
Report: County Councillor (Hardwick div.) District Councillor (Harston & Comberton) Cllr Michael Atkins April/May 2024

Highlights

- Fully funded EV charge points
- EWR events
- Civil Parking Enforcement early successes
- PCC elections – please remember to bring ID
- Zero carbon grants open to bids
- Contact information

News from the County

Yaxley by-election results

Cllr Andrew Wood (Liberal Democrat) was elected to the Council following a by-election in Yaxley & Farcet. The Liberal Democrats are now the largest group on the County Council. There are no anticipated changes to the groups in administration.

Fully funded EV charging points

The Council is putting together an application for the deployment of local EV infrastructure, typically 7kW chargers in public car parks. These are intended for local residents who do not have off-street parking suitable for home charging. If your village car park might be suitable there will be an online session on 9th May 1-2pm to find out more: sign up here <https://forms.office.com/e/SkSjL78vDG>

East-West Rail

EWR will be holding a number of events to explain how the statutory consultation will take place later this year, and how you can get involved. Ones local to us are: 10th May 2pm-7pm South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne; 22nd May 2pm-7pm Comberton Village Hall.

They have also recently issued Land Interest Questionnaires to potentially affected properties to ensure they have a complete picture of ownership and usage along the proposed route. If any residents have questions about this there are some FAQs available here:

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/land-interest-questionnaires-liq-faqs>

Civil Parking Enforcement

CPE officers have been active across South Cambs and indeed in our own villages over the last few months. Over 150 tickets have been issued as a result of 330 patrols. If you are aware of any illegal parking hotspots that would benefit from a patrol, do let me know.

Primary school offers

Families will now have received offers for children starting primary school in September. 96% are attending their first choice and 99% one of their top three preferences. If any families are having difficulties with this process or would like more information on appeals or school transport, please get in touch. Offers need to be accepted either through the Council or the offered school so please remember to do this promptly.

Cambridge 2050

Michael Gove (Secretary of State) has published a Ministerial Statement on his growth plans for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. It confirms that a Growth Company will be formed reporting to Homes England (the Government's housing agency). There will be no local decision making as part of this, although council leaders will join an advisory committee. There is still no indication as to where the proposed housing (equivalent to 3x the current population of Cambridge) will be sited.

News from GCP & Combined Authority

PCC Elections

A reminder that Police and Crime Commissioner elections will take place on 2nd May. For the first time, photo ID will be required to vote, so please remember to take your driver's licence/passport etc. with you.

News from the District

Allotment toolkit

The Council has published advice on successfully running and maintaining an allotment site, which can be accessed here: <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-action/allotment-toolkit/>

Zero Carbon Community Grants

This popular scheme has opened again for applications to local groups, with themes for this year of Carbon Emission Reduction, Locking up carbon, and Community Engagement. The deadline for applications is the 2nd June. <https://www.scams.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/>

Rural Prosperity Fund

A new scheme to support local business with capital projects has been launched this month. The district has just under £900,000 to award to successful bidders, to foster economic vitality and local amenities. For more details see the grant page here: <https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/rural-england-prosperity-fund/>

Improvements to green spaces

The council-owned green space at the centre of Silverdale Avenue, Coton will be improved with tree and wildflower planting, benches, resurfacing and other improvements. Please let me know if you would like to see a copy of the draft plans.

If Parish councils own land that would benefit from being 'spruced up', in mid-May the Council will open a scheme for bids of a similar nature.

Contact Details

Councillors and residents are welcome to contact me on any issue which is concerning them:

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