

District Councillor's report to Parish Council November 2023

Four-day working week discussed at Full Council

In September, South Cambs District Council received a second letter from local government minister Lee Rowley MP asking to stop the trial. I have continued to raise concerns about the four-day week, especially the financial and reputational cost to residents.

The reports suggest that the administration has saved on agency fees so far by filling nine of 23 'hard-to-fill' posts – helped by the incentive of a four-day week. This should be considered in light of the full facts and figures, which show that **£189,153 extra** was spent in the first 3 months of the four-day week trial. These figures can be seen below:

Q4 2021/22 (without the four-day week) £1,148,728

Q4 2022/23 (with four-day week) £1,337,881

The estimated costs for the four-day week for bin collections are also higher. This is due to the need to recruit two more bin crews with two more electric bin lorries. These costs are summarised below:

	3-month trial	Year 1	Year 2
Cost	£66,000 (£33,000 per Council For SCDC & CCC)	£132,000	£207,000

The figures are currently being scrutinised and I will continue to raise concerns to ensure residents are getting value for money.

I do not believe it is right that 80% of elected councillors have not been given the opportunity to vote on the four-day week. With something like this, which has a huge impact on all residents, it should be decided in a way where all have a voice.

Above all, I want to make sure residents are getting the services they deserve from their local council. At present, I cannot see any reliable proof of improved service. Now, more than ever, we need more working hours, more council officers and an even stronger work ethic – not fewer working hours, with residents paying for five days' work but only getting four days' work.

At the full Council meeting on the 5th October, I seconded a motion that would have allowed all councillors a vote on the four-day week. Unfortunately, this was unanimously rejected and it was decided that this matter would be referred to Cabinet. I have made very clear my opposition to this decision. Based on the average wage and contracted hours figures for full-time staff as mentioned during the meeting, £3.3 million will be spent in 12 months on salaries alone for hours not worked.

I will continue to analyse the facts and figures and will continue to challenge the four-day week, which sees residents paying for five days' work but only getting four days' service.

Find your nearest pink bin to recycle electrical goods

Bright pink bins for electrical waste have resulted in nine times more e-waste being collected for recycling since being introduced last year. Over 49 tonnes of small electrical appliances have been collected for recycling in the pink bins – instead of it all ending up in the black bin.

The pink bins are suitable for most small electrical items which have a plug or battery – including phones, toys, kettles, toasters, and many more. Items which cannot be reused are then sent to specialist operators for recycling into new products.

I encourage everyone to recycle their old electrical goods – so please see the list below to find your nearest pink bin.

- Abbey Pool (Cambridge, CB5 8NT)
- Abode Development - Underground (Cambridge, CB2 9PG)
- Aura Development - Underground (Cambridge, CB2 9LS)
- CAMYOGA (Cambridge, CB4 3AX)
- Glebe Farm Underground (Cambridge, CB2 9NR)
- Gwydir Street Car Park (Cambridge City) (Cambridge, CB1 2LW)
- Lammas Land (Cambridge City) (Cambridge, CB3 9JJ)
- Melbourn Village Car Park (Melbourn, SG8 6DZ)
- Morrisons Car Park (Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6FY)
- Tesco (Fulbourn, CB1 9BF)
- Tesco (Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB23 8EL)

Cost of living support for residents

I am pleased the Council is supporting people with electric blankets, slow cookers, hot water bottles and warm clothes which are being distributed to residents in fuel poverty. If Parish Councillors know of people who are struggling with the cost of living and require support, please visit the council's website and refer to the cost of living support section (scambs.gov.uk). All information is dealt with in a confidential manner.

More Community Hubs (updated name for Warm Hubs) are being made available across Cambridgeshire thanks to funding of £200,000 from NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Community Hubs provide a warm, safe, welcoming environment for residents. Please see the full list of Community Hubs in South Cambridgeshire with addresses and opening times. I have given you a list of some of the community hubs below and highlighted the one in our ward so parish councillors are aware if residents require this service.

Caldecote Community Hub - Caldecote Pavilion, Furlong Way, Highfields, Caldecote, Cambridge, CB23 7ZH. Opens: Tuesday, 9.30am - 3.30pm

• **Cambourne Community Hub** - Cambourne Community Centre, High Street, Great Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6GW. Opens: Monday and Friday, 9.30am - 1pm

• **Comberton Community Hub** - Comberton Baptist Church, Green End, Comberton, Cambridge, CB23 7DY. Opens: Monday, 3pm - 5pm

• **Gamlingay Community Hubs** - Gamlingay Baptist Church's Back Room Cafe, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay, Sandy, SG19 3JR. Opens: Monday, 9.30am - 3pm and every third Sunday, 10am - 4pm. Also at **Gamlingay Eco Hub Community Centre**, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay, Sandy, SG19 3JR. Opens: Monday - Wednesday, 9am - 4pm; Thursday - Friday 9am - 1pm; and Saturday, 10am - 12pm

• **Grantchester Coffee and Croissants Community Hub** - Grantchester Communal Hall, Tabrum Close, Grantchester, Cambridge, CB3 9NW. Opens: Friday, 10am - 12pm

• **Hardwick Community Hub** - Hardwick Evangelical Church, Broadway House, 149 - 151 St Neots Road, Hardwick, Cambridge, CB23 7QJ. Opens: Tuesday on a fortnightly basis, 11am - 1.30pm

• **Horningsea Community Hub** - Horningsea Pavilion, King's Farm, High Street, Horningsea, Cambridge, CB25 9JG. Opens: Tuesday, 10am - 12.30pm

• **Landbeach Community Hub** - All Saints Church, Green End, Landbeach, Cambridge, CB25 9FD. Opens: Wednesday, 10.30am - 2pm

• **(Melbourn) MACS Cozy Corner** - Vicarage Close Community Hall, Vicarage Close, Melbourn, Royston, SG8 6DY. Opens: Monday and Thursday, 12pm - 3pm

• **Meldreth Community Hub** - Meldreth Sheltered Housing Building, Elin Way, Meldreth, Royston, SG8 6LX. Opens: Tuesday and Thursday, 12pm - 3pm

• **Northstowe Community Lounge** - Northstowe Temporary Community Centre, 1 The Green, Pathfinder Way, Northstowe, Cambridge, CB24 1FD. Opens: Thursday, 6pm - 8pm

• **(Sawston) Footprints Community Hub** - Within the Footprints Cafe, 1 High Street, Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3BG. Opens: Monday - Friday, 8.30am - 3.30pm

• **(Willingham) Octagon Warm Hub** - The Octagon, St Mary and All Saints Church, Church Street, Willingham, Cambridge, CB24 5HS. Opens: Monday, 9am - 1pm

Development off Teversham Road - Fulbourn

I have had a few residents contact me with different concerns regarding the development by Hill off Teversham Road in Fulbourn for 110 houses. I am happy to liaise with the developer and planning officers if residents have any concerns, I will also be chairing every other meeting held between Councillors and the developer. It was a shame that an incorrect planning illustration had gone out in an information leaflet to local residents causing concern, I have been assured from the developer that this was a mistake and the correct plan for this site will be adhered to.

*Thank you for taking the time to read my report; if you have any questions or want to discuss any of the issues raised email me on graham.cone@councillor.online or ring 07595 361 285 (please leave a voicemail if I am unavailable) **Councillor Graham Cone***