects Boxworth and Elsworth to St Ives has been reassigned to A2B Travel.

Additional categories for the Community Chest Grants Fund

At its October meeting, the Grants Advisory Committee approved two new categories eligible for Community Chest funding. Note that some Community Chest funds allocated for 2022-2023 remain unspent, and parishes and community groups may still apply for grants under the previous criteria. The new categories are:

1. Electric Vehicle Charging Point Grants

Parish councils and operators of community buildings may now apply for grants of up to £5000 towards the installation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging points (EVCPs) in suitable locations, for example, public car parks. These grants may be used to supplement funding from the national On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) or funding provided by the applicant.

The Climate and Environment Team at SCDC will provide webinars and other information to help applicants get started. They will also introduce applicants to partner organisations who can assist with the installation, operation and maintenance of EVCPs. It is anticipated that a well-run EVCP would provide a modest additional revenue source for parish councils and charitable organisations. Successful applicants must provide usage data to SCDC for a period of at least three years.

2. Cost of Living Crisis Mitigation Grants

Parish councils and charitable organisations can now apply for grants to help fund projects that will have a positive impact for residents affected by the cost of living crisis. Projects may include:

- Repair cafes, where the local community can help fixing household items for free.
- Time-banking projects – an exchange-based working hours trading system.
- Lunch clubs. Setting up locations where low-cost meals may be provided for those in need. (Food items may not be financed on an on-going basis using this grant.)
- Community support initiatives that educate individuals on reducing food waste and cooking low-cost meals.
- Setting up and running a group or charity where residents can obtain free furniture, clothing, food, toys etc.

For more information and details of how to apply for Community Chest grants, go on line at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/grants/community-chest-grants/>.

Cost of Living Support – Warm Hubs Update

The first five Warm Hubs have opened their doors as part of a new initiative to support communities in South and East Cambridgeshire this winter. More villages will see [Warm Hubs](#) open their doors during November. Warm Hubs are run within community spaces, where residents can visit a safe, warm and friendly environment to enjoy refreshments and social activity, obtain information and advice. For more information and a list of current Warm Hubs, visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/warm-hubs/>.

Cost of Living Support – Sustainable Warmth scheme

As a longer term way of addressing rising energy costs, the Combined Authority is running a Sustainable Warmth scheme providing funding for households with a combined gross household income of less than £30,000 living in energy inefficient homes to help reduce their bills. Funding is available to households heated by a gas boiler connected to the mains gas grid (on-gas), and also to households heated by alternative fuels including electricity, oil, liquid propane gas, and solid fuels (off-gas).

Local installers will guide customers through the application, helping them understand and establish eligibility for the scheme. If eligible, the installer will identify which improvements for the home will provide the greatest benefits and arrange any necessary surveys and installations.

More information available online at <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/news/sustainable-warmth-scheme-launches-to-help-make-homes-cheaper-warmer-and-greener-through-funded-energy-saving-improvements/>.

Luton Airport and Aircraft Noise - Update

Several people have commented that the process for submitting complaints about aircraft noise to Luton airport is complex and difficult to understand. We are trying to set up a workshop or training session for residents. Please drop me an email if you would be interested in taking part.

Residents should continue to email concerns directly to noise.enquiries@LTN.aero or submit them online at <https://www.london-luton.co.uk/corporate/community/noise/making-a-noise-complaint>. If anyone has evidence of aircraft flying lower than 7000ft, that information should also be submitted to Luton. Luton asks that complaints are submitted using the height information in the tracking tool embedded in their web page. Height information obtained from popular flight tracking apps is not adjusted for air pressure and consequently may be inaccurate.

A428 Upgrade

Preparation has already begun for the construction of the upgraded A428 between Black Cat Roundabout and Caxton Gibbet. If you want to know more about what they will be doing, there are a couple of convenient events planned:

- A mobile information centre will be in Morrisons car park in Cambourne between 1.00 and 7:00PM on Wednesday 23rd November. (It will also be visiting St Neots, Bedford and Biggleswade if any of those locations are more convenient. More details on the project web site: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet/public-information-events/>)
- An online webinar between 6.00 and 7:30PM on Wednesday 30th November. Register at <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet/public-information-events/>

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