

District Councillor report to Parish Council June 2024

Community Food Growing – Grant available

SCDC's Grants Advisory Committee have approved a grant aimed at growing food in the community. Grants of up to £500 are available to support communities to grow their own food sustainably by supporting local groups to buy equipment and the tools to help start up a Community Growing Project. Funding might also be spent on soil, seeds, raised beds and equipment. By creating community gardens it is a great way to encourage volunteers to get involved and prepare for the growing season.

For more information on the grant please go to www.scams.gov.uk/community-growing-grant

Homes for Ukraine Moving On project

The Homes for Ukraine Team have created some information resources to support families with better understanding of what their options are when it comes to thinking about moving into their own independent accommodation. A PDF and video have been made to give families information for things they should consider before starting a conversation with the Moving On Team which should mean that they have an idea of options open to them when they are in contact with the team. Please go to the SCDC Moving On webpage to read the PDF and view the video for your information.

Vapes

SCDC is reminding people to dispose of batteries safely and responsibly as there have been 7 bin lorry fires so far this year. The Lithium-ion batteries in vapes, mobile phones, power packs for electric bikes and scooters have all been the cause of bin lorry fires since January which obviously puts the crew and public in danger as well as disrupting rounds. Batteries placed in wheelie bins then go in the bin lorry and become damaged or are crushed in the lorry which can cause explosions and can trigger fires.

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste which is a partnership between Cambridge City Council and SCDC are now asking that residents be reminded of how to correctly dispose of batteries. See information below:

- Vapes should be taken back to vape shops or to the large Household Recycling Centres, like those at Milton or Thriplow, for recycling.
- Larger batteries – such as e-bike batteries, those from a mobile phone, laptop batteries or those that are attached to a device – must also be taken to a Household Recycling Centre.
- Small household batteries can be put in a small plastic bag, tied shut and left on top of any of your wheelie bins (green, black, or blue) on collection day. Most small common household portable batteries can be placed in that plastic bag for collection at the kerbside, including AA and AAA, C and D and button cells. These used batteries are then recycled.
- Residents of flats with shared bins should not leave small household batteries on these but instead, can take them to one of the many public battery collection points at corner shop chains, supermarkets, chemists, and petrol stations as well as those at recycling points and Household Recycling Centres. Visit recyclenow.com to see all locations.

*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***