

October 2023 Update from Cllr Heather Williams

Leader of the Conservative Group at South Cambridgeshire District Council

Four-day working week discussed at Full Council

At the Full Council meeting on Thursday 5 October, we submitted a motion that would have allowed all councillors a vote on the four-day week. Unfortunately, this was unanimously rejected by the Lib Dems – who then voted to refer the issue to their Cabinet, ending the debate.

We made very clear our opposition to this decision, which showed complete contempt for the majority of residents in South Cambridgeshire. 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 – and that's before you include paying for part-time and some of the additional costs incurred by employing people.

We were disappointed by the decision and conduct of the Lib Dems in Full Council. By prematurely shutting down debate on the four-day week, Conservative, Independent and backbench Lib Dem councillors were denied the chance to vote on this important issue.

We are continuing 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.

Northstowe's sports pavilion is opening soon

Construction work for Northstowe's phase one sports pavilion is now complete – with opening dates to be confirmed soon.

Northstowe residents have had to wait longer than expected for these important community facilities to be delivered. Delays to decision-making could have been avoided if Lib Dems had followed our recommendations. Nevertheless, the delivery of the sports facilities for Northstowe is a welcome celebration for all councillors.

The sports pavilion meets the specifications of Sport England, the Football Association and Rugby Football Union – featuring a 4G astroturf pitch, fully accessible changing facilities and a large clubroom with a commercial kitchen.

We are looking forward to seeing these facilities enjoyed by local residents for many years to come.

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.

We are encouraging everyone to recycle their old electrical goods – so please see the list below or enter your postcode [here](#) 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

We appreciate that many are struggling financially at the moment and are pleased the Council is supporting people with this. Electric blankets, slow cookers, hot water bottles and warm clothes are being distributed to residents suffering from fuel poverty.

If you are struggling with the cost of living crisis and require support, or would like to support those who are, please visit the council's website: [Cost of living support - South Cambs District](#)

[Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](http://scambs.gov.uk). There is help out there so please do not suffer in silence. 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. Why not go along?

- **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

Green Grants for Cambs businesses

The Council has teamed up with partner councils and business charity Allia to launch an 18-month project to help smaller local businesses go green. The project aims to help businesses reduce their carbon footprint, reduce energy costs and become more sustainable.

Applications are now open. If you are interested, please consider [applying online now](#).

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

Cllr Heather Williams

Leader of the Opposition at South Cambridgeshire District Council

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