

## RECYCLING NEWS

Councillors have backed plans to simplify the kerbside collection of recycling materials for residents across South Cambridgeshire.

The plans were supported at a meeting of South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet which will see residents place paper directly into their blue wheelie bins, eliminating the need for paper caddies.

It is expected the date of the change will be announced by the end of September.

The Council is currently deciding which recycling collection trucks will be needed for the next seven years and the decision now means the right vehicles can be purchased.

Recycling paper in the main part of the blue bin rather than a paper caddy means that fewer replacement vehicles are now needed than if the paper caddies had continued to be used.

Trucks which collect dry recycling that is mixed together, rather than separated, do not need to have split bodies, and so can carry more materials. This means collection rounds will be completed without the need for vehicles to return to base and be emptied as often.

The change will also mean vehicles will cover around 26,000 fewer miles per year on South Cambridgeshire's roads than using a separate caddy. This will lower fuel costs and reduced CO2 emissions.

A reduction in collection trucks means that around £670,000 of savings can be achieved during the next seven years, compared with the existing system. This will help the Council meet some of the savings needed due to reductions in Government grant funding it receives to deliver services to residents.

Removing paper caddies will also reduce heavy lifting being carried out by refuse workers.

## SWAVESEY AS A TRAVEL HUB

Research has revealed that over 90% of people leaving their car or bike at the Swavesey Busway stop before boarding a guided bus come from the village or neighbouring Over – with councilors saying more rural travel hubs like this are being investigated.

The Swavesey hub is helping local people access more frequent public transport links closer to their homes – and councilors have said that more should follow.

The stop was used as one model for a rural travel hub, but it was reiterated that it is not a one size fits all and villagers and their parish councils are vital to shaping what would work best for them.

Since an initial call by South Cambridgeshire District Council last year asking parishes to step forward with their suggestions for how links to public transport could be improved, six areas (Swavesey, Oakington, Foxton, Meldreth, Shepreth and Whittlesford) have been working with the Council and the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) to look more closely at how the hubs could work in practice.

The work with the six parishes so far indicated that issues such as space to build a **facility**, reducing on street parking around rail stations/bus stops and ease of connection in to Cambridge by regular high quality public transport are important factors.

Parish councils have also helped shape the type of facilities they would like to see at hubs in South Cambridgeshire. These include a toilet, using porous surfaces that fit in to village settings for any new car parks, using enclosed and secure lockable boxes for cycle storage and bus turning circles.

## **BUSINESS RATE RELIEF**

Around 300 South Cambridgeshire companies will benefit from financial relief from increases in business rates, it has been confirmed.

A support package was agreed at the South Cambridgeshire District Council's Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder's meeting in August.

This comes after the Chancellor announced a £300million fund to support those firms facing the steepest rises in business rates, because of changes to the way their rates are calculated.

South Cambridgeshire District Council has been allocated a total of £849,000 over four years by the Government, to pass on to local businesses affected, in the form of rate relief.

At the meeting, the Council's Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder, Cllr Simon Edwards, accepted a recommendation to formally adopt a new Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policy.

Approximately 300 ratepayers will benefit from this scheme in the current financial year.

Council finance bosses say the average award paid out to each business is anticipated to be £1,200.

Any business with a rateable value of under £200,000, that faces a bill increase of at least 10%, is eligible to apply for the relief.

A separate fund of £50,000 will also be created from the money allocated to the Council by the Government as part of the programme. This is aimed at businesses in the district that do not qualify for the rate relief scheme mentioned above, but can demonstrate that the revaluation is causing them hardship.

## **ANTI SOCIAL PARKING**

Anti social parking is the responsibility of the police, **this is a problem in so many villages the police would like you to report it <http://tinyurl.com/SouthCambs-parking>. By reporting it it will help to build up a picture where the problems are.**

## **A14 COMMUNITY FUND**

Local projects have already received funding from the A14 Community Fund, which launched last year. The fund looks to support local activities that focus on bringing communities closer together and over £50,000 has been allocated to date.

For more information about the A14 Community Fund visit [cambscf.org.uk/A14.html](http://cambscf.org.uk/A14.html)

Our contact details are: if we can help in any way:

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