

South Cambs Magazine Autumn 2026

Contents

Hello and welcome	2
Contact us	2
Enquiries	3
Putting you first	3
Assisted digital service support	4
News in brief	4
Financially secure and fit for the future	
Latest on local government reorganisation	6
Don't lose your voice – make sure you are registered to vote	7
By the numbers: Making a difference	8
Healthy and supported communities	
Helping residents stay independent for longer with mobile wardens	8
Keep active to stay independent	10
Support every step of the way from pregnancy to pre-school	11
New school year, new experiences	12
Being green to our core	
Latest advice on plastics and disposing of batteries safely	13
A globally rare ecosystem on our doorstep	14
Greenways provide safer streets for everyone	15
A step by step guide to upgrading your home	16
Tackling damp, mould and condensation	17
Sustainable homes and vibrant places	
Understanding the Greater Cambridge Development Corporation	18
Final chance to help shape Greater Cambridge's Local Plan	19
Young minds, lasting impact	20
Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire	
Our shared workspace provides launchpad for success	20
Village spotlight: Shepreth, Foxton and Meldreth	21
Coffee, cake and community	22
Competition	
Win a course of relaxing treatments	22

Hello

Welcome to the autumn edition of South Cambs Magazine

It has been a busy few months for us at South Cambridgeshire District Council since the last edition of South Cambs Magazine, and as we head into autumn it looks like things are set to stay just as busy.

This edition is packed with updates from the District Council, but more importantly, it celebrates the fantastic work people across our communities are doing every day to make South Cambridgeshire an even better place to live.

Many of you will know that we've been working with councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on Local Government Reorganisation, which will replace the existing district and county councils with fewer, larger unitary councils. Although the Government has delayed its decision on the final boundaries, there is still plenty happening locally, and you can read more about what it means for our area on page 6.

One of the things I'm most proud of is our support for Mobile Warden Schemes across South Cambridgeshire. These schemes help older residents live independently in their own homes for longer, providing regular visits, practical support and reassurance for both residents and their families. You can read more about these remarkable schemes, and the dedicated people behind them, on page 18.

I'm always inspired by the incredible things happening in communities across South Cambridgeshire, and this edition shines a spotlight on Shepreth, Foxton and Meldreth on page 21. From woodland walks to the Rail and Ale Trail, there's so much to enjoy on our doorstep; a great reminder that a great day out doesn't have to mean travelling far.

There's much more to discover in this edition, and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Cllr Bridget Smith
Leader
South Cambridgeshire District Council

Contact us

It's easier to contact us online. You can do more online at a time to suit you.

Chat with SAM, our artificial intelligence (AI) assistant

SAM can help you instantly, or signpost you to the relevant team that can support you further. Just click on the speech bubble icon on our website and ask SAM a question.

www.scambs.gov.uk

Create a My South Cambs account

See personalised information – such as your Council Tax payments or your Benefits account.

<https://mysouthcambs.scambs.gov.uk>

Or you can email us, phone us, write to us, visit our offices, or get in touch using our social media channels.

email: **scdc@scambs.gov.uk** phone: 01954 713 000

South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambs Hall, Cambourne Business Park,
Cambourne, CB23 6EA

Facebook, LinkedIn: South Cambridgeshire District Council

X, Instagram: @SouthCambs

If you phone us

Our phone line is available 8am to 5:30pm on weekdays - apart from Wednesdays when it stays open later until 6:30pm.

Our AI-powered telephone system makes it easier and faster for you to get the help you need.

When you phone, you'll be asked to briefly explain what your enquiry is about. The more specific you are, the better – our system uses your response to connect you directly with the right advisor, who's trained to deal with your particular issue. Prefer to speak to someone straight away? That's fine. You can still choose to speak to an advisor at any time!

This system is all about giving you a smoother and faster service. So next time you call, try to be as specific as possible.

If you visit us

Our office opening hours are 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. If you come to the office, we'll try our very best to resolve your query there and then. If we can't, our advisors will book you a follow-up appointment when you will be able to speak to someone. Alternatively, you can book your own appointment at [**www.scambs.gov.uk/book-an-appointment**](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/book-an-appointment)

Request a large print copy [**communications@scambs.gov.uk**](mailto:communications@scambs.gov.uk)

Your next issue

The autumn 2026 issue will be delivered between Monday 24 August and Saturday 5 September.

Contact Smart Distribution for delivery enquiries.

e: [**scdc@smartdistribution.co.uk**](mailto:scdc@smartdistribution.co.uk) t: **0800 6444 011**

South Cambs Magazine

Enquiries should be directed to:

Editor: Tom Horn

Editorial: Megan Jerome, Jessica Lydon, Kath Sansom and Lauryn Snow

South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, CB23 6EA

[**communications@scambs.gov.uk**](mailto:communications@scambs.gov.uk)

Design: Danielle Harrington

[**design@danielleharrington.co.uk**](mailto:design@danielleharrington.co.uk)

Advertising: Richard Barron at Media Shed Ltd

Ground Floor, Unit E1, East Court, Enterprise Road, South Park Business Village, Maidstone, ME15 6JF

e: [**lizzy@media-shed.co.uk**](mailto:lizzy@media-shed.co.uk) t: **0207 183 1815**

The opinions and views expressed in South Cambs Magazine are not necessarily those of South Cambridgeshire District Council or Media Shed Ltd. All data contained in advertisements, being subject to the Advertising Standards Authority guidelines, is accepted in good faith at the time of going to press.

Putting you first

If you phone us we will:

- resolve your enquiry as quickly as possible.
- provide voicemail if the person you need is unavailable.
- answer your phone message within three working days.

If you write to us we will:

- reply to your letter or email within 10 working days.

If we write to you we will:

- write in plain language.
- arrange for translation, large type, braille or audio tapes upon request.

If we visit you we will:

- carry identification that you can check with a phone call.
- arrive at the time we say we will, or give you as much notice as possible if we have to change the time.

If we get it wrong we will:

- apologise if we have made a mistake or failed to meet our standards.
- acknowledge your written complaint within three working days.
- reply in full to your complaint within 10 working days.

Assisted digital service support

We run an Assisted Digital Service Support to ensure nobody is excluded from completing an online application or e-form due to difficulty with digital skills or access to a computer. Eligible residents are offered telephone support or face to face help by one of our contact centre advisors. Your local library or Parish Council hub can also help. To take advantage of this service, just call us on 01954 713 000.

News in brief

Cambridge South Station now open

The new Cambridge South Station next to Addenbrooke's Hospital is officially open, transforming how people reach one of the UK's leading healthcare and research hubs. Patients, visitors and employees travelling from across the region can now reach these services and workplaces more easily.

