

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caxton and Papworth Ward

District Councillor’s Monthly Report – April 2025

Easter Bin Collections

Most of our villages normally have their bins emptied on a Friday. Due to the Good Friday bank holiday, the 18th April collection has been **brought forward by four days** to Monday 14th April. Please warn your residents!

Five Year Housing Land Supply

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning team have [published a new report](#) that includes a new Greater Cambridge housing trajectory and latest housing land supply calculations. An updated assessment shows that in the five years from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2030, a total of 13,383 homes are anticipated to be built in Greater Cambridge, giving a housing land supply of 5.5 years. As a result of this supply being restored to above five years, planning applications will again be assessed against all the councils’ local policies (which include a clear plan for where homes should be built) as well as those set nationally. This means that South Cambridgeshire will once again enjoy the full protection from unplanned and inappropriate development not covered by its Local Plans.

Development of the emerging Local Plan for the 2030s has been on hold for over a year due to uncertainties over water supply and transport provision. However, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning has announced that sufficient progress has been made to allow a draft Local Plan to be produced this year, for review by the councils and for public consultation.

Civil Parking Enforcement update

Cambridgeshire County Council has provided a report on the implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement. Although they patrol our villages regularly, no tickets have been issued in Caxton and Papworth ward in October, November or December. (Several hundred tickets have been issued in other wards.) South Cambs' Scrutiny and Overview Committee plan to review the scheme in June.

Council Tax Fraud

Fraud officers have clawed back £360,000 in false claims for council tax discounts, with the money set to be invested back into public services across South Cambridgeshire. The money has been returned to District Council budgets after staff uncovered hundreds of false claims by comparing data records. Called the Cambridgeshire Council Fraud Initiative, the project continues to identify single person discount fraud and error, since launching in July 2023. It works by comparing data held by the local authority with other information such as the electoral register or credit reference data. Where there is a debt identified, it is recovered through the normal Council Tax billing process, with the income used to fund public services. Data gathered as part of the initiative indicates that around two in 10 claims reviewed by the authority, were being claimed incorrectly.

Local Government Reorganisation

An Extraordinary meeting of South Cambridgeshire District Council agreed to send a letter to the Local Government minister Jim McMahon, clarifying that SCDC are working productively with the other councils in Cambridgeshire to design new Unitary Councils. This will mean the County Council will be broken up and its responsibilities will go to either two or three new councils which will be amalgamations of the current district councils. We have until the autumn to submit the detail of the boundaries of these new authorities.

Meanwhile Leaders of S Cambs, City and County and Mayor Johnson have met with Lord Patrick Valance to hear about his plans for the Oxford Cambridge Corridor. He has been appointed by the Chancellor and said that his aim is to make progress this year. Council leaders pushed him for early solutions to the problems of water scarcity and waste water disposal.

Warmer Council Homes

More than £8 million in Government funding has been awarded to South Cambridgeshire District Council to improve the energy efficiency of Council homes. The idea is to upgrade thousands of social homes across the country which are currently below the standard of Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) C. Improvements to South Cambridgeshire's Council homes could include insulation, ventilation, heating controls, double glazing, solar panels, and heat pumps - cutting bills and tackling fuel poverty.

South Cambridgeshire District Council will now work to allocate funding to properties with priority given to those most in need of energy efficiency improvements. Council tenants will be contacted direct if their home is able to benefit, with the aim for the Council to have as many of its 5,500 properties above an EPC rating of C in the next four years.

The funding from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero is part of the national Warm Homes Plan. A total of £8,280,376 is being provided for South Cambridgeshire under the latest wave of the Warm Homes Social Housing Fund scheme. South Cambridgeshire District Council will contribute £10 million from its Housing Revenue Account, consisting of Council house rents – to the improvements too.

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