
Report: County Councillor (Hardwick div.) District Councillor (Harston & Comberton) Cllr Michael Atkins March 2023

Highlights

- 20mph applications now open
- Secondary school places offered
- Festival of stories
- Cost of living support
- Contact details

News from the County

20mph Applications open

Applications are now open to introduce 20mph zones in our villages. This has been a key focus of our work at the Council and I'm delighted this is now available. I will be happy to support zones within our district and I can also be contacted for any advice. Applications are open until 30th April via this website: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/20mph-funding>

Easter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Children in receipt of Free School Meals, families who are struggling financially, and refugee families, can access a holiday scheme for 16 hours including activities, meals and snacks over the Easter break. <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/haf-provider-directory> has further details.

Secondary school places offered

Year 6 pupils should now have received offers for their secondary school place. 87% of pupils have been offered a place at their first choice school, and most of the remainder within their top 3 choices. If you have any concerns or want to find out more about the appeals process, please get in touch.

Mill Road Bridge Closure

The Council has decided to close the bridge on Mill Road, Cambridge, to all motor vehicles, except for buses, taxis, emergency services and blue badge holders. This follows a lengthy consultation in which 72% of respondents favoured restricting motor vehicles. It will be enforced via bus gates with number-plate recognition cameras.

Madingley footpath repairs

Footpath repairs in Madingley are due to take place later this month from 16th-24th, potentially alongside other highway repairs.

Comberton Village College heat pump switch on

The innovative heat pump solution at CVC will be officially 'switched on' later this month. This replaces an aging oil boiler, will reduce carbon emissions at the site by 70%, and save the college around £50,000 per year.

Festival of Stories

'Talking Together' are delivering a programme of events across Cambridgeshire around the theme of stories, from the 2nd to 20th March. More details on their website:

<http://www.bit.ly/FestivalOfStories>

News from the District

Cost of living support

The Council has announced a further support package to help families struggling with the cost of living. Some £200,000 has been put aside to help with the following measures:

- Transforming the existing warm hubs into Community Wellbeing hubs
- Increasing awareness of help with paying council tax
- Creation of a sustainable food network
- Providing energy saving appliances, such as slow cookers and electric blankets, free of charge to residents who need them

If you or someone you know would benefit from help, please get in touch.

Ukraine – new hosts needed

There are currently 500 hosts for Ukrainian refugees in the greater Cambridge area, but with the continuation of the war, there are some hosts unable to renew the arrangement after the initial six months. Anyone who might be able to provide a spare room for a guest is asked to text ROOM to 88802 or go to <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/spareroom> - about 200 are needed over the next few months.

Contact Details

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

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