In welcome news for commuters, all train services calling at Meldreth, Shepreth, Foxton, Shelford and Whittlesford Parkway now also stop at this important transport hub. The station is expected to reduce car journeys and ease congestion by providing direct rail access to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. Built with sustainability at its heart, the station boasts strong environmental credentials, including a biodiverse green roof with wildflower planting, solar panels generating renewable energy, and a rainwater harvesting system to help manage drainage. For train times and journey information, visit nationalrail.co.uk

All aboard for a new rail led tourism trail

A new Cam Valley Community Rail Partnership website brings together inspiration for days out, information about the line, and insight into supporting local stations, communities and sustainable travel.

The Partnership, which we are a part of, works to connect people with their local railway and the places it serves, promoting train travel, enhancing station environments, and showcasing the Cam Valley as a place to visit, live and work.

The new website is designed to make it easier and more enjoyable to discover the area by hopping onto the train and straight into an adventure. Visit camvalleycrp.org.uk and see for yourself.

Upcoming Community Forum dates

Community Forums are a great opportunity for local communities to hear from and speak with stakeholders, developers and our colleagues about developments in the area.

The next round of Community Forums will be held on the dates below.

- North West and West Cambridge: 15 October 2026
- Cambridge East: 21 October 2026
- Bourn Airfield and Cambourne: 11 November 2026
- Waterbeach: 4 November 2026
- North East Cambridge: 18 November 2026
- Northstowe: 25 November 2026

For more information, visit: www.scambs.gov.uk/community-and-people/community-forums

If you have feedback on our Community Forums, scan the QR code to share your views with us.

Tiger On Demand expands into new areas of South Cambridgeshire

Tiger On Demand has expanded to serve more villages across South Cambridgeshire. Residents in Barrington, Foxton, Great Shelford, Harlton, Harston, Haslingfield, Hauxton, Little Shelford, Newton, Shepreth, South Trumpington Park and Ride, Stapleford and Whittlesford will be able to enjoy a new, flexible way to travel around the area.

Unlike a traditional bus service, Tiger On Demand operates without fixed routes, allowing passengers to book journeys between convenient virtual bus stops at a time that suits them.

Whether you're heading to the shops, meeting friends or connecting with other transport services, Tiger On Demand offers a convenient and flexible option for local travel. Reserve your journey and travel with ease.

Getting started is simple. Check the online map to find your nearest virtual stop:

transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/buses/tiger-on-demand/

Download the app or book by phone: 01480 595440

Get Active & Healthy 4 Life

Discover a healthier you with our Active & Healthy 4 Life exercise referral scheme, designed to support people managing a range of health conditions.

Our qualified instructors create personalised gym-based exercise programmes, encouraging participants to attend twice a week and providing advice on other activities such as walking, cycling and swimming.

If you are aged 18 or over and looking to manage conditions such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, osteoporosis, arthritis, asthma, or need support before or after an operation, or with your mental health, this scheme could be for you.

Simply ask your health professional to complete the referral form on our website, then contact your preferred sports centre to arrange an appointment with an instructor. The scheme costs £20 per month for four months.

For full details, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/active or email AandH4L@scambs.gov.uk

For those seeking more specialist support, we also offer cardiac rehabilitation sessions at Cambourne, Sawston and Swavesey. To find out more and access this particular referral form, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/cardiac

Children's October half-term netball camp

Join our popular netball camp for children in school years three to nine. Suitable for all abilities and led by qualified coaches, the camp offers a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills and develop existing netball techniques through game-based activities in a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment.

Our October camp will be held on Wednesday 28 October at Impington Sports Centre.

For full details and to book, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/sportscamps

NHBC training hub to open in Northstowe

To help address the skills challenge facing the construction industry, the National House Building Council (NHBC) is investing £100 million in a UK-wide network of 12 training hubs, with one due to open in Northstowe this October.

Delivered in partnership with Keepmoat and Homes England, the hub will train up to 200 apprentices each year.

This purpose-built facility will deliver apprenticeships in the industry's most needed trades, including bricklaying, groundworks, site carpentry and timber frame. Trainees will benefit from practical learning in realistic conditions, developing the skills needed to become site ready professionals.

Businesses interested in taking on an apprentice should visit www.nhbc.co.uk/traininghub

Financially secure and fit for the future Latest on local government reorganisation

We were expecting to receive an update from Government this summer about the new structures that will be put in place as part of local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

However, that announcement was delayed – with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) saying they will let us know their decision by October. Local Council leaders have since called on the Government to make that decision as quickly as possible.

In future, new unitary councils will deliver all services currently provided by county, city and district councils. All existing two-tier councils - like us - will be abolished when the new unitary authorities are established.

As we went to print, we did not know what geographical area these new councils will cover. Government said that more time was needed before a final decision could be reached. MHCLG officials said the information provided that supports the four proposals submitted by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough councils was comprehensive, with no additional evidence required.

Whilst we wait for Government's decision, close collaboration between all seven existing Cambridgeshire and Peterborough councils continues. The councils have worked side by side to prepare for this significant change. As we move into the next phase, our focus remains clear: creating new councils that deliver the best possible services for local people.

Reorganisation is intended to create councils that are easier for you to access the services you need. The Government's aim is to improve services, not reduce them. Residents, communities and stakeholders will be listened to as plans develop, so local identity and local priorities are reflected in future arrangements.

We also want to reassure you that services will continue to run as normal leading up to the creation of the new authorities which is currently planned for April 2028. There are also likely to be elections to shadow unitary councils next May as part of the preparation process.

Our Leader, Cllr Bridget Smith, said: *"We're disappointed to still be waiting for such a key piece of information from Government. We need confirmation of the geographies of the new unitary councils as soon as possible so that we can continue to plan effectively."*

Whatever option is chosen, we'll be making the very best of local government reorganisation for South Cambridgeshire and working hard to ensure that you feel real benefits. For now, though, nothing changes and all our services remain available to you as they always have been."

www.scambs.gov.uk/government-reorganisation

Financially secure and fit for the future

Don't lose your voice – make sure you are registered to vote

With Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) approaching and elections for new shadow councils looking likely in May 2027, now is the perfect time to make sure you are registered to vote.

Every year we write to all households in our district with details of those currently registered to vote in that household. It's important that you review and respond to that letter if you need to, especially if you need to add new electors or remove electors that are no longer living at your address.

Do remember though, any new people added on to the list will also need to register at **www.gov.uk/register-to-vote**

Votes at 16

The Government is in the process of introducing new legislation (The Representation of the People Bill 2026) which will enable 16 and 17 year olds to vote in elections. While the voting age will not change until this new legislation comes into force - which may be after 2028 - you can register to vote now if you are 16! Registering will ensure you can vote as soon as the law is changed. You can find out more at **www.gov.uk** and search 'Votes at 16'.

