

South Cambs Magazine Summer 2026

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Hello

Welcome to the summer edition of South Cambs Magazine

As summer approaches, there's lots happening across South Cambridgeshire, and this edition highlights many of the ways our communities are coming together, staying active, and shaping places for the future.

As you flick through the pages, you'll find details of local activities and events taking place over the coming months, from community forums and summer netball camps to what's on listings to help you plan days out close to home and support local businesses.

This issue introduces our newly elected District Councillors, who are ready to represent their wards and work on your behalf. District Councillors really are dedicated community champions and can support you in a variety of ways – so find out how to get in touch with yours on page eight.

Protecting our environment and tackling climate change remains a priority. Articles in this edition cover our Climate and Nature Strategy,

the Action on Energy scheme to retrofit homes, our ever-popular Zero Carbon Communities grants, and projects helping nature thrive locally. We're also sharing updates on the continued roll-out of weekly food waste collections, and green travel routes.

Alongside this, you'll read about support for rural businesses, community transport schemes, volunteering, commemorating Armed Forces Week, and how local heritage and community groups continue to make South Cambridgeshire a special place to live.

I hope you enjoy this edition and find something that inspires you to get involved, stay informed, or simply try something new this summer.

Cllr Bridget Smith
Leader
South Cambridgeshire District Council

Contact us

It's easier to contact us online. You can do more online at a time to suit you.

Chat with SAM, our artificial intelligence (AI) assistant

SAM can help you instantly, or signpost you to the relevant team that can support you further. Just click on the speech bubble icon on our website and ask SAM a question.

www.scambs.gov.uk

Create a My South Cambs account

See personalised information – such as your Council Tax payments or your Benefits account.

<https://mysouthcambs.scambs.gov.uk>

Or you can email us, phone us, write to us, visit our offices, or get in touch using our social media channels.

email: **scdc@scambs.gov.uk** phone: 01954 713 000

South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambs Hall, Cambourne Business Park,
Cambourne, CB23 6EA

Facebook, LinkedIn: South Cambridgeshire District Council

X, Instagram: @SouthCambs

If you phone us

Our phone line is available 8am to 5:30pm on weekdays - apart from Wednesdays when it stays open later until 6:30pm.

Our AI-powered telephone system makes it easier and faster for you to get the help you need.

When you phone, you'll be asked to briefly explain what your enquiry is about. The more specific you are, the better – our system uses your response to connect you directly with the right advisor, who's trained to deal with your particular issue. Prefer to speak to someone straight away? That's fine. You can still choose to speak to an advisor at any time!

This system is all about giving you a smoother and faster service. So next time you call, try to be as specific as possible.

If you visit us

Our office opening hours are 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. If you come to the office, we'll try our very best to resolve your query there and then. If we can't, our advisors will book you a follow-up appointment when you will be able to speak to someone. Alternatively, you can book your own appointment at www.scambsgov.uk/book-an-appointment

Request a large print copy communications@scambsgov.uk

Your next issue

The autumn 2026 issue will be delivered between Monday 24 August and Saturday 5 September.

Contact Smart Distribution for delivery enquiries.

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Putting you first

If you phone us we will:

- resolve your enquiry as quickly as possible.
- provide voicemail if the person you need is unavailable.
- answer your phone message within three working days.

If you write to us we will:

- reply to your letter or email within 10 working days.

If we write to you we will:

- write in plain language.
- arrange for translation, large type, braille or audio tapes upon request.

If we visit you we will:

- carry identification that you can check with a phone call.
- arrive at the time we say we will, or give you as much notice as possible if we have to change the time.

If we get it wrong we will:

- apologise if we have made a mistake or failed to meet our standards.
- acknowledge your written complaint within three working days.
- reply in full to your complaint within 10 working days.

Assisted digital service support

We run an Assisted Digital Service Support to ensure nobody is excluded from completing an online application or e-form due to difficulty with digital skills or access to a computer. Eligible residents are offered telephone support or face to face help by one of our contact centre advisors. Your local library or Parish Council hub can also help. To take advantage of this service, just call us on 01954 713 000.

News in brief

Spot the dangers of ketamine, fake medicines, and THC laced vapes

Across the UK, use of ketamine, counterfeit medicines and adulterated THC vapes is increasing, raising serious health risks, particularly for young people. An awareness campaign aims to support families by helping them spot dangers and access reliable information and help.

Nationally, the number of young people needing treatment for ketamine use has risen eight fold since 2015. Ketamine is a powerful anaesthetic. Every use carries risk and prolonged use can cause severe, sometimes irreversible, bladder and urinary tract damage.

Concerns are also growing about novel synthetic opioids, especially nitazenes, which are appearing in counterfeit medicines sold online. Users are often younger and drug naïve.

Reports of harms from THC vapes have also increased with many products containing synthetic cannabinoids - called 'spice' - with higher potency and unpredictable effects.

Talk to Frank has a wealth of information on the risks posed by different drugs.

www.talktofrank.com

- Under 18s in Cambridgeshire - CASUS Service: **www.cpft.nhs.uk/casus**
- 18 and over in Cambridgeshire - Change Grow Live Cambridgeshire: **www.changegrowlive.org/service/cambridgeshire-drug-alcohol/cambridge**

Upcoming community forums

Community Forums give residents living near major development sites in South Cambridgeshire the chance to hear directly from developers, our colleagues and local stakeholders.

Held both in person and online, the forums help communities understand upcoming housing developments and share views on how they progress.

To find upcoming meetings or join mailing lists, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/community-forums

- **North West and West Cambridge:** 11 June and 15 October
- **Cambridge East:** 17 June and 21 October
- **Bourn Airfield and Cambourne:** 24 June and 11 November
- **Waterbeach:** 1 July and 4 November
- **North East Cambridge:** 8 July (online) and 18 November
- **Northstowe:** 15 July and 25 November

Summer holiday and half term Netball Camps

Join our popular netball camps at Impington Sports Centre. For children in school years three to nine and suitable for all abilities. Led by qualified coaches, the camps offer a fantastic opportunity for young people to learn new and develop existing netball skills within gamebased activities within a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment.

- **Summer Netball Camps:** Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 July
- **October Netball Camps:** Wednesday 28 October

For full details and to book your child's place, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/sportscamps

Changing lives through fostering

Fostering has the power to transform lives and gives vulnerable children a safe, stable and loving home when they can't live with their birth families. It offers more than shelter - it provides a foundation for healing, confidence and hope, improving their wellbeing and future opportunities. For some, it's the first time they celebrate birthdays, receive gifts or feel truly cared for.

Fostering can be life-changing for carers too. Many say it's the most meaningful thing they've ever done, bringing purpose and pride as they watch a child grow and thrive.

