

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council meeting was held on Wednesday 16th October 2024 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mr Wheeler - unwell, Mr Sole - away, Mr Wenman - at work.

Present: Mr Barnes, Mr Buchanan, Mrs Sole, Ms Newland, Cllr Williams, Cllr Kindersley and the Clerk.

Minutes: of the September meeting were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Community reports:

Poppies: Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the provision of poppies for the planned display on Remembrance Sunday. The ladies are now busily sewing them onto the netting and would love to have some more help with this. If you can help, please go to the Reading Room between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on a Tuesday, and if you have one, take a bodkin with you!

Footpaths: Mr Buchanan has been busy and has not been able to photograph the map yet, but will do so shortly. In the meantime, there is a footpath map available at:-

[Definitive Map and Statement footpath | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Lower Road death: The lady who asked for Council support with signage for horses crossing at the livery stables on Lower Road has reported that :-

In fact I have today heard from the Road Safety Manager that improved road signs plus road markings have been approved and will be implemented as soon as possible. Very good news. It is also good to see Councils working together to support each other.

Hopefully, this will prevent any further accidents.

Website: As previously reported and discussed, the website was not working. As Mr Buchanan has been busy he did not manage to speak to the Company, however after a few weeks the website has starting working again!

Local Highway Improvement Plan: Council made an application several months ago for speed restrictions at either end of the High Street. Unfortunately, Croydon was not successful and was listed as 27th out of 28 applications. The Clerk has already indicated an interest in the next round of applications and informed the Council that she has done this. Mr Buchanan suggested that it might be sensible to include the 40mph from the east Croydon boundary to Arrington village in the application. Clerk stated that as it this part of the road is in the next parish, Croydon cannot request any alterations to it. He suggested that Council could approach Arrington Parish Council to see if they would support this, if Croydon included it in their next year's application. Council felt that this was a good idea, and the Clerk will contact Arrington PC to see if they would support this.

Churchyard Update: The resident who with others, is leading the churchyard re-wilding project, is unable to attend the October meeting and has asked that a decision is deferred until November, by which time Council should have received a copy of the Management Plan. Councillors briefly discussed this and felt that, while Council supports the initiative to improve the ecology and biodiversity, the churchyard is the responsibility of the PCC and it has to be their decision whether or not the Management Plan is adopted.

Reinstatement of an August meeting: After the September meeting it was suggested to the Clerk that, after the length of the September agenda, it might be time to bring back an August Council meeting. Originally the August meeting was omitted because at that time nearly all the Councillors were involved in agriculture, and so were unable to attend an August meeting. Council discussed this and decided to reinstate the August meeting for 2025 only, and decide after that whether or not to make it permanent. Proposed - Chair, all in favour.

2025 Calendar: There will be a meeting held in August next year, and the December meeting will be brought forward by one week, as previously.

Any updates on a community group, vehicle or trust investigating land purchase within the village for community benefit. Nothing to report, and will be raised at the next meeting.

Discussion on how the PC could assist a community group, for instance supporting or contributing to a pre-planning application for housing for community benefit. Nothing to report, and will be raised at the next meeting. As there does not appear to be any progress on these subjects, these will be raised at the November meeting, and possibly deferred until circumstances call for them to be resurrected.

Follow up information: Gmail address - the final gmail address has been created, and all Councillors will now be on gmail for Council correspondence.

District Councillor Williams' report to the meeting.

South Cambs District Council: Council is waiting for a lot of information from the Government, and is unable to proceed with several things until they know what changes, if any, are to be made.

4 Day week: The 4 day week has been operational for well over a year now, and there has still not been a full Council consultation on it. Apparently there is a lot of bad feeling at SCDC - there are questions due to be asked, but District Councillors are being asked for their opinions on the questions, but have no input to those questions. Cllr Williams felt that because the 4 day week has been in place for so long, many staff have changed their lives regarding childcare to suit the new system, and consequently will find it very difficult to revert to a five day system. Some have even secured a second job on their "day off".

Winter Fuel Allowance: In cases of dire need, SCDC may be able to help. However, it is recommended that pensioners apply for the Pension Credit, and if successful, will automatically receive a winter fuel payment.

Single Person's Council Tax discount: This is under Government discussion, with a view to ending it.

Bog Standard: Councillor Williams suggested that there should be disposal bins for incontinence pads in the gents' toilets of all public buildings, as men who have suffered from prostate cancer often find they are incontinent after treatment. She is also recommending dispensers for pads, as for women's products. The suggestion was well received.