Is your postal vote expiring?

Recent changes to the law mean that postal vote applications now expire after three years. We are in the process of contacting electors whose postal votes will expire in January 2027. You may receive a text message, email or letter from us letting you know. If you are contacted by us, then you will need to make a new application to ensure your postal vote remains in place. The good news is that it is quick and easy to make a new application online. Just visit **www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote** and complete the online form.

Get involved in local democracy

Did you know that all our Council meetings - held in our Council Chamber at our offices in Cambourne - are fully open to the public? You can find our full calendar of meetings on our website at www.scambs.gov.uk/councillors-and-committees where you can also view meeting agendas. If you would like to come to a meeting, there is no need to book - just head to our office and speak to our friendly colleagues and they will show you the way.

We welcome questions from the public at most of our meetings – so long as those questions follow the rules laid out in our public speaking scheme. If you would like to know more about our decision making process, especially if you are a young person interested in local democracy, please contact the Council's Democratic Services team at **democratic.services@scambs.gov.uk**

Financially secure and fit for the future

By the numbers: Making a difference

Every three months we review how our services are performing and the difference they are making for residents.

Everything we do is only possible thanks to our strong finances. Being financially secure and fit for the future is a priority for us, making sure we spend money wisely, make savings where we can and invest in high-quality services for you.

All our performance results are published on our website at www.scambs.gov.uk/ourperformance and here are some recent highlights.

136 new Council homes during 2025-26

More council homes were delivered than in any previous year, helping local people afford to live in South Cambridgeshire. New homes were built in Barrington, Cambourne, Cottenham, Fulbourn Northstowe and Over. They're helping local people stay living in South Cambridgeshire, rather than be priced out by rising housing costs.

255 trees provided to local communities

We provided 255 trees to local communities, including 58 wild cherry trees as part of this year's COVID-19 Day of Reflection. Since 2020, we've provided 1,199 trees to parish and town councils too.

Over 2.3 million bins collected on schedule

We collected over 99.9% of bins on time! In the first three months of 2026, we collected a total of 2,341,403 bins on schedule. That's about 184,000 bins a week or over 9.3 million each year.

More than £6 million in benefit entitlement secured for residents

Through our Low-Income Family Tracker scheme, we helped residents access support they were entitled to but not claiming. This included benefits with a lifetime value of more than £6 million - such as Pension Credit, Winter Fuel Allowance and Healthy Start Vouchers. We also helped more than 80 children receive free school meals.

Average call answer times below 100 seconds for nine consecutive months

This compares favourably with a reported average of 156 seconds across more than 3,000 organisations. The average waiting time for calls has fallen to 83 seconds, comfortably below our target of 100 seconds, while 99.91% of calls are resolved at the first point of contact thanks to our dedicated contact centre team and supporting use of artificial intelligence.

Over 8,400 comments analysed to help shape Greater Cambridge's future

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan will help shape future homes, jobs and infrastructure. Feedback received during consultation on the emerging plan was carefully reviewed and analysed, helping inform a final round of consultation which is now under way. See page 19 for the details.

Healthy and supported communities

Helping residents stay independent for longer with mobile wardens

For older residents and their families, maintaining independence at home is often a top priority.

Across South Cambridgeshire, mobile warden schemes are helping make that possible by providing practical support, companionship and reassurance for a relatively small weekly fee.

We help to part-fund mobile warden schemes, which already support around 260 residents across more than 50 parishes and communities. The service is designed to help people live independently, safely and happily in their own homes for longer, while giving family members valuable peace of mind.

We are committed to expanding access to these services and are providing grant funding between 2025 and 2028 to increase their availability across the district. The aim is to ensure more residents, particularly older and vulnerable people, can access support that helps them maintain their independence and continue living in the communities they know and value.

At the heart of the schemes is something simple but incredibly important - regular contact with a trusted, friendly person. Mobile wardens visit clients, offer companionship, check on their wellbeing and help identify concerns before they become more serious issues.

These visits provide far more than practical support. For many residents, they offer an important social connection and a friendly face to look forward to. Mobile wardens can help combat loneliness and social isolation, which can have a significant impact on wellbeing, confidence and quality of life.

Local resident Molly Chamberlain said: *"When you are sitting at home 24/7 and you can't get out for whatever reason, you know that in half an hour the warden is coming. You'll have a chat, she will cheer you up, and you feel 100% better. It's like going out for an evening with a friend."*

Molly's daughter, Gail Cooke, explained: *"It's the reassurance of knowing she's safe in her own home. I can't always be there for my mum but knowing there is an extra pair of hands puts my mind at rest."*

The schemes also provide reassurance for family members who may not be able to visit regularly. Knowing that someone local is checking in on a loved one, monitoring their wellbeing and providing support when needed can make a huge difference. Wardens often become a familiar and trusted presence, building relationships that allow them to spot changes in someone's health, mood or circumstances. Through regular visits, they get to know what is normal for each client, which means they are well placed to notice if something is not quite right.

Debbie Stewart, Head Warden for the Melbourn and District Warden Scheme, explained how this early intervention can help prevent problems escalating. She said: *"Usually, a visit consists of a friendly chat. When you visit someone on a regular basis, you learn what's normal for them. So, you might see them on a Monday, and they might be a bit down. And then you see them again on the Thursday or the Friday and there's something different and at that point you can intervene. You can either help them to get a doctor's appointment, or you can contact their family, so it allows you to step in before something gets too serious."*

Wardens can also help residents access benefits and services to which they may be entitled, as well as signpost other support available locally. This might include things that help residents remain safe and independent at home, such as visiting support services, home improvement assistance or practical help around the home.

To raise awareness of the schemes, we recently commissioned a publicity video featuring clients, family members and a warden sharing their experiences. A version of the video is also being shown in local GP surgeries to help more residents understand the benefits of the service and encourage those who may benefit from it to come forward. The video is available to watch on our website and social media channels.

We are keen to see even more people benefit from a warden. In addition to helping fund existing schemes, we also have a development grant fund offering up to £5,000 to support those interested in setting up a mobile warden scheme in their area.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities, Cllr Dr. Lisa Redrup, said: *"The stories we hear from residents show just how valuable these schemes are. Knowing someone is there to check in and offer support can make a real difference to everyday life. Having someone you trust nipping in regularly can make all the difference in helping people feel safe, confident and less isolated."*

To find out more about mobile warden schemes, or to refer yourself or a family member, visit [**www.scambsgov.uk/mobile-warden-schemes**](http://www.scambsgov.uk/mobile-warden-schemes)

Healthy and supported communities

Keep active to stay independent

Our strength and balance classes are helping to keep older people strong and mobile.

