

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caxton and Papworth Ward

District Councillor's Monthly Report – September 2023

Bin Collection Changes – Yet Another Update

Plans for a trial of a four day working week in the Shared Waste Service have changed (again) since I last wrote. I haven't yet seen a full list for all villages but in Papworth, the bins will henceforth be emptied on Fridays, commencing on Friday 22nd September, when the black bins will be emptied. The last Thursday collection will be on Thursday 14th September, when blue and green bins will be emptied. Collections will continue to alternate between black bins one Friday, and blue and green bins the following Friday. Letters will be sent to all affected households by Royal Mail to confirm the new arrangements.

To help with the transition, additional staff will be assigned to the call centre to handle issues. For more information about the changes and to search by post code for your new collection day, go online at <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/binchanges>.

A428 Upgrade Delayed

Work on the replacement A428 between the Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet has been delayed, despite all legal challenges having been dismissed. National Highways are waiting for funding from the government before signing off work to contractors. Currently they are expecting to restart construction in October.

High Street Boxworth Closure

Boxworth residents should have been notified directly that carriageway resurfacing work that will be taking place along the High Street later this month. This is excellent news and we all look forward to the road surface being restored to a proper standard. The work will take place between Monday September 18th and Saturday September 23rd, and the working hours are between 8am to 6pm. Whilst work is in progress, the road will be closed to through traffic. Access will be maintained to properties located along the closed length of road but there may be delays in allowing this depending on what operation is in progress.

This road is used by many people traveling from Elsworth and beyond to the A14 and Swavesey. The official diversion is via Hilton and the A1307 (old A14) at Fenstanton, so will take longer. A shorter diversion via Conington isn't endorsed by County Highways as it is not suitable for large vehicles.

Flood Action Conference – Thursday 21st September 2023 – St Ives

Community groups and residents are invited to a Flood Action Conference on Thursday 21st September 2023 at Burgess Hall in St Ives from 10:15 to 16:30. The conference has been organised by the Community Flood Action Programme team (part of the Flood Risk team) and is open to any residents and community groups with an interest in learning more about flood resilience or establishing their own flood group. This conference includes talks and workshops by Cambridgeshire County Council, the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Internal Drainage Boards and industry leading experts. There will also be the 'Floodmobile' at the event, a vehicle demonstrating over 50 examples of flood resilience measures that householders and businesses can install. Free tickets can be booked on Eventbrite here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/flood-action-conference-2023-tickets-629125209437>

For additional information contact the Flood Risk team at CFAP@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Fly Tipping

Expect to see more about fly tipping in the coming weeks. South Cambs has a good response time for dealing with incidents but a low rate of prosecutions of offenders. Identifying offenders requires officers to examine the dumped waste for clues such as addressed envelopes or packages. This is time consuming and more resources will be applied to the work.

You may have seen television coverage of fly tipping at Caxton Gibbet recently. The location was chosen because it is convenient for the South Cambs offices as well as being a “hot spot” for fly tipping. If you notice any incidents of fly tipping, please report them online at <https://forms.scambs.gov.uk/REPORTENVIROCRIMEWASTEINYOURAREA/launch>

Staffing Change at the Shared Planning Service

For anyone who needs to contact the Planning Service directly, Rebecca Smith has been appointed Development Manager for the West Area, which includes the Caxton and Papworth ward villages. Her email address is rebecca.smith@greatercambridgeplanning.org. Michael Sexton continues to act as Area Manager for the West Area and can be contacted on Michael.Sexton@greatercambridgeplanning.org. Contact details for individual planning officers may be found here: <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/about-us/contact-us/development-management-area-teams/>

Funding for New Council Homes

South Cambs has been awarded significant funding to provide 13 additional homes from phase 2 of the government’s Local Authority Housing Fund for refugees. This is in addition to the funding for 40 homes that it received for in phase 1. In total the council has been granted just over £2.4m. The latest award, together with Council borrowing, will be used to provide 10 homes for refugee families from Afghanistan, plus three additional properties which it will use for temporary accommodation to reduce the dependency on bed and breakfast type accommodation. Under the terms of the grant, when the properties are no longer needed for refugee or temporary housing, they will be treated as normal HRA housing and added to council stock. The long-term legacy for this project will be an increase in social housing within the District. The Council is looking to acquire a mix of new-build properties from developers, and open market properties through Estate Agents.

Sustainable Travel Zone (STZ) Next Steps

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has now published an updated version of their Making Connections STZ proposals. This update responds to some of the feedback received during the consultation on the previous draft. The GCP Joint Assembly will discuss the proposals at their meeting on 7th September, following which the GCP Executive Board will decide at its meeting on 28th September whether to proceed. The final decision whether to implement the congestion charging proposals will be taken by the County Council at its meeting on 17th October. In parallel with these discussions, the Combined Authority (the mayor’s office) will come forward with plans for bus reform, which may include some form of franchising. If all groups are in agreement, the GCP Executive Board will authorise implementation of the final plans at its meeting on 14th December.

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