

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

## **Parish Council County Report July 2024**

### **South Cambs District Council**

#### **Rural Exception Site information**

The council is working with Cambridgeshire ACRE to provide more information to Parish Councils about providing affordable housing through the Rural Exception Site process. As part of this, Cambridgeshire ACRE are hosting a tour of local rural exception sites on Thursday 11 July, aimed at helping Parish Councillors to learn more about these sites. Please book your places here. The Housing Strategy Team are always happy to come to Parish Council meetings. Please contact Strategic.Housing@scambs.gov.uk .

#### **Funding for green space improvement**

South Cambridgeshire District Council is currently working on a green space improvement project, utilising funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund. All Parish Councils are invited to submit a bid for a site they feel could be improved. Applications must be received by Thursday 1 August 2024. At least four sites will be selected for improvement out of the applications received, and project costs could range from small works up to around £15,000 per site. We are particularly keen on working with Parish/Town Councils who have volunteers interested and keen to support the green space improvements.

The aim of the scheme is to provide a higher quality and/or more useable green space in your area. The works undertaken may include but are not limited to:

- Tree planting/hedging
- Seating areas/benches
- Wildlife habitat improvements
- Wildflower planting
- Repair work to existing structures.
- Paths and resurfacing

To submit your application, please complete the application form.

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Yr5uzntVNkShnHZ-yizUUcdhN169J2FomjbQhzBnlahUQTdTVU1IQzYzQIAyUEJQNU5aMlcxSVVESy4u>

#### **New e-bulletin for Parish Clerks**

Following feedback from the recent peer review, and a discussion with a group of clerks in February, the council is seeking to make improvements to its communication and support for clerks. This includes a new clerks' e-bulletin. I would be grateful for any feedback from clerks on this new initiative.

#### **Market Trader Support and Youth Engagement Programme**

The council is jointly organising two initiatives funded by the government's Shared Prosperity Fund:

- 20 traders in South Cambridgeshire will be able to access advice and support to enhance their current business operations, and may be eligible to apply for £1,000, grants to help develop their business.

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- A Youth Enterprise Support Programme will support young people who want to start their own business. The programme will work with people aged 16–25 to develop essential skills, knowledge and will include opportunities to gain real market experience. Candidates will also have the opportunity to apply for £1,000 grants to transform their business ideas into local market ventures.

Candidates can register for the programme here <https://nxgconnect.co.uk/youth-enterprise-programme/>

## **County Council Report**

### **New operator and timetable for 26 bus route**

The 26 bus route, which had been operated for the past 2 years by Centrebus under tender from the Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), has now been taken on as a commercial route by local bus operator A2B. A2B have expressed their wish to bring gradual improvements to the service. Initially they had decided to remove Fowlmere from the route, but after representation from Cllr Hobro, Cllr van de Ven and myself they agreed not to do this, as the service between Fowlmere and Cambridge is very well used, and there is no rail alternative. There have been some teething problems with the handover, most notably the fact that the 26 service has disappeared from live tracking apps. We are working with A2B to bring the live information back, as many people rely on this to have confidence in the bus service. All single fares cost £2, and £1 concession fares are available for under-25s. Some services now additionally stop at the station and Tesco in Royston. One daytime service also runs via Shepreth and Meldreth.

### **HAF Programme**

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is offering funded holiday scheme places for children in Cambridgeshire this summer who are eligible for free school meals.

This initiative by Cambridgeshire County Council offers primary and secondary school children in the county the chance to enjoy exciting experiences at a wide range of holiday schemes. With a focus on providing healthy meals alongside activities, the programme is ideal for children who want to stay healthy and active during the summer school holidays.

Any child receiving benefit-related free school meals is eligible for the programme, which will run between 23 July and 30 August. Approximately 19,000 HAF eligibility vouchers were sent to families on 10 June. Each voucher offers 64 hours of access, for no charge, to a HAF scheme during the summer holidays.

The programme will be delivered by approved providers, co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire County Council. The council is working with schools, childcare providers and voluntary and community organisations to deliver the programme.

As part of the programme, eligible children will be able to access:

- Fun and entertaining opportunities or new experiences that help children to develop their skills and knowledge

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- A variety of holiday schemes including sports, playschemes, drama, technology, outdoor adventure and youth schemes
- At least one meal a day
- Guidance on increasing awareness of healthy eating, lifestyles, and positive behaviours
- Parents will be supported with information and signposting to other services and support which might be helpful to families
- Further information can be found at HAF Provider Directory | Cambridgeshire County Council <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/haf-provider-directory>

### **Coffee Pod Re-Cycling**

This week, we've introduced coffee pod recycling at all nine of our Household Recycling Centres. The new coffee pod bins offer residents an environmentally friendly way to separately dispose of both aluminium and plastic coffee pods.

Over 1 billion coffee pods are sold each year in the UK alone. Waste from these 'single-use' pods will lead to a huge environmental impact if not recycled properly, in the UK and globally.

The County Council is partnering with Podback to provide coffee pod recycling services. Podback was initially created by Nespresso, NESCAFE Dolce Gusto and Tassimo to help their customers recycle their coffee pods and is now supported by many more coffee brands.

Podback recycles coffee pods in the UK, to reduce waste and saving on new materials. Collected pods are shredded and cleaned of coffee. The shredded pods can be made into new products, while the coffee grounds are used to help create renewable energy and soil improver.

Did you know?

You can recycle a huge variety of items at our Household Recycling Centres from aerosols, batteries, and cooking oil, to mobile phones, soil and vapes.

There are nine Household Recycling Centres across Cambridgeshire, run by Thalia, with locations in Alconbury, Bluntisham, March, Milton, St Neots, Thriplow, Whittlesey, Wisbech and Witchford.

July 6<sup>th</sup> 2024.