Cambridgeshire County Council urgently needs more foster carers in South Cambridgeshire. If you are interested, please get in touch today to learn more.

t: **0800 052 0078** e: fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering

Discover a healthier you

Our Active & Healthy 4 Life exercise referral scheme is tailored for individuals managing everyday health conditions. Qualified instructors create personalised gym-based exercise programmes, encouraging twice-weekly attendance and offering advice on complementary activities like walking, cycling and swimming.

If you're 18 or older and aiming to manage conditions like high blood pressure and cholesterol, diabetes, osteoporosis, arthritis, asthma, or pre/post operative and mental health support, this scheme could be for you.

Simply ask your health professional to complete the referral form, then contact your preferred sports centre to schedule an instructor appointment.

Join for £20 per month for four months. For more information and a referral form, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/active or email AandH4L@scambs.gov.uk

For anyone seeking specialist support for cardiac rehab, you can join sessions at Cambourne, Sawston and Swavesey. Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/cardiac for the cardiac referral form.

Working with Cambridge on AI innovation

We're excited to be partnering with the University of Cambridge's ai@cam programme to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) could improve our services and use data more effectively.

Five projects have been selected for a 12 month, government-funded Local Government AI Accelerator. These will test practical ideas - not live services - to shape future ways of working.

Projects include identifying homes needing repairs earlier, supporting vulnerable tenants, speeding up planning processes, improving survey management, and detecting fly-tipping more quickly.

Findings will be shared with other councils and partners, helping inform future service improvements.

Our Zero Carbon Communities Grant 2026 is now open!

Groups across South Cambridgeshire can now apply for the latest round of our Zero Carbon Communities grants, supporting local action on climate and nature. This year, funding limits have increased, with grants of up to £19,500 available to help deliver more ambitious projects.

Eligibility has also been widened to include parent teacher associations and sports clubs where there is clear community benefit. In total, £152,000 is available, equally split between carbon reduction projects and community engagement or nature initiatives, reflecting our Climate and Nature Strategy.

Applications are open until 5pm on Friday 24 July 2026. Find out more and apply at www.scams.gov.uk/ZCC

Financially secure and fit for the future Meet your District Councillor

On Thursday 7 May, residents across South Cambridgeshire voted to elect all 45 of our District Councillors.

The Councillors represent 26 wards across the district, from Over and Willingham in the north to Foxton in the south.

Each Councillor represents their local communities and works on behalf of the villages and residents in their ward. These Councillors will serve until the District Council is abolished in May 2028 and replaced by a unitary authority as part of the local government reorganisation process.

You can contact your District Councillor to raise local issues, ask about our services, or discuss matters affecting your area. Councillors also help run the Council. They set priorities, agree our policies and budgets, and help decide how services are provided. Many Councillors serve on committees, such as Planning, Licensing, and the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee.

We have listed all Councillors by ward, with their contact details, on the following pages. You can also find your local Councillor by typing your postcode into the box on our homepage at www.scams.gov.uk

If you have difficulty contacting a Councillor, our Democratic Services team can help.

e: democratic.services@scams.gov.uk t: 01954 713 000

Political breakdown of the District Council:

Liberal Democrat: 43

Conservative: 2

Balsham

Villages covered: Balsham, Carlton, Horseheath, West Wickham, West Wratting, Weston Colville
Cllr Geoff Harvey (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Harvey@scams.gov.uk t: 07482 429729

Bar Hill

Villages covered: Bar Hill

Cllr William Scantlebury (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Scantlebury@scambs.gov.uk

Barrington

Villages covered: Barrington, Great Eversden, Little Eversden, Orwell, Wimpole

Cllr Dr. Aidan Van de Weyer (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.VanDeWeyer@scambs.gov.uk t: **07545 922912**

Bassingbourn

Villages covered: Bassingbourn, Litlington

Cllr Adam Bostanci (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Bostanci@scambs.gov.uk t: **07400 236329**

Caldecote

Villages covered: Caldecote, Childerley, Kingston, Little Gransden, Longstowe

Cllr John Jefferies (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Jefferies@scambs.gov.uk t: **07770 922682**

Cambourne

Villages covered: Cambourne

Cllr Michael Booth (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Booth@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Helene Leeming (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Leeming@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Amber Thomas (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Thomas@scambs.gov.uk t: 07482 518175

Caxton & Papworth

Villages covered: Boxworth, Caxton, Conington, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Graveley, Knapwell, Papworth Everard, Papworth St. Agnes

Cllr Chris Poulton (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Poulton@scambs.gov.uk t: **07971 594037**

Cllr Peter Sandford (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Sandford@scambs.gov.uk t: **07985 425414**

Cottenham

Villages covered: Cottenham, Rampton

Cllr Yasmin Deter (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Deter@scambs.gov.uk t: **07585 363535**

Facebook: **Cottenham and Rampton Councillors**

Cllr Eileen Wilson (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Wilson@scambs.gov.uk t: **07482 511778**

Facebook: **Cottenham and Rampton Councillors**

Duxford

Villages covered: Babraham, Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Pampisford

Cllr Peter McDonald (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.McDonald@scambs.gov.uk t: **07912 669092**

Fen Ditton & Fulbourn

Villages covered: Fen Ditton, Fulbourn, Great Wilbraham, Horningsea, Little Wilbraham, Six Mile Bottom, Stow-Cum-Quy, Teversham

Cllr Vince Farrar (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Farrar@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Carla Hofman (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Hofman@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Chloe Wills-Eve (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Wills-Eve@scambs.gov.uk Facebook: **Cllr Chloe Wills-Eve**

Foxton

Villages covered: Fowlmere, Foxton, Great Chishill, Heydon, Little Chishill

Cllr Dr. James Hobro (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Hobro@scambs.gov.uk t: **07768 706670**

Gamlingay

Villages covered: Gamlingay

Cllr Bridget Smith (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Smith@scambs.gov.uk t: **07729 836449**

Girton

Villages covered: Dry Drayton, Girton, Madingley

Cllr Corinne Garvie (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Garvie@scambs.gov.uk t: **07780 932267**

Cllr Richard Stobart (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Stobart@scambs.gov.uk t: **07950 934793**

Hardwick

Villages covered: Hardwick, Toft

Cllr Catherine Hubbard (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Hubbard@scambs.gov.uk t: **07710 257151**

Harston & Comberton

Villages covered: Barton, Comberton, Coton, Grantchester, Harlton, Harston, Haslingfield, Hauxton, South Trimpington

Cllr Ariel Cahne (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.CahnA@scambs.gov.uk t: **01223 232186**

Cllr Laurence Damary-Homan (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Damary-Homan@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Dr. Lisa Redrup (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Redrup@scambs.gov.uk t: **07855 324580**