Are you aged 50 or above and looking to stay active or get back into exercise?

Strength and balance classes are run locally across South Cambridgeshire through our sheltered housing schemes, and in the community by Forever Active - a project by local charity Living Better. The sessions all offer friendly, accessible exercise classes designed to help you move more, feel stronger, and stay independent.

The classes include a combination of seated and standing exercises which, when practiced regularly can improve strength, balance, mobility, energy levels, and support mental health in a fun and social environment. This will help reduce the risk of falls, support heart health and overall wellbeing. The classes are tailored to a range of fitness levels and abilities, so there's something for everyone, whether you're taking your first steps towards being more active or looking for a more challenging workout.

Classes in our Sheltered Housing schemes currently take place weekly in:

- Linton, Chalklands: Monday 10am to 11am
- Over, Elm Court: Monday 10:30am to 11:15am
- Bassingbourn, Knutsford Road: Tuesday 10am to 10:45am
- Comberton, Nursery Way: Wednesday 10am to 10:45am

It costs £4 for residents in sheltered housing and £5 for non-residents. All new participants will get the first class free of charge, so come along and try at your nearest venue. We're looking to start up new classes – to check for new locations, search 'strength and balance classes' on our website.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities, Cllr Dr. Lisa Redrup, said: *"We've received amazing feedback from clients that have experienced the benefits of attending these classes, from being able to climb the stairs again, to loosening up problematic shoulders. Not only physically, but it also has great mental health benefits too, as people get together to exercise and have a chat and a cuppa afterwards."*

There are also classes run by Forever Active, which cost £6.50 per class and are held in:

- Balsham, Village Hall: Monday 10am to 11am and 11:15am to 12:15pm
- Comberton, Baptist Church: Monday 12:15pm to 1:15pm
- Stapleford, Jubilee Pavilion: Monday 1:15pm to 2:15pm
- Over, St Mary's Church Hall: Monday 1:30pm to 2:30pm and 2:45pm to 3:45pm
- Melbourn, All Saints Community Hall: Tuesday 9:30am to 10:30am and 10:45am to 11:45am
- Girton, William Collyn Centre: Tuesday 10:30am to 11:30am
- West Wrating, Village Hall: Friday 10am to 11am
- Fulbourn, The Swifts: Friday 10:15am to 11:15am and 11:45am to 12:45pm
- Bar Hill, Church Hall: Friday 11:20am to 12:20pm

For more information visit [**foreveractive.living-better.org.uk**](https://foreveractive.living-better.org.uk)

Healthy and supported communities

Support every step of the way from pregnancy to pre-school

Giving every child the best start in life is a new Government policy that brings together family services and provides high-quality support to parents, babies and children from before they are born to age five.

This national ambition aims to ensure that every child has the support they need to thrive from pregnancy through the early years and beyond, with a strong focus on early help, family support, health, parenting, childcare and school readiness.

The support is being brought together locally by Cambridgeshire County Council and implemented through the local Best Start in Life delivery plan, alongside the future development of Best Start Family Hubs.

The Child and Family Centre in Cambourne is the main hub and part of the wider South Cambridgeshire Child and Family Centre offer. There are other zones in Linton, Melbourn, Northstowe, Sawston and Waterbeach, providing support, advice and guidance to families with children aged up to 19 years, with a particular focus on the early years from birth up to age four.

There is an extensive menu of friendly and welcoming sessions across the centres, zones and outreach sites which include:

- Baby groups, (0-1 years)
- Sensory babies (pre-mobile)
- Mini movers (9-18mths)
- Stay and play (0-4 years)
- International group (0-4 years)
- Young parents group (parents under 25 years, 0-4 years)
- Little explorers (outdoor group 0-4 years)
- Wiggle and giggle (music group, 0-2 years)
- Story with Tori (library group, 0-4 years)
- Monthly dads group (Saturdays 0-4 years)
- Volunteer-led toy library (bi-weekly)
- Clothes bank (bi-weekly)
- Monthly SEND drop-in
- Monthly mindful mums peer support group.
- Monthly multiple birth group (0-4 years)
- Weekly breastfeeding support drop-in
- Self-weigh facilities at all sites

Alongside these universal sessions, there is also a range of targeted support, including workshops, parenting courses and drop-in sessions. These cover a variety of topics such as health and wellbeing, school readiness, home learning, Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and more.

All sessions are free and delivered by experienced and qualified staff who are on hand to offer advice, guidance and practical support. Whether you are looking for help or simply want to meet other families in a relaxed and welcoming space, you will always receive a warm welcome.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities, Cllr Dr. Lisa Redrup, said: *“The early years lay the foundations for a child’s future health, wellbeing and development. It’s great to see a commitment to making sure families across the district can access high-quality support from pregnancy onwards. There’s a fantastic range of free activities, advice and services, that help parents build confidence, connect with others and give their children the very best start in life.”*

For more information about groups and services, visit the South Cambridgeshire Child and Family Centre Facebook page.

Healthy and supported communities

New school year, new experiences

As young people gain independence and build new friendships, understanding the risks of exploitation and knowing where to seek support can make all the difference.

New stationery, uniforms, bags, coats and shoes... for anyone connected to education, September can feel more like the New Year than January!

As we enter a new academic year, young people encounter further new experiences. They may be getting their first mobile phone, spending more time out without supervision, being online more, and forming new peer groups. These are normal and exciting developments, but adults should remain aware of potential risks and have important conversations early.

Adolescence is lived both offline and online. Young people are connected through phones, tablets, gaming platforms, and messaging apps. Being online offers many benefits, but harm can exist in places and ways that are not always obvious. Nearly three-quarters of children aged 11 to 17 report seeing harmful content online.

As children and teenagers encounter new peer groups, it is important to recognise signs that may indicate exploitation. Unexplained gifts such as a second phone, new trainers or vapes, can be warning signs. Sometimes gifts are used to create a debt, which a child may then be pressured to repay through criminal activity.

Platforms such as Snapchat and TikTok are used to offer young people easy money for carrying packages or completing simple tasks. What appears harmless to a teen wanting new items or even to help their family, can quickly escalate with young people manipulated, coerced or blackmailed into taking greater risks.

Online spaces can also draw young people into communities that offer a sense of belonging. Often this is positive, but within some spaces grooming, exploitation, and radicalisation can occur. Victims may be pressured into sharing intimate images and then threatened with humiliation or exposure. In some cases, they may be instructed to self-harm, to harm animals, pets or even siblings, target others, or display coded messages in public graffiti. These actions are often used by exploiters to demonstrate control and gain status.