Web-bot: A web robot, or simply bot, is a software application that runs automated tasks on the Internet, usually with the intent to imitate human activity, such as messaging, on a large scale. Internet bots are able to perform simple and repetitive tasks much faster than a person could ever do. South Cambs District Council is investing in a web-bot and there was a competition to name it, although Councillor Williams thought that this may now be closed

District Councillor's written report for The Mordens Ward SCDC - October 2024

Save the Winter Fuel Payment: I am fighting to save the Winter Fuel Payment for vulnerable pensioners that is currently under threat from the new Labour government. In October's council meeting, all councillors unanimously supported a joint motion to sign Age UK's petition to save the payment and to raise awareness of pension credit support.

Age UK research suggests that 2 million pensioners who badly need the support to stay warm this winter will no longer receive the Winter Fuel Payment. With the Energy Price Cap due to rise by 10% in October, the physical and mental health of elderly people in the UK is threatened.

I am continuing to work to raise awareness of this issue, including signing a joint letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to urge a review of this decision and to protect pensioners at risk of fuel poverty.

Four-day week update

Despite the four-day week trial ending in March 2024, the council is continuing to work four days a week for five days' pay. The Best Value Notice remains in place until November, when the new Labour government will decide whether to reissue the notice or to endorse charging taxpayers for five days' worth of work when they are only getting four.

It is my understanding that a public consultation on the four-day week will happen at a postponed date of January 2025 - two years after the four-day week trial first began. When this consultation is live, I would encourage all residents to make your voices heard on this significant issue. I strongly believe that, in these uncertain times, we require more support from our local councils - not less. I am continuing to scrutinise the weekly data and council performance to ensure the four-day week does not jeopardise services for residents.

Water authorities attend council Scrutiny meeting: We were grateful for the opportunity to welcome flood management representatives from Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, and from Cambridgeshire County and South Cambridgeshire District Councils to the council's October Scrutiny and Overview committee meeting chaired by Cllr Graham Cone, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group and local member for the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn ward. The meeting provided a useful forum for councillors to raise residents' specific concerns, including recent flooding in South Cambridgeshire, the impact of new housing developments on water supply and management, and improving communication between communities and the water authorities.

Given recent heavy rainfall, I would encourage residents to be vigilant about any flooding risk. In an emergency where there is an imminent risk to life, you should call 999. In the event of flooding on the roads, pavement, garden or property, or from sewers or watercourses, please report the issue to Cambridgeshire County Council online.

Supporting Prostate Cancer UK and period poverty: In October's council meeting, my motion to support Prostate Cancer UK's BOG STANDARD campaign was unanimously supported by all councillors. The campaign seeks to help men who have suffered from prostate cancer by providing incontinence products and discreet disposal bins in male toilets. You can find out more about Prostate Cancer UK's campaign in partnership with pHs atP:-

<https://prostatecanceruk.org/about-us/news-and-views/2024/08/men-with-incontinence-missing-out>

In February's council meeting, my motion to tackle period poverty was also unanimously supported by all councillors. I am pleased that the council has since taken swift action to secure a £12,000 grant in partnership with Hey Girls to distribute environmentally friendly menstrual products for up to 700 South Cambridgeshire residents. You can apply here for a home delivery of free period products. Please check you meet the eligibility criteria outlined on the Hey Girls webpage.

Awaiting planning policy from Government: We are still awaiting the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) from the new Labour government. It is frustrating and challenging that this has not yet been decided, particularly as this plan will have a significant impact on South Cambridgeshire.

I will ensure that residents are updated when the new NPPF is issued. I understand that many residents will be concerned about the new government's house building plans, especially in our area. Please do get in touch if you have any concerns.

Supporting older people in their homes: It was pleasing to see the council pledge £345,000 to Mobile Warden Schemes in South Cambridgeshire for the next three years to help more elderly people stay living in their own homes for longer. It is disappointing, however, that the Liberal Democrat administration is phasing out support for this vital service over the next ten years. I will continue to scrutinise this decision and work to support South Cambridgeshire communities in every way I can.

There are currently 16 active Mobile Warden Schemes in 49 parishes, many of which are run by charity AGE UK. Mobile Warden Schemes are a community lifeline for many, providing reassurance for families that their loved ones are cared for at home. Please do not suffer at home alone. You can find the contact information for all Mobile Warden Schemes in South Cambridgeshire on the council's webpage.