Histon & Impington

Villages covered: Histon, Impington, Orchard Park

Cllr Dr. Martin Cahn (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Cahn@scambs.gov.uk t: **078267 48407**

Cllr James Rixon (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Rixon@scambs.gov.uk t: **07815 186507**

Cllr Geo Sebastian (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.Sebastian@scambs.gov.uk t: 07984 374880

Linton

Villages covered: Bartlow, Castle Camps, Great Abington, Hildersham, Linton, Little Abington, Shudy Camps

Cllr Henry Batchelor (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.Batchelor@scambs.gov.uk t: 07973 549541

Cllr John Batchelor (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.BatchelorJ@scambs.gov.uk t: 01223 892111

Longstanton

Villages covered: Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick

Cllr Sunita Hansraj (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.Hansraj@scambs.gov.uk t: 07359 424251

Cllr Natalie Warren-Green (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.Warren-Green@scambs.gov.uk t: 07990 553997

Melbourn

Villages covered: Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth, Whaddon

Cllr Jose Hales (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.Hales@scambs.gov.uk t: 07703 262649

Cllr Sally Ann Hart (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.Hart@scambs.gov.uk t: 07791 233303

Milton & Waterbeach

Villages covered: Chittering, Landbeach, Milton, Waterbeach

Cllr Paul Bearpark (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.Bearpark@scambs.gov.uk t: 07824 709153

Cllr Anna Bradnam (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.Bradnam@scambs.gov.uk t: 01223 862364

Cllr Laura MacLeod (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.Macleod@scambs.gov.uk

Over & Willingham

Villages covered: Over, Willingham

Cllr James Hutchcraft (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.Hutchcraft@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Aisha Rashid (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.Rashid@scambs.gov.uk t: 07854 589922

Sawston

Villages covered: Sawston

Cllr Brian Milnes (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.Milnes@scambs.gov.uk t: 07971 886 113 Facebook: **BRIANandEDforSawston**

Cllr Ed Sanders (Liberal Democrat)
e: Cllr.Sanders@scambs.gov.uk Facebook: **BRIANandEDforSawston**

Shelford

Villages covered: Great Shelford, Little Shelford, Stapleford

Cllr Farhan Hussain (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Hussain@scambs.gov.uk

Cllr Mark Lunn (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Lunn@scambs.gov.uk

Swavesey

Villages covered: Fen Drayton, Lolworth, Swavesey

Cllr Vivien Biggs (Liberal Democrat)

e: Cllr.Biggs@scambs.gov.uk

The Mordens

Villages covered: Abington Pigotts, Arrington, Croydon, Guilden Morden, Hatley, Shingay-cum-Wendy, Steeple Morden, Tadlow

Cllr Heather Williams (Conservative)

e: Cllr.WilliamsH@scambs.gov.uk t: **07885 774775** Facebook: **CllrHeatherWilliams**

Whittlesford

Villages covered: Newton, Thriplow, Whittlesford

Cllr Dr. Richard Williams (Conservative)

e: Cllr.WilliamsR@scambs.gov.uk t: **07584 037016**

Facebook: **CllrRichardWilliamsSouthCambs**

Financially secure and fit for the future

How we spend your Council Tax

On this page, we're outlining how we're funded and what we spend money on.

We collect Council Tax on behalf of the Police, Fire Service, County Council, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and parish councils.

Only around 7% of your annual Council Tax bill goes towards services which we provide – like emptying bins, determining planning applications and homelessness support.

Where our money comes from

We charge one of the lowest Council Taxes in the country to provide a range of services to you. However, Council Tax is only one element of the funding we receive. Our budget for 2026/27 is made up of money from different sources. Here's how we get our funding of £89.74 million for the current financial year:

Income from investments: £8.77 million

Business Rates: £9.19 million

Council Tax: £12.87 million

Grant from Government: £12.88 million

Grants, fees, charges and other income: £46.03 million

What we spend our money on

Recycling and waste: £24.51 million

Planning services: £18.82 million

Housing benefit, Council Tax and Business Rates service provision and collection costs: £16.81 million

Other corporate charges and contributions: £6.77 million

Housing services: £6.42 million

Transformation, people and corporate services: £6.01 million

Climate and environment: £4.44 million

Corporate management and elections: £3.54 million

Finance services: £1.33 million

Economic development and commercial investment: £0.95 million

Legal services: £0.14 million

Our recycling and waste and planning budgets include the funding to provide these services in Cambridge too as we share both services with the City Council. Council housing rent is not included in the figures on this page; this is kept in a separate account and can only be spent on improvements to our Council homes and building new ones.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Natalie Warren-Green, said: *“You’ll see our logo on your Council Tax bill, but we only keep a small proportion of what you pay. Most of the money goes towards funding other local authorities and emergency services. For an average Band D property, just £180.64 a year comes directly to us.*

This helps pay for essential local services such as bin collections, environmental health, housing support, benefits administration and planning. With central government funding for councils continuing to fall, we are focused on finding new and innovative ways to generate income and protect local services.”

www.scamb.gov.uk/council-tax/financial-information

Financially secure and fit for the future Circumstances changed and need to tell us?

It’s quick and easy to keep us informed on changes that affect your Council Tax bill.

As we outlined on the previous page - each year, Council Tax plays an essential role in funding local services that support communities across South Cambridgeshire.

When your Council Tax bill arrives, taking a few moments to check it carefully can help ensure you are paying the correct amount and receiving any discounts or support you are entitled to.

Check your bill

It’s important to check your Council Tax bill to make sure the details and charges are correct. If you have changed address or experienced a change in your household or circumstances, this may affect your entitlement to a discount or exemption.

Life changes and keeping your Council Tax account up to date helps avoid unnecessary charges and ensures you receive the right level of support. Remember, you must notify us of any changes within 21 days, or you could face a penalty charge.

Changes could include:

- Someone moving in or out
- A change in your main residence
- Changes to who lives at the property
- Changes to income, capital and household members if you receive Council Tax support.

Reporting a change is quick and easy online at:

www.scamb.gov.uk/council-tax

www.scamb.gov.uk/benefits

Manage your Council Tax online, anytime

Our online services make it easier than ever to manage your Council Tax account at a time that suits you. Available 24/7, they allow you to take control of your account quickly and securely and keep things up to date.

By visiting www.scams.gov.uk/council-tax, you can:

- Tell us that you or someone else has moved
- Make a payment securely
- Set up or change a Direct Debit, including choosing to pay over 12 monthly instalments
- Select payment dates on the 8th or 23rd of the month
- Request a refund if your account is in credit
- Find information about and apply for discounts, exemptions or Council Tax Support
- Contact us about Council Tax queries
- Find information about our gross expenditure and Council Tax Requirement.