If you are worried about new influences in your teenager's life, the NSPCC provides guidance on how to start conversations and raise concerns. To learn more visit

www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety

Seek support if you notice:

- increasing withdrawal
- unexplained gifts
- self-harm
- repeated episodes of going missing
- major friendship changes
- secrecy around online activity or extremist views.

Whilst any one behaviour alone may not indicate a safeguarding concern, a combination of changes should prompt supportive conversations and, where necessary, professional advice.

- You can discuss concerns with your child's school safeguarding team.
- Act Early can be contacted 24/7 on 0800 011 3764 for any concerns about radicalisation or online influences.

- You can also use Cambridgeshire Police's website and the Local Safeguarding Board website.

Email this address if you have concerns you're not sure where to report.

communitysafety@scambs.gov.uk

Being green to our core

Latest advice on plastics and disposing of batteries safely

Did you know that as well as recycling plastic bottles, margarine tubs, yoghurt pots, fruit punnets and ready meal trays in your blue bin, you can also recycle many plastic bags, wrappers and films?

After sorting, these materials are sent to a specialist recycling plant, where they are processed into plastic pellets. These pellets are then used to make new products such as bin liners, plastic bags, pipes and decking.

What kinds of wrapping can be recycled in your blue bin?

You can recycle:

- Clean plastic packaging from food and household products (up to the size of a bin bag)
- Non-metallic plastic films and wrappers (check there is no silver or gold lining)

Examples

Food packaging

- Carrier bags
- Cling film
- Bread and bakery bags
- Cereal and porridge bags
- Packaging from dried foods such as pasta, rice, sugar and pulses
- Frozen food bags
- Fruit and vegetable bags
- Grated cheese bags
- Non-metallic crisp multipack outer bags
- Pizza wrap

Other packaging

- Bags and wrappers from new clothing
- Plastic mailing envelopes

Please do not recycle:

- Packaging from industrial uses or large items
- Dirty packaging containing food, soil or compost
- Metallic wrappers and pouches
- Items smaller than a business card

Examples

Metallic plastic packaging

- Tea or coffee packets with silver or gold linings
- Pet food pouches
- Drinks pouches
- Chocolate and sweet wrappers
- Crisp and peanut packets

Small items

- Sauce sachets
- Small torn-off packet corners

Large items

- Long lengths of bubble wrap
- Pallet wrap

Dirty items

- Packaging covered in food, sauce, soil or compost
- Items covered in soil or compost

Help prevent fires

Recycle batteries, vapes and small electrical items safely

When batteries, vapes or electrical items are placed in household bins, they can cause fires in bin lorries and recycling facilities. These fires put workers at risk, cause costly damage and require emergency service call-outs.

Small household batteries

If you have your own wheelie bins, place small household batteries in a sealed bag and leave it on top of the lid of any bin on collection day. If you live in a flat with shared bins, please take batteries to a recycling point in a local shop.

Larger batteries

Batteries from laptops, power tools and e-bikes can be taken to some retailers, including Halfords, B&Q and Screwfix, as well as the Recycling Centres at Milton and Thriplow. These sites also accept car batteries.

Vapes

Take unwanted vapes to recycling points in shops. Vapes can also be taken to Recycling Centres.

Small electrical items

Many shops will accept old electrical items for recycling when you buy a replacement. Several retailers, including Currys and B&Q, accept electrical items for recycling even if you are not making a purchase.

Alternatively, any electrical item can be taken to the Recycling Centres at Milton and Thriplow.

For details of your nearest recycling facility, visit www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk

Being green to our core

A globally rare ecosystem on our doorstep

During the time of the dinosaurs, calcium-rich shells of sea animals were deposited in what is now East Anglia.

Over millions of years, water flowing into chalk aquifers (large natural underground water stores) formed a network of chalk streams that produce exceptionally clear, mineral-rich water.

The streams support a diverse range of wildlife, including brown trout, lamprey, damselfly, water crowfoot, and water voles. Around 85% of the world's chalk streams are found in southern and eastern England, making them one of the UK's rarest and most important habitats right on our doorstep.

We're involved in the Greater Cambridge Chalk Stream Project (GCCSP) - a programme dedicated to protecting, restoring and better understanding the rare chalk streams that flow through Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

What makes the GCCSP particularly important is that it helps to tackle the multiple pressures facing these ecosystems, including development, climate change, pollution, water abstraction and habitat degradation. Examples include where historical developments have altered the natural flow of the chalk streams (for example, by straightening channels), leading to higher water temperatures and sedimentation.

Partnering with Anglia Ruskin University and local river groups, the project adopts an evidence-based, catchment-wide approach to chalk stream protection, with demonstration sites across both urban and rural locations. Researchers and citizen-science volunteers collect detailed scientific data on water quality, flow, sediment levels, temperature and biodiversity. This information is then used to test and identify the most effective ways to help the streams recover in the long term. The results so far show a strong link between the pollutants which run off fields, roads and built-up areas during rainstorms, and poorer water quality, highlighting the need to take a landscape-wide approach rather than just focusing on work within the stream itself.

The project works closely with community organisations and landowners to promote public engagement and support practical conservation.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Laurence Damary-Homan, said: *“In South Cambridgeshire, the GCCSP is helping to establish an educational pond-dipping area in Abington and supporting trials of chalk stream-friendly regenerative farming in Fulbourn. The project has also worked with volunteers to monitor and restore the streams running through Linton Pocket Park.”*

Want to get involved and learn more?

- Visit www.cambridge.gov.uk/greater-cambridge-chalkstream-project for further information and sign up as a citizen scientist (training provided).
- Join your local RiverCare (Keep Britain Tidy) group to help keep chalk streams litter-free.
- Join local river conservation initiatives, such as the Linton FROG, River Mel Restoration Project, Friends of Cherry Hinton and Coldhams Brook.
- Help with woodland and chalk stream habitat management at Patchwork Education Village in Abington - email abingtonwoods@gmail.com

Being green to our core

Greenways provide safer streets for everyone

New crossings, better-lit routes and improved paths are already making it safer for people to travel around South Cambridgeshire. The Greater Cambridge greenways programme is helping to connect villages with Cambridge and key local destinations, while making journeys safer for everyone.

The greenways are a 150km network of 12 walking, wheeling and cycling-friendly routes connecting Cambridge with surrounding villages, making journeys safer and easier. They are being put in place by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), of which we are a member.

The greenways are not designed in isolation. They are planned to integrate with the wider South Cambridgeshire transport network, helping people travel safely and efficiently. The routes connect with wider transport services, including local train stations and travel hubs, and serve key destinations such as schools, employment sites and other essential services.

