

District councillor report to Parish Council January 2024

Happy New year

I would like to wish all parish councillors and residents a happy new year and I look forward to working with you all in 2024.

Grant for new Mobile / Community Warden Schemes

On 1 January, SCDC are launching a grant for new [Mobile/ Community Warden Schemes](#) that are wanting to set up in the district. £15,000 has been set aside for new schemes out of a total grant fund of £100,000. The aim of this funding (which includes a contribution from Cambridgeshire County Council's unspent Care Together Seed funding) is to provide increased coverage and more equitable access to schemes to support independent living, particularly for older or vulnerable residents. Parish councils and community groups will be able to bid for up to £5,000 per new scheme.

The proposed timeline for grant scheme is as follows:

- Scheme launch and applications open - 1 January 2024
- Application deadline - 5pm 29 February 2024
- Allocation of funding decided- End of March 2024
- Grants paid – April 2024

Before making an application, we would recommend that you refer to the Council's [Mobile/Community Warden Scheme toolkit](#) for guidance about setting up a scheme. If you have any questions, please contact Development Officer, Communities team Emma.Dyer@scambs.gov.uk

Civil Parking Enforcement update

Cambridgeshire County Council have now had the final formal confirmation from the Government regarding Civil Parking Enforcement. The scheme is now live across South Cambridgeshire. Notices will be issued until the end of January (these do not have a fine attached). From 1 February 2024, Cambridgeshire County Council's Civil Parking Enforcement Officers will issue penalty charge notices which include a fine for parking on restrictions such as double yellow lines. For more information visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/cpe

Gigabit Fibre-to-the-Premises network

Here is an update regarding the Fibre-to-the-Premises network:

Project Gigabit is the government's flagship £5 billion programme to enable hard-to-reach communities to access lightning-fast gigabit-capable broadband. The four-year programme of work will see around 215,000 premises across Cambridgeshire and parts of surrounding counties connected to our Fibre-to-the-Premises network.

We wanted to let you know that the initial planning phase is complete and that work is about to start in your area. The first locations are around Cambridge (Grantchester, Milton and Fen Ditton), Elton (near Peterborough) and parts of Whittlesey (South and East).

The contractor carrying out the work on our behalf is Granemore Group. Wherever possible, existing duct and pole infrastructure will be used in order to reduce the amount of construction required. However, new infrastructure will be needed and we are working closely with the Council Highways Teams to coordinate any works that are required.

Why is this work so important? In a rapidly changing world, we rely more and more on digital connectivity and the UK needs to ensure its residents and businesses can cope with future demands. This is not just about being able to better-browse the internet or stream television programmes. There are many other factors to consider such as:

- *Households have an ever-increasing number of internet connected devices like smart speakers, domestic appliances, heating control systems and doorbells.*
- *Smart TVs and gaming consoles become more and more sophisticated requiring faster internet speeds.*
- *The Covid 19 pandemic has demonstrated how important fast and reliable broadband is. Essential services such as healthcare and education are now increasingly online and regular homeworking has become the norm for many.*
- *When buying a house the speed of the internet is now one of the top purchasing factors.*

If you have any questions you can speak to our build team onsite or visit www.cityfibre.com/help-support . If you would like to know more about our build process visit cityfibre.com/build.

*Thank you for taking the time to read my report; if you have any questions or want to discuss any of the issues raised email me on graham.cone@councillor.online or ring 07595 361 285 (please leave a voicemail if I am unavailable) **Councillor Graham Cone***