Go paper free with eBilling

Visit our website www.scams.gov.uk to set up an eBilling account. This secure service gives you instant access to your bill online, reduces paper use, and ensures you always have your latest bill to hand.

Healthy and supported communities

Community Groups thrive thanks to our grant scheme

It has been another busy and rewarding year for our Community Chest Grants team, with 47 local groups receiving funding to help enrich their communities.

Alongside our continued support for community organisations and sports clubs, we have also funded a range of diverse projects, including those that support biodiversity.

These include a nesting raft at Milton Country Park and new equipment for the Sixth Sense Collective, a drama group supporting local neurodivergent and autistic young people aged 16 to 25. The group recently performed to a packed audience at the Cambridge Arts Theatre, delivering a brilliant production of What I (Don't) Know about Autism by Jody O'Neill.

In addition, we are proud to have awarded £2,000 in funding to the Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum to support the acquisition of a remarkable piece of local history. The funding has contributed towards a Purbeck limestone carving titled The Return, from artist and master carver Gordon Hayes.

The sculpture captures a poignant moment: a Waterbeach aircrew of 514 Squadron returning home, inspired by a 1944 photograph of the Gordon crew disembarking from their Lancaster Bomber.

Originally established in 1984, closed in 2013 when the Royal Engineers were relocated to Kinloss, then reopened in 2017 with a new trust, the museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich heritage of RAF Waterbeach, its airfield, former barracks, and surrounding community.

Through its living museum and interpretive centre, it continues to educate and engage visitors of all ages.

The museum operates under a Section 106 agreement linked to the developing new town at Waterbeach, with premises provided by developers Urban&Civic. Open to the public with free admission, it relies on donations and sales to sustain its work.

A vibrant community hub, the museum regularly hosts visits and talks for local groups, including Scouts, Guides, Cadets, preschools, cycling clubs, and the Women's Institute, while also supporting the annual 514 Squadron Association Reunion.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities, Cllr Dr. Lisa Redrup, said:

“It’s been a fantastic year for Community Chest Grants, with funding reaching groups that help bring people together, protect our local environment and keep our shared history alive. We’re proud to support initiatives that have such a positive and lasting impact locally.”

Examples of organisations who have received funding from our Community Chest grants over the years include:

- Parish/Town Councils and Parish Meetings
- Sports clubs
- Scouts/Guides/Brownies
- Allotments and Gardening Associations
- Craft groups
- Village Halls and Community Centres
- Youth groups
- Eco groups
- History Groups

If you would like to find out more about our criteria, details of recently funded projects and how to apply, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/community-chest

We are more than happy to discuss your project with you before you make an application - just email community.chest@scambs.gov.uk

Healthy and supported communities

Supporting our Armed Forces community

We’re proud to stand alongside members of the Armed Forces community, including serving personnel, veterans, reservists, cadet adult volunteers and their families.

Through our commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, we work to ensure that those who serve, or have served, are treated fairly and are never disadvantaged because of their duty to the nation.

Supporting everyday life for the Armed Forces community is a key priority. Within our housing services, we remove local connection requirements for Armed Forces applicants, recognising that frequent relocations can make it difficult to meet standard residency criteria.

Our housing colleagues take time to understand individual circumstances and any service related needs, including physical injuries, mental health concerns or challenges linked to transitioning to civilian life.

Where appropriate, residents are signposted to specialist Armed Forces organisations and charities that can provide tailored advice and practical support.

Financial assistance is also available through home adaptation and repair grants, helping residents to remain independent and safe in their homes. We work alongside trusted Armed Forces charities to secure additional help where required.

As an employer, we actively welcome applications from members of the Armed Forces community and recognise the valuable transferrable skills and experience they bring to our teams and services.

Council roles are advertised directly at Bassingbourn to reach serving personnel and veterans considering civilian careers. Practical application support is available, and where applicants from the Armed Forces community meet the essential criteria for a role, they are guaranteed an interview. This approach helps remove barriers to employment and supports successful career transitions.

Military reservists employed by us are also supported through additional paid leave to attend mandatory training and fulfil their service commitments.

Beyond our services and employment, we recognise the importance of connection, wellbeing and a sense of belonging. In Cambourne, members of the Armed Forces community regularly attend a local community garden, creating a welcoming and inclusive space where people can meet, share skills and build supportive relationships. The garden offers more than green space; it provides routine, purpose and opportunities for social connection, particularly valuable for those adjusting to life outside the military.

By combining practical support, inclusive employment practices and meaningful community initiatives, we continue to show our appreciation for the dedication, resilience and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community.

Cllr John Batchelor, our Lead Cabinet Member for Housing, said:

“Our Armed Forces community gives so much in service to the nation, and we are proud to stand with them in return. From housing and employment to wellbeing and community life, we remain committed to backing those who serve and have served.”

Healthy and supported communities

Four years of local support for Homes for Ukraine

In South Cambridgeshire, we've welcomed over 1,000 Ukrainians into the district thanks to the incredible support of residents.

The scheme has provided a unique experience for those who have hosted a Ukrainian family, and we wanted to share some of those stories with you.

“We are hosting a woman who came to us four years ago, as a student at a university which was experiencing heavy Russian bombing. Her home had been destroyed and her father killed during the invasion, and her only close living relatives, were stranded in Russian controlled Ukraine. After a perilous journey alone to leave Ukraine, she arrived in the UK and quickly became an important part of our family. She is a remarkable, stoical young woman who is now contributing to our society and has made many new friends here. We have learned a great deal from each other, and we are very grateful for having had this opportunity.” – South Cambridgeshire Host

“In 2022 we opened our home to a young Ukrainian couple including both her mother and his mother as well as their 14-year-old dog. We now have so many warm memories of shared meals and chats as well as a chance to offer guidance as they settled into their new lives. As the young couple were leaving to start a life in London, they said ‘You gave us a home and a start and we will never forget that.’ The connection continues as her mother lives with us still.” – South Cambridgeshire Host

“We decided to host a Ukrainian refugee during the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine; we felt very strongly about the aggression towards Ukraine and the impact this would have on everyday people. This has been a new experience for our family but has generally worked well; with some settling in, getting to know one another and the initial language challenges, we have slipped into a comfortable routine. It works well as we have integrated just enough, with shared family mealtimes and being there to support when needed, as well as maintaining our own respective independencies. Our guest has built up her own social network, but knows we are also here if needed, and hopefully allowing her to lead the best life possible as a young woman at this time.” – South Cambridgeshire Host

Want to become a host?

Are you interested in becoming a long term, or temporary host under the Homes for Ukraine scheme? If you are, please contact us for more information.

e: HFULiaison@scambs.gov.uk t: 01954 713411

Healthy and supported communities

Support to continue living safely at home

The Cambs Home Improvement Agency (Cambs HIA) - one of our shared services - has appointed six new contractors to work on its bathroom and kitchens contract.