By linking walking, wheeling and cycling routes with roads, buses and rail services, the greenways help create a joined-up transport system that works for everyone. Whether travelling on foot, by wheelchair, by bike, by bus or by car, people will benefit from journeys that are safer, easier and more predictable.

This is achieved through improvements that reduce potential conflicts between different road and path users. The greenways form part of a wider transport network, ensuring that walking, wheeling and cycling complement driving and public transport rather than compete with them.

Improvements include formalised crossing points, such as parallel crossings, which make it clearer and safer for people walking, wheeling and cycling to cross roads.

Improved lighting along sections of the greenways creates a more welcoming environment and improves visibility in previously unlit shared spaces, particularly during the shorter days of autumn and winter.

Where cyclists continue to use the carriageway, road resurfacing helps remove hazards such as potholes, reducing the need for users to swerve around them. In addition, new and upgraded off-road paths are helping to move more cyclists and pedestrians away from busy roads, creating more space for those who need to drive.

For more information and updates, visit www.greatercambridge.org.uk/greenways

With more routes progressing towards construction, five greenway business cases have been approved this year and two more are expected later in the year. This progress brings us one step closer to delivering safer, better-connected travel across South Cambridgeshire.

Being green to our core

A step by step guide to upgrading your home

If you are planning improvements to your home and can fund them yourself, the newly launched 'Your Home Energy Upgrade Guide' is a great place to start. The Guide brings together clear, practical advice to help you make informed choices about improving your home's energy efficiency.

It covers a wide range of options, from simple, low-cost fixes you can get started with straight away, to more significant upgrades such as insulation, heating systems and solar panels. Whether you are looking to reduce draughts, lower your energy bills or explore renewable technologies, it offers a helpful overview of what might work best for your home.

Alongside the guide, you can also use an interactive map to look up your own property. This provides a quick, personalised starting point, highlighting potential improvements tailored to your home and helping you understand the kinds of changes you might consider.

One of the most useful features of the guide is its step-by-step approach. It helps you plan improvements in the right order, so you get the best value for money. By focusing first on reducing heat loss before installing new technologies, you can make sure each upgrade works as effectively as possible.

Advice is tailored to different types of homes commonly found across our area, including terraced, semi-detached and detached houses. This means you can see the improvements most relevant to your property, along with typical costs and potential savings to support your decision-making.

Importantly, the guide is designed to be flexible and easy to use at your own pace. You might choose to start with small, affordable changes or plan a longer-term programme of improvements over time. There is no pressure to do everything at once, and every step you take can help make your home more comfortable and efficient.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Laurence Damary-Homan, said: *"Upgrading your home can feel like a big undertaking. That's why this guide is designed to help you explore your options at your own pace, making it easier to take practical steps towards a more comfortable, energy-efficient home."*

As a trusted, region-wide resource, the guide brings together practical guidance and links to local support in one place.

To get started or learn more about home energy upgrades and find other available resources, please visit www.actiononenergycambs.org/guidance-and-installation to explore the guide and try the interactive map for your home.

Sustainable homes and vibrant places

Tackling damp, mould and condensation

The three issues may seem minor at first, but dealing with them quickly can prevent bigger problems for both your home and your health.

Damp is unwanted moisture in your home. It can be caused by leaks, water rising through walls or excess humidity indoors.

Mould is a fungus that can appear as black, green or white patches. It grows in damp conditions and can be harmful to health if left untreated.

Condensation occurs when warm, moist air comes into contact with cold surfaces, such as windows or walls, causing water droplets to form. It is most common in bathrooms and kitchens where steam is produced.

Everyday activities including cooking, showering, drying clothes indoors and even breathing add moisture to the air. If this moisture cannot escape, condensation can form and lead to mould growth.

How to tackle it

- Ventilation is key. Open windows for 10 to 15 minutes each day and make sure air bricks and vents are not blocked.
- Use extractor fans when cooking or showering, keep bathroom doors closed until steam has cleared and use lids on pans where possible.
- Dry clothes outside whenever you can. If drying indoors, keep the room well ventilated.
- Leave a small gap between large furniture and external walls to improve air circulation.
- Wipe down areas prone to condensation and regularly clean affected areas with a mouldkilling product. Spray the product onto a cloth before wiping to avoid spreading mould spores.
- Damp can also be caused by leaks, damaged guttering or problems with the building itself.

Renting? Contact your landlord for help

If you rent your home, are following these steps and still experience damp or mould, or if you notice leaks, damp patches or mould returning quickly after cleaning, contact your landlord so they can investigate further.

If your landlord is a private landlord and they are not taking appropriate action, contact our Environmental Health team for support at env.health@scambs.gov.uk

If you are a South Cambridgeshire District Council tenant, email [**dampandmould@scambs.gov.uk**](mailto:dampandmould@scambs.gov.uk)

Heating your home

Maintaining a steady indoor temperature can help reduce condensation and prevent damp and mould. A temperature of 18°C to 21°C is recommended, as warmer surfaces are less likely to attract moisture.

We understand the cost of living may make this difficult for some households. Support is available through the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP). Call 0800 060 7567 or visit [**applyforleap.org.uk**](https://applyforleap.org.uk)

Regular servicing helps ensure heating systems operate safely and efficiently. Our Council tenants will receive this service through the Council's contractor, Mears. We also recommend testing your heating system in September so any necessary repairs can be completed before winter.

Sustainable homes and vibrant places

Understanding the Greater Cambridge Development Corporation

A new organisation, the Greater Cambridge Development Corporation (GCDC), has been established by the Government to help coordinate growth across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

From September, the GCDC will be led by Chief Executive David Hill and is currently overseen by an interim Board of 10 members, chaired by Peter Freeman CBE.

Appointed by the Secretary of State, the Board includes local authority leaders such as our Leader Cllr Bridget Smith, the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and independent members with relevant expertise. Recruitment of the permanent board is expected to begin in the coming months.

Why has it been created?

Greater Cambridge is already expected to grow significantly over the coming decades, increasing demand for homes, jobs and the infrastructure needed to support them. The Government aims to accelerate this growth in the national interest and has established the GCDC to help deliver it. The corporation's role is to bring forward the infrastructure and development opportunities needed by existing and future communities, including transport links, water supplies, utilities, schools, healthcare facilities and green spaces. A key objective is to promote an infrastructurefirst approach, ensuring essential services and facilities are planned and delivered alongside new development.

What is its role in planning?

Although the corporation is now established, the transfer of its planning powers will require further legislation expected later this year.

For most residents, there will be little immediate change. Proposed changes to planning powers are not expected to affect smaller applications such as extensions, loft conversions and other home improvements.