White Ribbon Accreditation: I support the council's White Ribbon Accreditation, working with White Ribbon UK to work to prevent harassment, abuse, and violence against women and girls. It is vital to make our workplace and communities safe for everybody. I continue to support the council's work to raise awareness for this important campaign and support the efforts of council staff to advocate positive attitudes within South Cambridgeshire.

Council's Corporate Plan consultation: I am encouraging all residents to provide feedback and comments on your priorities for South Cambridgeshire by responding to the council's Corporate Plan consultation. It is essential that residents hold the administration to account to ensure all work is done in your best interests, as the people who live in South Cambridgeshire. The consultation is open until 29 October 2024. You can provide your feedback here.

Grants for community groups and parish councils: If you are from a local community group or parish council, I am encouraging you to make the most of the council's available grant schemes. The GrantGrabber service helps you search for available grants - all in one place. For further information on receiving a grant for a community project from the council, please visit the grants webpage.

Thank you for reading my report. If I can be of any assistance, please do get in touch.

Cllr Heather Williams

SCDC The Mordens Ward

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County Councillor Kindersley's report to the meeting.

Croydon Hill and other road closures: Water - Councillor Kindersley checked that the village is aware of the local road closures.

New Busway proposal: Plans to build a new busway to the south of Cambridge have taken a step forward. The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has agreed to begin some early work and ask Cambridgeshire County Council to submit an application to build the busway. The new busway is proposed as part of the Cambridge South East Transport scheme (CSET). The scheme proposes to build a new dedicated mainly off-road busway, as well as a segregated walking and cycling route, from a new travel hub off the A11 to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. This week (October 2) the GCP executive board agreed to ask the county council as the highways authority to submit a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAo) to get permission for the project.

Mill Road bridge: The decision to close Mill Road bridge to traffic has been made and has been met with a mixed response from residents. The bridge will be bus-gated, so only buses may cross over it.

SCDC : Residents and businesses are being asked to help shape South Cambridgeshire District Council's plans for the years ahead - to help us to make South Cambridgeshire a better place for everyone. A public consultation and online survey have launched, and will run until Tuesday 29 October, to help people have their say. Please can you encourage your residents to respond to this consultation.

Straw: There have been complaints from local villages regarding the amount of straw left behind on the roads after straw lorries from Croydon have passed through. This is unsightly and also may block the drains.

As there were no questions for Councillor Kindersley he was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

County Councillor Kindersley's written report to Council:

Gamlingay Division Councillors Report – South Cambridgeshire District Council & Cambridgeshire County Council – October 2024

The Gamlingay Division comprises the Parishes of Abington Pigotts, Arrington, Barrington, Croydon, Gamlingay, Guilden Morden, Litlington, Hatley, Orwell, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Steeple Morden, Tadlow & Wimpole. This report is for all Division Parish Councils but please be aware that it will include items that may have little or no relevance to your particular Parish. Apologies in advance!

Gamlingay Village Primary: Congratulations to all involved with Gamlingay Village Primary which has been judged 'Good' by the latest Ofsted - and especially to the pupils who clearly made a big and positive impression on the inspectors with comments such as "Pupils value that staff have thought carefully about how best to cater for their needs. Where pupils struggle with their own behaviour, staff support them to cope well. This means that lessons are calm and focused and interactions around the school are positive and kind."

Vaccination update: Vaccinations are now available for eligible people against a range of conditions including Covid, flu, pneumonia, shingles, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Local GP practices are calling up eligible patients, or you can find out more at <https://www.cpics.org.uk/the-vaccinators/> and book with a local pharmacy or attend a convenient drop-in session without an appointment.

School place appeal panel volunteers: Volunteers are urgently needed to hear appeals when children are not offered a place at their preferred school. All parents or carers have the right to make an appeal to an independent appeal panel if their child is not offered a place at their preferred school. The role of the panel is to decide whether a child who has been refused a place by Cambridgeshire County Council should be given a place. All parties involved must be given an appeal hearing that is transparent, accessible, independent and impartial. The appeal panel is independent of the local authority and its decisions are binding on all parties, unless overturned by the courts. Volunteers will sit on the independent admission appeal panels and ensure that parents feel they have had a fair and independent hearing and have been given every opportunity to put their case and have been taken seriously.