As specialists in adaptations for disabled and elderly people, Cambs HIA designs modern bathrooms to enable residents to remain in the safety of their own home for as long as possible.

The Agency works on behalf of ourselves, Cambridge City and Huntingdonshire District councils and spends about £4 million on adapted bathrooms every four years - that's around 800 bathrooms over the contract term.

As part of a commitment to tackling health inequalities, Cambs HIA recognises the importance of commissioning services which promote safety and independence and enable people to maximise the time spent in good health and to remain at home for as long as possible.

Adapted bathrooms help prevent trips and falls, a major reason why people, especially older people, attend local accident and emergency departments.

Cambs HIA's role is to help disabled residents access trusted contractors to work on their home and also to support that person through their adaptation pathway.

All contractors are checked for their financial, safety, competence and safeguarding compliance and collectively have years of experience in this type of work.

If you or a loved one needs help to adapt your home, contact hia@cambshia.org call **01954 713330** or visit their social media channels which are listed at linktr.ee/cambshia

Healthy and supported communities

Have a car and spare time? Become a volunteer driver

Volunteer drivers can have a huge impact by helping people who may be elderly, disabled, isolated, or unable to use public transport.

This support can help them attend essential appointments such as GP visits, hospital appointments, or simply get out to a social event or community club. This can help build a strong sense of community, while also reducing loneliness and social isolation.

There are many ways to volunteer within a car scheme, and you don't always need to drive to make a difference. Volunteering is usually flexible, with no fixed times. You could be working full or part-time, self-employed or retired and still help.

Volunteer car schemes are supported by the Cambridgeshire Peterborough Combined Authority across the county. Drivers use their own vehicles, will undergo a free DBS check and be issued an ID badge. The Combined Authority also support with a reimbursement for mileage and reasonable expenses.

For more information on becoming a volunteer or to be put in contact with your local car scheme in South Cambridgeshire, please contact duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk

Driver Carol Holloway, supports the Trumpington and Grantchester Scheme and said:

"It is wonderful to be able to make such a huge difference to someone's life by offering such a small thing as giving a lift. It is very satisfying and also fun!"

Drivers Hilary and Christine from the Heron Volunteer Car Scheme said: *"We like doing something for the village and we like helping others. It is often said that the Heron drivers help to relax the passenger and reduce their stress in attending a medical appointment. Many of the passengers happily chat away to their driver."*

Being green to our core

Greater Cambridge greenways open up access to nature

Many of us choose to spend more time outdoors during the summer months – by walking to the next village, cycling with family, or heading out into nature.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership's (GCP) greenways are designed to help more people do just that, while protecting the rural character we all value.

What are the Greater Cambridge greenways?

The greenways are a 150km network of 12 walking and cycling-friendly routes connecting Cambridge with its surrounding villages, making journeys safer and easier. They are being built by the Greater Cambridge Partnership, of which we are a member.

The greenways help people travel more sustainably by walking or wheeling, but they also have the added benefit of increasing access to nature and the positive impact we know that has on our mental and physical health.

Parts of the existing public rights of way have historically been inaccessible for some users, such as people in wheelchairs and with pushchairs, due to uneven surfaces and poor end-to-end connections.

At the heart of the greenways is a focus on making countryside routes usable for more people all yearround. All-weather surfaces will improve accessibility, and where possible, parallel grass strips will be provided for those who prefer travelling on softer ground.

Furthermore, the creation of official bridleways will allow access for a wider group of users, including equestrians and cyclists. This will help more people to enjoy active lifestyles and time outside.

The GCP has sought local views on these plans, alongside heritage and planning experts to ensure designs are sensitive to the landscape and include biodiversity improvements. In Meldreth, work with residents and the parish council helped to provide appropriate fencing and lighting on the new station link.

On new rural public rights of way, the GCP is proposing sealed golden gravel surfacing. Suggested by stakeholders, its lighter colour blends into the rural environment. Examples are found within Coe Fen, Cambridge, where the rural character has been protected even within an urban context, and White Fen Droveaway, north of Lode.

Most of the greenways are advancing through final design stages to construction, with multiple sections already complete, including the villages of Comberton, Fen Ditton and Horningsea, alongside Cowley Road and Barton Road.

For more information and updates, visit www.greatercambridge.org.uk/greenways

Being green to our core

Turning food waste into energy

The introduction of the weekly food waste collection service sees your food waste taken to a local anaerobic digestion facility.

Over half of residents of South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge are now receiving weekly food waste collections as part of the government's recent legislation that requires all councils to provide this service. So far, through the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste service we share with Cambridge City Council, we have collected over 400 tonnes.

Separate from green bin garden waste, the food waste is taken to one of three anaerobic digestion facilities; one of which is Biogen, near Baldock.

Anaerobic digestion is a natural process that converts food waste into renewable electricity, heat, and nutrients, helping reduce carbon emissions and support a circular economy.

How it works

The first stage of the process is de-packaging, which mechanically removes plastic caddy liners. The remaining food waste is then mixed, ready for digestion.

Next, it's fed into large tanks called anaerobic digesters. Inside these tanks there is no oxygen, which creates the right conditions for natural bacteria to break down the food waste. As it breaks down, it produces biogas and a liquid residue known as digestate.

The biogas is collected, stored, then used to produce electricity which feeds into the National Grid. It also produces heat, which can be used on site or supplied to nearby homes, businesses or industrial buildings.

After the digestion process, the remaining digestate is treated to remove harmful bacteria and made safe to use. It's then stored before being used as a biofertiliser in farming - returning valuable nutrients to the soil and reducing the need for chemicals.

Anaerobic digestion offers a practical way to process food waste. It highlights the value of food waste as a resource by producing clean energy and supporting sustainable farming. Because of these benefits, it is also more cost effective compared with industrial composting.

"Biogen is pleased to accept some of Cambridgeshire's food waste for processing at our local Anaerobic Digestion facility near Baldock. This facility processes up to 53,000 tonnes of food waste per annum to generate up to 2.7MW of renewable electricity per year for the National Grid.

Just one full food waste caddy can produce enough energy to power a TV for two hours. Every peeling, scraped plate, and tea bag makes a big difference!" – Darren, Local Authority and Commercial Development Manager at Biogen

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Laurence Damary-Homan, said: *"If food waste collections have started in your area, please share your feedback by completing our short survey. Scan the QR code on this page or visit www.greatercambridgewaste.org/foodwaste where you'll find more information and can check when the service will start in your area, if it hasn't already."*

Being green to our core

Find your favourite wild place in South Cambridgeshire

We asked four residents about their favourite places to enjoy nature and what makes them special – here's what they said, so why not see for yourself?

