

Report of Councillor Carla Hofman and Councillor John Williams to Parish Councils for July 2024.

*This report contains factual information which we hope will be of use and of interest to the parish council and to the wider community of the parish.
For queries please email us at cllr.williamsjg@scambsgov.uk or cllr.hofman@scambsgov.uk*

A very short report because of the General Election on 4 July.

Audit Update

We just wanted to let you know that South Cambridgeshire District Council has published its draft 2023/24 accounts on its website.

The draft accounts will be considered by the Council's Audit Committee and then we wait until November for our new auditors KPMG to start the audit.

www.scambsgov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/finance-and-budget/council-accounts-and-annual-governance-statement

New communication for Clerks

A new communication that has been created for parish/town clerks – the Clerks e-Bulletin. Following feedback from the Peer Review, and a discussion with a group of clerks back in February 2024, we have looked to make improvements with communication and support for clerks. The first Clerks e-Bulletin was sent out this Thursday, 27 June. The new communication has been created on Sway – a more interactive and engaging way of communicating information than the existing Parish e-Bulletin which is sent as a PDF. The Clerks e-Bulletin will be sent bi-monthly, in alternate months that the Parish e-Bulletin is sent.

The first edition includes the following content: welcome/introduction, SCDC employee starters/leavers, campaigns and awareness days, summer community forums, mobile food hub, training and opportunities, general election, mental wellbeing, and FAQs.

Clerks can provide feedback on the new communication, and we encourage their input on topics for future editions. Some suggestions have already been received: e.g. Autumn/Winter editions – cover questions on precept, information of calculating Tax Base and Band D levels. Other topics: S106 queries, community grants etc.

Business Support's Youth Engagement Programme

Together with Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council has launched two programmes of work to support market traders. These are being funded by the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which is being administered locally by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

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

- Meanwhile, a Youth Enterprise Support Programme will support young people who want to start their own business, to get started. The programme will work with young individuals aged 16-25 to develop essential skills, knowledge and will include opportunities to gain real market experience. Candidates will also have the opportunity to apply for £1,000 grants to transform their business ideas into local market ventures.
- Young people who are interested in the Youth Enterprise Support Programme can register to start their journey from conception to commerce at <https://nxgconnect.co.uk/youth-enterprise-programme/>
- If you have any queries on either scheme, please contact Business Support Key Projects Team Leader Katherine Southwood on Katherine.Southwood@scamb.gov.uk

Carla and John