The time commitment depends on how much time volunteers are willing to give. While appeals are held throughout the year, the peak months are between April and July. The appeals are arranged either for half a day or a full day, and hearings are currently held online using Microsoft Teams. Anyone interested in applying or who would like an informal chat about the role should contact clare.cronk@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Weeds : The first round of weed treatment, for those communities wishing to have this, is now coming to an end, and the second round will begin in October.

Winter gritting: Preparations are under way for the 2024 winter, which starts on Friday 1 November, with salt barns being replenished and servicing of gritting vehicles.

Small Business Support: Small businesses in South Cambridgeshire are being invited to apply for funding of up to £5,000 each in a new grant programme available to those already trading with ambitions to grow and will provide grants, advice and support for existing businesses with up to nine employees. The new support grants are available as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

For those looking to start a business and get their foot on the ladder, there is free advice on offer, including how to create a viable business plan. The startup advice will be delivered by the Business and Intellectual Property Centre and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Growth Hub. Applications are open until 31 October 2024. Businesses may only make one application. More information can be found online or please email businessgrants@scambs.gov.uk quoting Small Business Grant.

More broadband: Openreach's broadband upgrade plans for Cambridgeshire were announced at the end of May, meaning full fibre broadband is heading to a further 16 Cambridgeshire towns and villages, as part of a huge upgrade including Steeple Morden.

Household Support Fund: Very good to be able to report that the government has just announced an extension to the Household Support Fund for the next six months to support struggling households with bills and essential costs. The £421 million extension gives certainty to councils in England over the winter months - up until April 2025 - as they work to help those struggling with the cost of energy, food, and water. Many councils also use the funding beyond emergency support, including working with local charities and community groups to provide residents with key appliances, school uniforms, cookery classes, and items to improve energy efficiency in the home. Pensioners and others struggling to heat their homes or afford other essential items over the colder months should contact their council to see what support may be available to them. Details on the latest scheme will be communicated in the coming weeks.

Bluetongue: In late September, the Bluetongue Restriction Zone, which had previously covered most of the east coast of England, was extended further inland, incorporating Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This brings in certain restrictions for keepers of susceptible animals in our area. The restrictions can be viewed at gov.uk but in essence they look to reduce the spread of the disease from the restricted parts of England to the areas that fall outside the zone through movement restrictions. Some movements are permitted under General Licence, whilst other movements need a specific licence to be issued.

Bluetongue (BTV) is a viral disease which affects ruminants (such as cattle, sheep, goats, and deer) and camelids (such as alpacas and llamas) caused by a virus that is spread by biting midges. It is classified as a 'Notifiable disease' which means livestock keepers have a legal obligation to report any signs of the disease in their stock to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) immediately on 03000 200 301. **It does not pose a risk to public health or food safety.**

Pension Credit: Pension Credit is worth, on average, £3,900 per year and unlocks additional support including the Winter Fuel Payment, help with Council Tax, NHS dental care and a free TV licence for those over 75. Pension Credit backdating rules mean it is possible for individuals to apply for Pension Credit and have the claim backdated by up to three months if they were entitled to claim in that time. This means that the latest date to apply and still qualify for a Winter Fuel Payment is 21 December. The Department for Work and Pensions has produced [a toolkit to support councils to ensure older people understand how they can get Pension Credit](#).

Climate change progress report and carbon footprint: For Cambridgeshire as a whole, in 2022—the most recent available data—total greenhouse gas emissions were 6.45 million tonnes CO₂e, a 3% fall from 2021. Transport (27 per cent) remains the highest emitting sector in the county, followed by land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) (23 per cent), agriculture (15 per cent) and domestic energy use (13 per cent). The risk of not reaching the Council's carbon targets has reduced but still remains considerable. Delivery of these targets relies on collaborating with our partner organisations.

Meanwhile on the Combined Authority: The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has now been released from the 'Best Value Notice' placed on it in January 2023 as the Government has recognised the improvement in the organisation.

The Authority's Transport & Infrastructure Committee is recommending that the Board allow older people and those with disabilities to use their bus passes before the current 9:30AM start. The new Tiger Pass offers bus travel for £1 per journey for those aged up to 25. Details of how to apply for the new pass can be found at <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/onepoundbusfare/>

It's very good to see the Vision Zero road safety project is being revived. Its aims are to reduce the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on our roads and the social and financial impact of this, and to

develop financially sustainable models of road safety activity. The original prospectus in 2020 aimed for zero killed or seriously injured by 2040 though this seems unlikely to be met.