Vince, Voluntary warden

"One favourite place is Hardwick Wood, an ancient woodland and now a Wildlife Trust reserve. It was described as coppice in the Domesday Book and as a voluntary warden, I help keep that tradition alive. Letting sunlight into the wood benefits the spring wildflowers, particularly the nationally rare Oxlip. It is also great for butterflies like the Silver-washed Fritillary and birds including Marsh Tits."

Elisabeth, Sustainable Shepreth

"The Old School Field in Shepreth was once the village school that closed in the 1970s. Our village volunteers have been busy planting heritage apple trees, wildflowers and herbs, building a magnificent bug hotel and adding exciting new play equipment. It's a favourite haunt for the local nursery school, and a green oasis in which to sit and listen to the birds and the breeze in the trees."

Matheus, Cambourne Resident

“Cambourne Nature reserve is a peaceful place where you can listen to all the birds chirping and I particularly enjoy watching the sun setting over Lake Ewan. The water becomes pink, purple and orange. I see badgers, foxes, squirrels and muntjacs on my walks with my family and our dog, Mowgli who loves chasing the squirrels.

In summer, the grass is very tall, and I once built a den which I kept visiting until the grass was cut at the end of August. I enjoy the view from Crow Hill - you can see the whole town from there. Last year, I watched the red moon with my friends and neighbours. It was amazing, the whole community gathered there!”

Helen, Bumblebee Conservation Trust Volunteer

“The bridleways around Caxton hold special remnants of unspoilt landscape. Threading through farmland, the routes are lined with trees and wildflowers. Occasional bluebells and dog’s mercury hint at ancient woodland. Nature knows it! This is precious habitat, with a buzz and vibrancy. I love to pause by thickets of brambles and stands of wild herbs, to listen and watch.

*What will appear next? A butterfly? A bird? I delight at spotting the nationally rare Ruderal bumblebee (*Bombus ruderatus*). We are so lucky to have populations in Cambridgeshire. Once seen, this beautiful black velvety bumblebee is never forgotten.”*

Where is your go to nature spot?

Tell us by emailing climateandenvironment@scams.gov.uk and we could feature your ideas in the next South Cambs Magazine.

Being green to our core

Protecting our climate and wildlife

Our Climate and Nature Strategy sets out how we will take action on climate change and protect nature across our district over the next five years.

Approved by Full Council earlier this year, thank you to everyone who took part in the public consultation as we developed the new strategy. All the feedback, ideas and lived experience have played a vital role in shaping the strategy and helping us focus on what matters most to our communities.

The adoption of the strategy marks an exciting next chapter in the district’s action on tackling the climate and ecological emergencies as it will guide our environmental priorities for our own estate and operations, as well as the wider district, until 2030.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Laurence Damary-Homan, said: *“Our Strategy is a shared plan for a greener, healthier district. Our Environment Team is already acting on the strategy with a tactical plan to roll things out, and activity is already happening. We’re supporting residents and groups on initiatives that span from how we travel and heat our homes, to how we protect wildlife and support local food.”*

The strategy is framed by eight main areas that shape daily life and are where we have focused our actions to have the greatest impact:

Adaptation and resilience: Helping communities, businesses and residents prepare for the impacts of climate change

Transport: Reducing emissions from transport, and promoting active travel through improved walking and cycling infrastructure

Energy and retrofit: Making homes and buildings warmer, cheaper to heat and more efficient to run

Nature and water: Restoring wildlife and habitats, planting trees, improving rivers and streams, protecting chalk streams and supporting nature-friendly farming

Sustainable food: Supporting local, healthy food and the reduction of food waste

Waste minimisation: Reducing waste, increasing recycling rates, and working towards a circular economy through supporting repair and reuse

Businesses, supply chain, and finance: Supporting businesses to reduce emissions, manage resources sustainably and build green skills, whilst working to strengthen the local supply chain

Community support and behaviour change: Helping communities take action through grants, events, training, newsletters, and practical guidance

What this means for you!

Our strategy aims to create a district that is:

- Greener, with more wildlife and high-quality green spaces
- Healthier, with cleaner air and homes that are well-equipped for all seasons
- Fairer, supporting everyone, including those most vulnerable
- More prepared to deal with the current and future impacts of climate change

We need your help

As well as the actions that we have committed to, the transition to a low-carbon, resilient district will rely on actions taken in our everyday lives and the behaviour changes that we make. We will provide support, through trusted information, myth-busting and clear guidance, financial support and grant funding, as well as sharing opportunities for you to commit to actions in your own life or join up with a community group or scheme.

Get involved

Visit www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-and-environment to learn more about the strategy, find resources and apply for grants. You can also sign up for our Zero Carbon Communities newsletter to stay updated on local projects and opportunities.

Being green to our core

Help with energy bills and home improvement

Action on Energy is a partnership between the councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Through the partnership, we support our communities by offering advice on how to save money on energy bills and reduce carbon emissions through improved home energy efficiency.

Available resources include access to funding, guidance and installation information for those wanting to upgrade their home energy efficiency themselves.

There is also information on building regulations and planning, installation protections, and information on wider support available in the district.

Installing home energy efficiency upgrades during the warmer months can help prepare your home for colder weather and the associated energy bills later in the year. Planning and completing upgrades in advance may reduce the risk of heating issues in the coldest months, while warmer conditions can also allow for easier scheduling and less installation disruption.

Funding

Home energy efficiency upgrades are now available under the Warm Homes: Local Grant, funded by the UK Government.

You may be eligible if:

- Your household (or your tenants) have a combined annual income of up to £36,000, or are in receipt of specified means-tested benefits

And:

- Your property has an Energy Performance Certificate rating of D to G or is a park home.

Measures available can include insulation, air source heat pumps, solar panels and ventilation improvements. A full list is available on the Action on Energy website.

To learn more about eligibility and to apply for funding, visit

www.actiononenergycambs.org/funding

For general enquiries please email actiononenergy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Find out more about Action on Energy here: www.actiononenergycambs.org

t: **01223 457340**

Facebook: Action on Energy

Instagram: @actiononenergycambs

X: @ActionOnEnergy

Sustainable homes and vibrant places

Big ideas from little planners

This spring, local children have been helping our planners and designers imagine what some of Greater Cambridge's newest places could look and feel like in years to come.

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Youth Engagement Service (YES) has been working with primary school pupils to make sure young people's voices are heard in major development projects, giving them the chance to learn, contribute ideas, and feel connected to the places around them.

Exploring Bourn Airfield's future

In March 2026, pupils from a primary school in Bourn took part in a YES design workshop linked to plans for a new mixed-use development at Bourn Airfield. During their visit, the children explored the site, discovered its military history and archaeology, and learned how large developments are planned from the ground up.

