

December 2023 Update from Cllr Heather Williams

Leader of the Conservative Group at South Cambridgeshire District Council

Full Council update: road charging motion and General Fund

At the last Full Council meeting on 30 November, we put forward a motion that stated: “This Council is opposed to any form of road charging in Cambridgeshire.” The Lib Dems voted down this motion, saying that “road charging is coming across the country”.

We were extremely disappointed that the administration was unable to pledge their support against road charging in Cambridgeshire, despite the fact that residents have firmly spoken out against it.

We have always been the only party unified in its view against the Cambridge congestion charge. We will continue to represent the voices of residents when it comes to opposing road charging – which would be an unfair additional blanket cost to Cambridgeshire.

We also questioned the General Fund, which included a £1 million budget to spruce up the council offices – despite a £2 million overspend this financial year. We will continue to fight for your tax money to go towards benefitting you as residents, rather than stay in the council.

Christmas bin dates

Bin collections will take place as normal until Friday 22 December 2023. Please see the table below for revised dates over the Christmas week:

Original date	Revised date
Tuesday 26 December 2023	Wednesday 27 December 2023
Wednesday 27 December 2023	Thursday 28 December 2023
Thursday 28 December 2023	Friday 29 December 2023
Friday 29 December 2023	Saturday 30 December 2023
Saturday 30 December 2023	n/a
Tuesday 02 January 2024*	02 January 2024*

***Collections will be back to normal from this date.**

Civil Parking Enforcement in South Cambs

Parliament has given Cambridgeshire County Council new Civil Parking Enforcement powers, which will include South Cambs.

The scheme will officially come into effect on 19 December. A Warning Notice will be issued to people who continue to park in restricted areas throughout January – this looks like a parking ticket but there is no fine attached. Penalty Charge Notices will then be issued from 1 February, resulting in fines between £50 and £70 depending on the severity of the offence.

We are encouraging people to always check signs and notices in the area where you are planning to park. Parking restrictions are there for a reason: to ensure maximum safety for everybody. Please do think carefully about where you park, as these new powers mean you're much more likely to be fined for parking where you shouldn't.

Support for residents over Christmas

Christmas can be a difficult time for some, so we want to make sure that those struggling have the support they need.

You can find information on the council's website to get [financial support](#) or [mental health support](#). Please don't suffer in silence. There is always help here at the council if you need it.

Thank you for reading our report. If we can be of any assistance, please do get in touch and we wish you and your friends and family a Merry Christmas and Happy 2024.

Cllr Heather Williams

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