A reminder that the Combined Authority's consultation on bus franchising continues until 20 November. Short and long questionnaires can be found at <https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-franchising-consultation/>

Support for Affordable Housing tenants: Following contact from local residents in affordable housing who are struggling to make ends meet: The SCDC Welfare and Benefits Team (01954 713000) and Citizens Advice can help with access to financial support. The Cambridgeshire Community Foundation helps disperse support and accepts donations too.

Energy bills: If you are struggling to pay your energy bills or can't afford to heat your home: Energy Partnership: support@applyforleap.org.uk, Tel 0800 0607567

South Cambridgeshire District Council housing adaptations: Funds are available to carry out adaptations for residents of South Cambs whether they are homeowners, private renters or live in social or council homes. This means that people are able to remain living independently in their own homes for longer. Bids for the funds can be made on this website. Disabled Facilities Grants: How to apply - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Changes to Voting Rights: South Cambs elections team is currently undertaking a review of all EU electors held on the Electoral Register. This is a statutory exercise required by the Elections Act 2022. Recent changes to voting and candidacy rights for EU citizens mean that **not all EU citizens will qualify to register to vote** or be a candidate at local elections going forward.

Under the new rules a citizen from an EU country is only entitled to remain registered if they meet one of the following criteria: a citizen of Denmark, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal or Spain (with whom we have a reciprocal agreement) or a citizen of any other EU country who on or before 31 December 2020 had permission to enter or stay in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man or who did not need permission, and this has continued without a break.

CCC Quality of Life Survey: Most Cambridgeshire residents continue to feel happy and safe in the county, well connected to their local communities, and still believe it's a great place to raise children - according to the County Council's second annual Quality of Life survey involving more than 5,500 residents.

However, cost of living remains the issue of most concern in Cambridgeshire amongst residents, with almost half of residents using less heating, and a quarter cutting back on nutritious food in the past 12 months. Residents continue to feel positively about their local community; 85% feel safe and 75% feel they belong. Significant numbers of young people (43% of 25-34-year-olds and 40% of 18-24-year-olds) continue to be more likely to report mental health struggles. The proportion of residents reporting that they often feel lonely remains higher than national data, at 31% of residents.

Younger residents are again more likely to report loneliness (53% of 18-24 year olds).

Technology Enabled Care: A flat which uses everyday technology to help people become more independent at home was recently launched in Godmanchester to showcase ways in which new and existing technology can be used to help prevent, delay and reduce the need for formal community or acute care.

The equipment available ranges from simple pill reminders to sophisticated detectors, sensors, smart devices and trackers. To arrange a viewing, please contact our TEC team, either by phone, on 01480 378 160, or email: TECS@cambridgeshire.gov.uk (pre-arranged viewings only).

White Ribbon: South Cambridgeshire District Council has become White Ribbon Accredited in recognition of its commitment to preventing harassment, abuse and violence against women and girls. The District Council is committed to working towards ending men's violence against women by becoming accredited and aligning with White Ribbon UK, the leading charity engaging men and boys to end violence against women.

Mobile Warden Schemes: A total of £345,000 has been pledged to [Mobile Warden Schemes](#) in South Cambridgeshire for the next three years to help more elderly people stay living in their own homes for longer. The District Council has traditionally had an annual budget of £21,000 to support schemes but invested around £300,000 to try and increase the coverage of the service in South Cambridgeshire communities by supporting new schemes to develop.

The review is important as it has taken into consideration predicted high growth in over 65-year-olds over the next 20 years and recognises that with age comes increased risk of deteriorating health, loneliness, and feelings of isolation. Councillors have backed a new three-year funding scheme that starts from April 2025. There are currently 16 active Mobile Warden schemes in 49 Parishes funded by South Cambridgeshire District Council. AGE UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough run 11 of them, while five are run by local groups.

Reminder: A reminder that Church Street Gamlingay will be closed for overnight works starting October 28th for 2 weeks; and Croydon Hill between Croydon and East Hatley will be closed from November 18th again for 2 weeks.

South Cambridgeshire Peer Review: A follow-up report by the Local Government Association has praised South Cambridgeshire District Council's 'strong ambition', 'good leadership' and 'innovative approaches' following a recent visit.

