

Cllrs Lorna Dupré and Mark Inskip

MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2023

East Cambs Community Fund

The district council's East Cambs Community Fund grant application window closes on 11 August 2023.

The aim of the scheme is to support the development of new or existing community services and initiatives that improve the quality of life of residents in East Cambridgeshire. Details and eligibility criteria at

www.eastcambs.gov.uk/finance/east-cambridgeshire-community-fund

Questions or requests for more information to Stephanie Jones on 01353 665555 or by email at stephanie.jones@eastcambs.gov.uk

Pride of Place grants

The district council has launched a 'Pride of Place' Grant scheme, with a £100,000 pot available to distribute to Parish Councils and other community groups. The 100 per cent grants can be for a variety of projects, but with the central theme of being used to create, tidy up or enhance somewhere special in the local community, and at the same time benefit the natural environment.

A maximum of £15,000 per grant is available, but a grant application can be for as little as a few hundred pounds (the council has reserved £20,000 for projects under £1,000). Applications can be submitted until 30 September 2024 or until all funds have been spent. Details, terms and conditions at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/pride-place-grant

Safer Community Fund

Community groups and parish councils in East Cambridgeshire are being encouraged to apply for up to £5000 in funding for projects designed to reduce levels of crime.

The Safer Community Fund has been set up by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to help communities address known problems such as anti-social behaviour, graffiti and fly-tipping.

All projects must be completed in a 12 week period. For more information and to apply please email Joanne.Andow@eastcambs.gov.uk

Community safety toolkits

The East Cambridgeshire Community Safety partnership website now includes a number of free to access toolkits.

- Cyberbullying
- Drink Spiking
- Hate Crime Toolkit
- Home Security Advice
- Community Eyes and Ears
- PREVENT Community Toolkit
- Safer Business Safer Streets
- Violence Against Women and Girls Toolkit

www.eastcambs.gov.uk/community-safety/community-safety-partnership

Parish or community-based nature recovery plans

A template Nature Recovery Plan for use by parish councils or other groups is available at www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/parish-nature-recovery-plans. This can be used to prepare a local action plan to help boost the natural environment in your area.

Having a plan will make it easier to bid for grant funding from a variety of sources. A Pride of Place grant (above) may be a way to pay for some of the actions in the plan.

District council environment plan

The district council has adopted its fourth annual Environment Plan, with new actions for the coming twelve months

These include

- a target of 40,000 new bird/bat boxes installed across the district
- a public vote for an animal species to focus support on and help thrive
- free oak trees for parish councils and community groups in winter 23/24
- water bottle filling stations in places of high public footfall
- developing a set of climate and nature targets for the district
- working with parish councils to help them fulfil their new statutory duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity in their area

www.gov.uk/guidance/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/40

Cllr Kathrin Holtzmann (Ely East) proposed an amendment to Instruct officers to draft a full plan that details how to achieve a reduction of at least 80 per cent in

carbon emissions for all the council's operations by 2030. This plan should define specific goals addressing Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, identify methods by which to reduce carbon emissions, define specific actions to implement the needed changes and lay out milestones and annual targets to achieve the targeted carbon emissions reductions by 2030. This amendment was accepted in part and challenges the council's ruling group for next year.

www.eastcambs.gov.uk/climate-change/what-are-we-going-do

Youth Fusion events

Three free Youth Fusion Days will take place in Soham, Bottisham and Littleport this summer, all taking place at 11:00AM-3:00PM.

- Wednesday 26 July: Soham Rec and Scout Hut
- Wednesday 9 August: Bottisham Sports Centre
- Wednesday 23 August: Littleport Youth & Community Centre

Climbing wall, bouncy castle, cycle marking, information on sports, citizens' service, safety, the environment, and how to join East Cambs Youth Council.

www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/youth-events

Statement of Community Involvement

The district council has updated its Statement of Community Involvement, a statutory document which sets out how the District Council will consult on planning matters and how it will engage with and support parish and town councils with their Neighbourhood Plans. Statements of Community Involvement must be updated every five years.

Underspends

The district council underspent by £1,746,865 in 2022/23 when compared to its approved revenue budget of £14,937,774. It also underspent its capital budget by £1,984,154 when compared to the revised budget of £8,850,847.

Corporate Plan

The district council will consider the ruling group's Corporate Plan at the Full Council meeting on Thursday 13 July.

Meet your councillors

Our August surgery is cancelled. The following surgeries are

- Monday 4 September, 6:30-7:30PM
- Monday 2 October, 6:30-7:30PM

All in the Community Room at Sutton School. Between surgeries, residents can continue to contact us by email, Facebook, or phone.

Cllr Lorna Dupré

Cllr Mark Inskip

District Councillors for the Sutton ward