Using themes such as community, connectivity, character and climate, the pupils created drawings and ideas showing the kind of neighbourhoods they would like to grow up in. Their work will help inform the emerging Hawthorn Gate Design Code, which will guide how the new village at Bourn develops over time.

Reimagining spaces at Cambridge Science Park

YES also delivered a series of three workshops with pupils from Milton Church of England Primary School, linked to the proposed redevelopment of Cambridge Science Park within Milton parish. Children aged 10 to 12 took part in site visits and creative sessions led by placemaking professionals, sharing ideas on how public spaces could be made more welcoming for young people. Pupils also explored how the environment around them can inspire future careers in science, technology, engineering and maths.

During their final visit, the pupils saw bird and bug boxes they had designed installed on site – a reminder that their ideas had made a real difference. They also received an update on the plans for the Science Park and enjoyed a visit to the Cambridge Science Centre.

Why youth engagement matters

Projects like these show why youth engagement is essential to creating successful places. By involving children early, the programme helps unlock understanding of the planning process and shows that young people can influence how communities grow. Through hands-on workshops, pupils build confidence, creativity and teamwork while learning how design, nature and everyday

needs connect. Young participants bring fresh perspectives on play, safety and sustainability, helping shape more inclusive environments. Ultimately, youth engagement fosters a sense of ownership and belonging, connecting future generations to the places they will use and care for responsibly together.

Sustainable homes and vibrant places

Shaping the future of Greater Cambridge together

Earlier this year, residents and communities across Greater Cambridge were invited to comment on the draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan, an important document that will guide how Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire grow over the coming years.

The eight-week consultation, which ran from December 2025 to January 2026, generated a strong response.

Over 7,000 comments were submitted by residents, community groups, businesses and organisations. To support this, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning – the Royal Town Planning Institute’s current Planning Authority of the Year – hosted 32 in person events, attended markets and fairs, delivered leaflet drop offs in public spaces, and ran four online webinars, giving people a range of ways to get involved.

The Local Plan sets out where new homes and workplaces may be built to meet future needs, alongside the infrastructure that supports them - such as transport, schools, health services, green spaces and community facilities. For South Cambridgeshire, one of the fastest growing rural districts in the country, it is a key opportunity to guide growth in a way that protects what residents value most: thriving villages, countryside, and strong communities.

All comments received during the consultation are now being carefully reviewed by our planning officers. This feedback will help shape the next version of the Plan, known as the Proposed Submission Local Plan. This will be published for consultation later in the summer this year, ahead of its submission for Independent Examination. The next consultation will focus on whether the Plan meets legal requirements and is supported by robust evidence.

Alongside community feedback, young people have also been given a voice in shaping the Plan’s long term vision. During the consultation period, the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Youth Engagement Service worked with the Planning Policy Team to run design workshops with pupils from Monkfield Park Primary School and Cottenham Village College. Students explored themes such as climate change, biodiversity, wellbeing, homes and infrastructure, sharing ideas about the kind of places they want to see in the future.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, Cllr Henry Batchelor, said: *“The response to the Local Plan consultation shows just how much people care about the future of Greater Cambridge. By listening to residents of all ages, including young people who will live with the long-term impact of these decisions, we can plan growth in a way that reflects local priorities and protect what makes our communities special.”*

Further details about the next consultation will be shared soon. To keep up to date, visit:

www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan

Sustainable homes and vibrant places

Almost 140 new Council homes built in past year

Our New Build Team has had a busy year, surpassing their target for completing new build Council houses.

During the last financial year (April 2025 to March 2026) we successfully completed 136 new homes. This surpasses our previous high of 91 homes in 2022/2023. The new homes range in size from one, two and three bed apartments or maisonettes through to two, three and four bed houses.

Cllr John Batchelor, our Lead Cabinet Member for Housing, said: *“106 of these homes were for affordable rent and 30 homes were available to buy through shared ownership. These homes were built across the district in Barrington, Cambourne, Cottenham, Fulbourn, Northstowe, and Over.”*

Barrington apartments

In Barrington, we delivered a block of nine apartments available for affordable rent. The apartments included energy efficient technologies such as hot water heat pumps, electric vehicle (EV) chargers and balconies with great views of the surrounding fields and nearby a lake.

Fulbourn apartments

In Fulbourn, we delivered three blocks of flats comprising of 22 homes ranging in size from one to three bedrooms, some available for affordable rent and some for shared ownership.

The apartments in Fulbourn include heat pumps, EV chargers, bike stores, private balconies or terrace with easy access to play areas, countryside and footpaths.

What's next?

We have a continuous pipeline of homes we look to deliver each year, with the ambition to deliver an even higher number of new homes this financial year.

One example of this is through our South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership with Hill. We have our first development underway in Cambourne - which includes 102 affordable homes, of which 44 will be flats with one and two bedrooms. Two of the three blocks of flats are due for completion in early 2027 and the final block is due to be ready by 2029. All the flats will have facilities such as allocated parking, passenger lifts, a wide range of energy efficient technologies to help reduce energy bills, and both private and communal outdoor spaces.

Want more information?

- Once available, our affordable rental new build homes can be viewed on Homelink at www.home-link.org.uk
- Our shared ownership new build homes are all advertised through estate agents William H Brown: www.williamhbrown.co.uk e: SCDC@williamhbrown.co.uk

Further information regarding current and future new developments can also be at www.scamb.gov.uk/housing/new-build-council-homes

Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire

Local business celebrates 11 years of vintage style, creativity and community

For over a decade, The Curiosity Fair has been a much-loved destination for shoppers seeking something different.

Founded by Jo Atherton, the business has grown steadily into a thriving series of events with a loyal following of customers and traders alike.

Blending vintage, antiques, retro finds, and collectables alongside talented makers, crafters and local artisans, each fair offers an eclectic mix designed to encourage discovery and creativity.

Regularly supported on our platform visitsouthcambs.co.uk the fairs are held at Manor Farm, Bourn and Scotsdale's, Great Shelford. The events support local causes, including The Wildlife Trust and the Cambridge Cancer Help Centre.

In 2025, it was recognised as a Small Business Awards finalist, reflecting its community impact and continued success as an independent enterprise.

With an emphasis on buying local and shopping independently, the fairs champion small businesses while encouraging recycling, upcycling and conscious consumption.

Alongside the established fairs, Jo organised A Country Market at Manor Farm in April, featuring food producers alongside local craftspeople and artisans celebrating both regional produce and creativity.

More than just markets, The Curiosity Fair events have become community gatherings that celebrate craftsmanship, sustainability and the joy of discovering something truly unique.

Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire Summer is here...