The return visit comes after a Corporate Peer Challenge Review by the LGA last year described the Council as being in a positive financial position – with a comprehensive and innovative response to the cost-of-living crisis. Typically, all councils have one of these reviews every five years and they always contain recommendations to help councils improve. A total of 12 recommendations were made by the peer team last year. A return visit last month and update report, a usual part of the Corporate Peer Challenge process, shows how 10 of those recommendations are completed or well underway and two are progressing.

In Finance, peers had recommended the Council accelerates the closure of its outstanding accounts. Since their visit in late 2023, the draft accounts for each and every year up to 2023/24 have been published – meaning they are as up to date as possible. Meanwhile, a scheme to uncover further savings by close working between members of the Council's Leadership Team and service areas has identified a further £1.5 million to help meet a £3 million savings target over the next five years.

Peers had also suggested the need to better convey a vision for South Cambridgeshire. To address this, the Council is now part-way through a consultation to develop a new Corporate Plan, outlining that vision, priorities, and long-term goals for South Cambridgeshire in the years ahead. The Council's business team have visited local businesses to discuss matters impacting them - obtaining 100 completed surveys that are feeding into the consultation.

As part of its Transformation programme, peers have also commented on how the District Council has made considerable progress with introducing an Organisational Development and People Strategy – with a new set of values for Council colleagues brought in earlier this year. Peers were impressed with the innovative approaches to people development and engagement – highlighting an online skills hub for short skills sessions, as well as maximising apprenticeships and a coaching and mentoring programme.

Mill Road Bridge Closure - Cambridge: Someway off, geographically, but important for some residents to know. The Highways and Transport committee voted to approve the modal filter on Mill Road bridge so it will be closed to all motor vehicles, except buses, pedestrians, cyclists, emergency services, taxis and blue badge holders' registered vehicles.

A five-week TRO notice period from 9 August to 13 September was advertised following the publication of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order. The council received 1,894 objections (46.5%) and 2,155 comments supporting (52.9%) the proposals. The special Highways and Transport Committee following a majority vote agreed to proceed with the scheme.

The closure will be implemented as a bus gate and blue badge holders will need to register up to two vehicles for exemption via an application form online, which will be [available](#) from Monday, 7 October. Blue badge holders will be required to provide a copy of their valid blue badge paperwork. Following approval, work will now get underway to implement the bus gate and work is expected to start next month (November) and be completed in December. More details will follow.

The bus gate will be enforced by Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras (ANPR). Once installed, there will be a month where non-exempt vehicles will receive warning notices only and if they are exempt, would be encouraged to register online.

Your Councillors are here to help you. Please do feel free to contact us with comments, questions, problems or complaints. County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley on 01767 651982 or skindersley@hotmail.com or write to the Manor Barn, East Hatley, SG19 3JA District Councillor Bridget Smith (Gamlingay Ward, SCDC) is on 07729 836449 or Cllr.BridgetSmith@scambs.gov.uk. We hope we can help but if we can't we are likely to know someone who can!

Correspondence

Electoral Register: Circulated to Councillors to read. Any amendments will be added to the main Electoral Register.

LADACAN: The LADACAN AGM is being postponed until Sunday 27th October at 2:30pm. Holding it in the afternoon avoids travel in the dark when there's been so much heavy rain and some localised flooding, making it much easier and safer for you to get to and from the venue at the Village Hall, 15 Chapel Rd, Breachwood Green, SG4 8NX

The Other Croydon: Clerk received an email as below: _

"I am a public speaker who was asked some time ago to come and give a talk to the South Croydon Tuesday Group on November 7th but I have no follow up information. If you help by putting me in touch with the appropriate person I would be very grateful."

A little odd as our Croydon also has a Tuesday group, but not in the south! Clerk replied indicating that she probably has the wrong Croydon.

Local Climate Action Conference: The Climate and Environment team are pleased to invite you to South Cambridgeshire District Council's Local Climate Action Conference 2024. It will be held in the Hub in Cambourne High Street CB23 6GW from 11-3pm on Tuesday 19 November.

The event is open to the public and welcomes parish councils, community groups, charities and interested individuals - anyone working to meet the challenges of the climate and nature emergencies. Join us for a day of workshops, engaging case studies and networking (finalised agenda to follow!)

Refreshments and a plant-based lunch provided.

Lithium Ion batteries - safety campaign: Having informed the gentleman that Council is happy to support this, the Clerk has received posters, one of which has been put into the notice board.

CPRE response to NPPF: CPRE has submitted their response to the consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, which has been developed together with the local CPRE network. The response addresses key issues, including the need for a mix of genuinely affordable housing tenures, opposing the reclassification of Green Belt as 'grey belt', and supporting renewable energy on roofs.