The corporation is expected to focus on strategic development and determine larger planning applications. Current proposals suggest this would apply to residential schemes of 250 homes or more and non-residential developments of 5,000 sq m or above. The Government has stated an ambition that most developments will continue to be processed by local councils.

The future focus of the Development Corporation will be set out in its Business Plan which the Board will consider and agree in due course.

What about the Greater Cambridge Local Plan?

The Greater Cambridge Joint Local Plan remains on track and is expected to be submitted to the Government for examination by an independent planning inspector later this year, following the final consultation. Once adopted, the Local Plan will remain an important document guiding where future homes, jobs, services and infrastructure are located across the area.

However, responsibility for the preparation and approval of future Greater Cambridge Local Plans is expected to transfer to the Development Corporation.

The corporation will have its own planning committee and any planning decisions made by the corporation would still need to follow the Local Plan and relevant national planning policies.

How can residents get involved?

The Government's consultation response makes clear that community involvement will be a core objective of the new Development Corporation. It indicates that residents, community groups, town and parish councils are expected to have a range of opportunities to help shape future proposals through dedicated engagement forums and public planning committee meetings.

www.greatercambridge-dc.org.uk

Sustainable homes and vibrant places

Final chance to help shape Greater Cambridge's Local Plan

Residents, businesses and organisations across Greater Cambridge are being encouraged to have their say on the area's future as the final consultation on the Proposed Submission Greater Cambridge Local Plan is now underway.

The Local Plan will help guide where new homes, jobs and community facilities are delivered across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire over the next 20 years. It will also shape policies on issues that matter to local people, including climate change, biodiversity, sustainable transport, health and wellbeing, and the quality of new developments.

Current forecasts suggest more than 50,000 new homes will be needed between 2024 and 2045. Around 37,000 of these are already accounted for through existing planning permissions and allocations, but careful planning is needed to ensure future growth is supported by the infrastructure, services and environmental protections communities need.

The Greater Cambridge Local Plan has been developed jointly by ourselves and Cambridge City Council and has been shaped by extensive public engagement over several years.

During the most recent consultation, held between December 2025 and January 2026, more than 1,280 individuals and organisations submitted over 8,400 comments. Feedback from residents, businesses, landowners and community groups has helped refine policies and proposals throughout the Plan, demonstrating the important role local people play in shaping the future of the area.

The latest version of the Plan reflects continued work to address some of Greater Cambridge's biggest challenges, including water supply constraints, infrastructure delivery, housing demand and future employment needs. Supporting evidence and consultation responses are available to view online.

This consultation represents the final opportunity for residents, businesses and organisations to comment before the Plan is submitted to Government for examination by an independent Planning Inspector. Unlike previous consultations, comments have to focus on whether the Plan is supported by evidence, can be delivered effectively and meets national planning requirements. Proposals for new development sites are not being considered at this stage.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, Cllr Henry Batchelor, said: *"The thousands of comments received during earlier consultations have shown just how passionate our communities are about where and how our area grows. We encourage everyone to have their say in this final consultation. Every contribution helps ensure the Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our communities."*

The consultation closes on Friday 25 September 2026. To find out more, view the Plan and submit comments, visit www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/local-plan

Sustainable homes and vibrant places

Young minds, lasting impact

Young people from across South Cambridgeshire have been helping to shape the future of their communities through two recent initiatives led by our award-winning Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Youth Engagement Service (YES).

In July, an art launch celebrated the creativity and insight of students from Bottisham Village College, Cambridge Regional College, and young people from Cambourne, Histon, Papworth Everard and Trumpington who have experienced the youth justice system.

The artwork was inspired by proposals for the future Cambridge Business Park and reflected what the young participants would like to see in the area in years to come.

The vision for the Park includes around 350 homes, cafés and shops, community facilities, sports and leisure spaces, and new laboratories and workplaces that could support more than 5,000 jobs. The project aims to create a vibrant neighbourhood that works for people of all ages. Through their artwork, students provided valuable insight into what local young people value most in the places where they live, study and spend their free time.

The exhibition also gave young people the opportunity to see how their ideas can potentially influence real development proposals and contribute to conversations about the future of Greater Cambridge.

The following week, nine young people from across the district took part in YES's annual summer work experience programme at our office in Cambourne. During the week-long programme, participants gained hands-on experience inside our busy planning department, developing an understanding of how planning shapes communities while contributing their own ideas to proposals for the future Bourn Airfield development.

Through site visits, workshops and practical activities, they explored a wide range of topics, including placemaking, public art, accessibility, historic buildings, landscape design and the protection of trees. Alongside developing an understanding of planning, participants also built valuable employability skills through sessions on CV writing, interview preparation, teamwork and presentation skills.

The programme concluded with a presentation to councillors, senior officers and our external business partners, where participants shared their ideas and reflected on what they had learned.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Planning, Cllr Henry Batchelor, said: *"It was a pleasure to meet the work experience students in-person, hear their views and talk about the importance that we place on involving youngsters in the planning process. Young people are not only the communities of tomorrow, but valued contributors to the decisions being made today. By giving them meaningful opportunities to get involved, we're ensuring their views help inform decisions about the places where they will live, work and thrive."*

Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire

Our shared workspace provides launchpad for success

For the past several months, the team at Just Active have proudly called South Cambs Connect home. Here's why they like it - could your business or group benefit from the coworking space at our Cambourne office too?

"As a startup, this clean, modern and collaborative space has been an absolute lifeline. Beyond the fantastic multiscreen setups and heightadjustable desks, we regularly make use of the cafeteria and comfortable seating areas to connect with like-minded entrepreneurs."

The Council's friendly business support team have been instrumental to our progress. Through regular check-ins, they've kept us on track, connecting us with Cambridge Library for trademark advice and the Growth Hub for funding strategies. They consistently guide us toward essential

networking and learning events. We honestly couldn't have reached this point without them. We would highly recommend South Cambs Connect to any startup or business looking for a supportive and collaborative workspace."

Testimonial provided by Joanna Voychick and Miguel Angel Ruiz-Cabello Rodriguez of Just Active

Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire

Village spotlight: Shepreth, Foxton and Meldreth

There's something special about discovering somewhere that has been on your doorstep all along. Whether it is looking for a family day out, a rural South Cambridgeshire countryside walk, a welcoming spot for lunch or simply an excuse to get out and explore, the neighbouring villages of Shepreth, Foxton and Meldreth have plenty to offer.

With independent businesses and beautiful rural surroundings, these three villages, connected by train, are proof you don't have to travel far to enjoy something a little different.