..and there's so much to enjoy across South Cambridgeshire.

And what better way to celebrate the season than exploring the many feasts, fetes and festivals taking place across the district this summer?

There's the Fen Edge Festival in Cottenham and the Landbeach Party in the Park - full of family fun, live music, street food and community spirit.

If you're looking for big names in entertainment, the Histon and Impington Recreation Ground Centenary sees stand up from Shaparak Khorsandi as well as an evening with former World Championship boxer Barry McGuigan, while Shelford Festival and Feast hosts music from Pixie Lott and Trevor Nelson, while Milton Jones provides the laughs. Both events also feature local talent and activities for all the family.

If you are planning your own summer fete or street party, you may need to apply for a Temporary Event Notice at least 10 days before the event. This can be done on our website – just search “event notice”.

Summer is also a popular time for beer festivals – keep an eye on our social media accounts for events in your area.

National Picnic Week is a great opportunity to enjoy our beautiful green spaces like Duxford's Brewery Field or Millbridge Brook Meadows Park in Gamlingay. Nip along to a farm shop, deli or local market and treat yourself to some lovely fresh local produce.

Speaking of markets, there are plenty to visit all year round. These are enhanced by one-off events like “Meet the Makers and Creators” at Homemade at the Barn in Kneesworth on Saturday 27 June.

The school holidays can seem to stretch on forever but there are plenty of ways to keep the kids entertained like craft days at Denny Abbey, family ceilidhs in Histon, archery in Thriplow or pottery classes in Barton.

The district is home to a range of accommodation for visiting family and friends, including The Lodge at Duxford, the Three Hills at Bartlow, and The Red House in Longstowe which all featured in Channel 4's Four In A Bed. We also have camping and glamping sites like Gayton Farm in Horningsea and Shepreth Mill for anyone who fancies being close to nature.

Our dedicated leisure and hospitality sector website visitsouthcambbs.co.uk is constantly updated with things to do and places to go in the district.

Cllr Peter McDonald, Lead Cabinet Member for Economic Development, said: “*South Cambridgeshire businesses in the tourism sector and event organisers can benefit from a free listing on our popular Visit South Cambs website.*”

Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire

Thriving farm shops support sustainable shopping

One of our priorities is helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire, with a strong emphasis on encouraging you to shop locally and reduce environmental impact.

Across our diverse district we have encouraged businesses to embrace greener habits, diversifying offerings to meet changing customer needs and to back local producers.

One example of this can be seen at Frank's Farm in Elsworth where traditional farm buildings have been transformed into a vibrant community hub of shops and other local initiatives including a deli and café, inhouse butchery and bakery, chocolatier, and a newly opened cookery school for educational experiences. The farm is also home to weekly park runs and community focused seasonal events.

This bold innovation reflects a growing trend among rural businesses to create sustainable, multi-purpose destinations which support our local circular economy and encourage more environmentally conscious lifestyles.

Through a combination of grant funding delivered by our Economic Development and Investments Team, advice and wider business support, we have worked with several other similar businesses and producers to enable their growth. For example, support from the Rural England Prosperity Fund helped Willow Grange Farm in Chittering to invest in their facilities and create an onsite butchery and deli.

Beyond grant funding, we offer a range of support services designed to help rural businesses succeed. This includes business advice, signposting to future funding opportunities, and initiatives aimed at improving sustainability and becoming greener.

Returning to terrific local enterprises, The Longhorn Farm Shop in Cottenham provides high quality, grass-fed and traditionally reared livestock that reduces food miles while supporting local supply chains.

Gamlingay's Woodview Farm Shop and Café is a family-run business that boasts a menu of home cooked daily specials made with produce from their own farm alongside trusted local suppliers. An ethos of traditional market gardening and supporting community has existed here since 1926.

In Hildersham, Flourish Farm Shop is a 56-acre regenerative farm and superb example of ensuring fresh and healthy produce is available to its local community. Their 'Veg Boxes' initiative gets nutritious vegetables delivered straight to your door – "farm to fork" neatly summed up.

Cllr Peter McDonald, our Lead Cabinet Member for Economic Development, said: *"Shopping locally supports our businesses and helps create a greener future by reducing transport emissions. Our district's network of farm shops plays an important role in this, strengthening local supply chains and connecting people with where their food comes from."*

By continuing to support and invest in these businesses, we are helping build a stronger local economy that benefits both our communities and the environment. We encourage residents to explore their local farm shops and consider the small choices that can make a real difference."

Competition

Four tickets to Heritage Live Festivals at Audley End Estate 2026

We're giving one lucky winner the chance to win four tickets to a show of your choice at Heritage Live Festivals, set in the stunning grounds of English Heritage's Audley End Estate.

This year's headliners include:

Scissor Sisters – 6 August

Fresh from their major reunion, arena tour and Glastonbury return, expect a high-energy set packed with iconic hits including *Take Your Mama* and *I Don't Feel Like Dancin'*.

The Streets – 7 August

Experience A Grand Don't Come For Free performed live in full for the first time, alongside classic tracks such as *Dry Your Eyes* and *Fit But You Know It*.

Pete Tong Ibiza Classics – 8 August

An orchestral celebration of dance music, as Pete Tong and the Essential Orchestra bring iconic Ibiza anthems and classic house tracks to life.

Faithless – 9 August

Celebrating 30 years of pioneering electronic music, featuring eradefining anthems including *Insomnia* and *God Is a DJ*.

From pop and indie to orchestral dance and electronic legends, this is a chance to experience world-class live music in a truly iconic location.

Tickets for all shows are on sale now via [HeritageLive.Seetickets.com](https://www.heritagelive.seetickets.com)

One winner will receive all four tickets to a Heritage Live Festivals 2026 show at Audley End Estate of their choosing out of the four shows mentioned within the competition. No cash alternative. No travel or parking included.

To enter

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Until which year will our new Climate and Nature Strategy guide our environmental priorities?

A) 2030

B) 2032

C) 2040

You can enter the competition online. www.scambs.gov.uk

Click 'Apply' and then 'Reader's competition'.

Don't have internet access?

You can enter by post. Send your name, address and telephone number, along with your answer to the question, to: South Cambs Magazine Competition, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, CB23 6EA

Closing date for entries is Monday 6 July 2026 at 5pm.

The terms and conditions for our Reader Competition are available at www.scambs.gov.uk/t-c or can be requested by calling us.

The winner will be notified in July and announced in the autumn issue of South Cambs Magazine.

Winner's spotlight

The winner of our previous competition was Elizabeth Story from Balsham, who won a three-course bottomless dinner for four people, at Scott's All Day in Cambridge. She said: *"I was delighted to hear that I had won dinner at Scott's All Day and very much look forward to visiting with friends."*