The response can be found at this link:-

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/national-planning-policy-framework-consultation-response-september-2024/>

SCDC Youth Survey: The Youth Survey is aimed at 11 - 19 year olds and is seen as a "Big Conversation Starter". It is designed to help services who support youth projects and community facilities in the area better understand what it is like to be living in South Cambs as a young person. SCDC wants to hear your ideas on your community, your health and relationship needs, your transition from teenager to adulthood and how best this information can be communicated to you. A poster with a QR code is currently on the notice board.

Circulated to Councillors:-

SCDC Parish weekly agendas/e-bulletin

Cambridgeshire Matters

ICS newsletter

3C newsletter

Clerks' e-bulletin

The Circuit newsletter

Zero Carbon newsletter

CCC Highways and Streetlights strategy

Cambs ACRE magazine

Any subsequent receipts

Defibrillator Training in Arrington: Arrington PC has arranged a training with the East Anglian Air Ambulance on the very valuable skill of how to use CPR and a Defibrillator. If you are interested the contact in Arrington is Mr Murray, his email is [Brian Murray](mailto:brian@murray.co.uk)

The Big Commuter Survey 2024: Croydon's support in sharing the 2024 Big Commuter Survey with the residents in Croydon. Smart Journeys, a project co-led by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), is conducting the 2024 Big Commuter Survey from **Monday 14 October to Sunday 27 October**. Anyone completing the survey can be entered into a prize draw.

The Big Commuter Survey aims to help Smart Journeys and CCC better understand how residents and employees across Cambridgeshire currently commute and their future travel needs. The data collected will guide improvements to the transport network, ensuring that the focus on the most effective areas for both residents and businesses. It will also provide valuable insights to support sustainable travel initiatives and influence future public transport decisions across the county.

Please complete the survey, which takes about 5 minutes: <https://bit.ly/bigcommuter2024>.

Croydon Hill - road Closure: Croydon Hill will be closed from 6th - 8th November for the installation of a water main. A diversion will be in place while the works are carried out.

Croydon road closures: A temporary road closure notice is in place for Croydon Hill, High Street and Larkins Road for various days between 11th - 22nd November from 8am - 6pm. This is to allow for resurfacing and associated works. Diversions will be in place while the works are carried out.

SCDC Corporate Plan: Residents and businesses are being asked to help shape Council's plans for the years ahead, to help SCDC make South Cambs a better place for everyone. **The consultation only runs until 29th October 2024** and can be found at www.scambs.gov.uk/consultations

The five priority headings are:

- **Healthy and flourishing communities** - which could include supporting communities to tackle local issues, support for arts and culture projects, providing cost-of-living support and working with partners to combat crime and anti-social behaviour.
- **Sustainable homes and vibrant places** - such as continuing to deliver new, high quality Council homes, bringing empty homes back into use, making new towns vibrant and attractive places to live and supporting improved access to greenspaces.
- **Being green to our core** - including reducing local carbon emissions, protecting air quality and working with others to tackle water scarcity and other environmental issues.
- **Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire** - through methods such as promotion of local businesses, renting out space, supporting new markets and events and providing business support resources.
- **Financially secure and fit for the future** - which could mean completing reviews of services to make sure processes are efficient, exploring new ways of generating income, acting to reduce fraud and making it easier for residents to access services online.

Everyone completing the consultation will be entered into a draw for one of two £50 One4All vouchers

Finance:

Bank statement: After the cheques that had been presented had cleared, the current account at the end of September was £6751-55.

Planning:

The Beeches, Lower Road, Croydon

Change of use of agricultural dwelling to residential dwelling.

Public Access: <https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/PLAN/24/03472/FUL>

This residence was built originally as an agricultural dwelling, meaning that the occupants had to have a connection with agriculture. In the last 2 years, efforts to sell the property to someone meeting this condition have been unsuccessful, so this application is to remove it. Councils discussed this and it was proposed by the Chair that the condition should be removed. All in favour.

Remembrance Sunday: Clerk has approached Orwell British Legion for information on when the Colour Party would arrive at the war memorial in Croydon to lay wreaths, but has not had a reply yet.

Items for next agenda: Churchyard management plan.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 20 November 2024 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Mrs Sole gave her apologies for the November meeting as she will not be available.

As there was no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed

Date