For many, the journey begins at Shepreth Wildlife Park. One of the district's best-loved visitor attractions, the park has built its reputation on unforgettable animal enclosures while placing conservation at the heart of everything it does. That's why we were proud to support the park's charity through the Rural England Prosperity Fund, helping expand its hedgehog conservation work and specialist care. It's a fantastic example of how local investment makes a lasting difference, not just for wildlife, but for a destination that welcomes thousands of visitors every year.

Shepreth is also home to Hot Numbers Roastery, a coffee lover's haven, as well as The Green Man pub, which boasts a terrific garden for warm evenings, cold drinks and seasonal dishes made from local ingredients.

A few minutes away, Foxton and Meldreth offer a different appeal, with traditional village pubs and miles of country footpaths that encourage you to slow down for a while. There's no rush here – and that's exactly the point. Foxton Wood, part of the Woodland Trust, offers meandering trails for walkers and dog owners that stretch all the way to Fowlmere. In the village itself, The White Horse provides the perfect place to stop for a drink, while in Meldreth, The British Queen freehouse is open seven days a week, serving a popular Sunday roast alongside a varied menu.

Better still, consider leaving the car behind. Sitting on the same railway line, all three villages feature on the South Cambridgeshire Rail and Ale Trail, making it easy to combine rail travel with a few hidden gems along the way. It's a brilliant reminder that some of the best days out are often the simplest and even better when enjoyed sustainably.

So next time you're planning a weekend adventure, why not look a little closer to home? You might just discover that your next favourite place has been waiting for you in Shepreth, Foxton or Meldreth all along.

To learn more about the Rail and Ale Trail and the five stations along the route, visit the Visit South Cambs website at [**visitsouthcambs.co.uk/activities/rail-ale-trail/**](https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk/activities/rail-ale-trail/)

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Cllr Peter McDonald, said: *"The Rail and Ale Trail is a fantastic way to discover some of the hidden gems on our doorstep. Whether you're visiting a local attraction, enjoying a walk in the countryside or stopping for a bite to eat, every visit helps support our local economy. These villages are packed with hidden gems and are well worth exploring."*

Helping businesses to thrive in South Cambridgeshire

Coffee, cake and community

It's International Coffee Day on 1 October and we're celebrating the independent coffee shops, cafés and delis we have on our doorstep to sip on a flat white, espresso or latte.

While we may still think of tea as our national drink, in the UK we now drink approximately 98 million cups of coffee per day, according to the British Coffee Association. And there's plenty of independent businesses in South Cambridgeshire to get your caffeine fix.

Join us in saying a warm hello to one of our newest establishments, Eden Coffee House in Comberton. In addition, their luxury horsebox can be hired for weddings, country shows, or corporate events.

As well as fresh vegetables, fruit and meat, many of our farm shops offer a range of refreshments including Woodview Café in Gamlingay, The Hut at Cuckoo Hill Farm in Cottenham, and Chittering's Willow Grange Farm who recently won the Farm Shop / Deli of the Year category in the Velvet Magazine Awards.

The Linton Café, and their bakery in Hildersham, has a strong emphasis on sustainability, working with local suppliers, and composting food and packaging waste to send as little to landfill as possible.

Another local coffee shop full of character is Creative Grounds, a craft-based community hub in Willingham, who run a range of workshops and activities for all ages including macramé, jewellery making, and origami.

Nestled between a butcher, wellbeing retreat, and hairdresser on Manor Farm, Bourn, The Stove serves fresh, local food, home-baked cakes and even takeaway fish and chips on Friday evenings.

Many of our garden centres have cafés where you can enjoy your beverage among the houseplants and homewares, including Scotsdales in Great Shelford, Oakington Garden Centre, and Darwin Nurseries in Teversham which is owned by the NHS.

Some cafés, like Hot Numbers Roastery in Shepreth and The Courtyard in Papworth, actually roast and grind their own beans onsite for customers to enjoy at home. Also in Papworth, The Printworks features an on-site café, microbrewery, and pizzeria alongside flexible workspaces, private offices, and event areas.

Look out for Java Coffee Club's mobile van serving barista style coffee, including with a wide choice of non-dairy milks, at outdoor events.

Our Lead Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Cllr Peter McDonald, said: *"There are too many fantastic small businesses to mention here but you can find more on our dedicated hospitality, retail and leisure website www.visitsouthcambs.co.uk as well as lots of other ways to explore, discover and enjoy our region."*

South Cambridgeshire based businesses can sign up for a free listing on the site by visiting visitsouthcambs.co.uk/free-listings/

Competition

Win a course of relaxing treatments

We're giving one lucky winner the chance to win four sessions of a therapy of your choice. You can choose from a massage, reflexology, Indian head massage, Bowen Therapy and Osteodouce - all by fully trained therapists at Cambridge Cancer Help Centre in Great Shelford.

The Cambridge Cancer Help Centre is a charity offering support to individuals and families living with cancer.

If you, or someone close to you, has recently been diagnosed with cancer you may be feeling isolated and unsure where to turn for more information and support. The Cambridge Cancer Help Centre believes that no-one should feel alone with a cancer diagnosis.

Patients are guaranteed a warm welcome and access to a range of holistic activities to enhance the mind, body and spirit during challenging times. From small group courses, one to one therapies, arts and crafts, and fitness classes including dance, yoga and tai chi, there is something to suit everyone. They also offer a range of social activities and events including quiz nights, film afternoons, summer seaside trips and coffee mornings.

The centre does not receive public funding and look to raise funds in a variety of ways.

Fancy a challenge next year? On 14 March 2027 you can take part in the Cambridge Half Marathon by applying for one of the centre's Gold Bond places. Alternatively, there's a cycle challenge on 16 May 2027!

Want to help without the challenge? Becoming a member is a great way to support the Cambridge Cancer Help Centre for a small annual fee. Visit www.cambridgecancerhelp.org to find out more about the charity.

This prize needs to be claimed within six months. Bookings are generally available on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday mornings depending on choice of therapy. Over 18s only.

All four sessions to be booked at the time of claiming the prize and to be for the same individual.

To enter

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

South Cambridgeshire is home to a globally rare type of stream, with around 85% of the world's examples found in the UK. What are these special streams called?

A) Freestone stream

B) Lowland stream

C) Chalk stream

You can enter the competition online. www.scambs.gov.uk

Click 'Apply' and then 'Reader's competition'.

Don't have internet access?

You can enter by post. Send your name, address and telephone number, along with your answer to the question, to: South Cambs Magazine Competition, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, CB23 6EA

Closing date for entries is Friday 2 October 2026 at 5pm.

The terms and conditions for our Reader Competition are available at www.scambs.gov.uk/t-c or can be requested by calling us.

The winner will be notified in October and announced in the winter issue of South Cambs Magazine.