

SOUTH CAMBS COMMUNITY CHEST scheme has since its introduction several years ago proved to be very popular and, more importantly it has proved to be a very effective way of spending money. Local groups are recognised for the way they make a little go a long way and the Community Chest awards have certainly added to the evidence for this. Indeed, Bar Hill have benefitted for the new Jubilee Park play area for seating and tables, Dry Drayton and Lolworth have also benefitted. SCambs is now building on its commitment to supporting local communities by the introduction of a new fund.....

COMMUNITY ENERGY GRANT FUND

At its November meeting **Cabinet** agreed to the setting up of the **Community Energy Grant Fund**. From March next year this new fund will be open for community groups to bid for funding to support their energy saving and green initiatives. Suitable projects could range from insulation, lighting and heating controls for community buildings to the installation of electric vehicle charging points. Parish Councils, charities, voluntary groups, sports & social clubs and not for profit organisations will all qualify to bid for up to £3,000 per organisation per year from the £55,000 that will be made available. The scheme will be funded from the business rates the Council retains from new, renewable energy generation sites in the district thus ensuring wider community benefit from these large scale renewable energy sites. Still to be developed is a loan scheme which will allow local groups and residents to borrow money to invest in local renewable energy schemes. Such a loan scheme will effectively 'recycle' available funding so that as many people as possible can benefit. Councillors will consider the details of this scheme once they are drafted.

BUS SERVICES

Following upon SCambs determination to see a full review undertaken of bus services the **Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority** [CPCA] agreed at its November meeting to instigate a full strategic review of bus services within the CPCA area. It is proposed that it will review the existing network and service including its strengths and weaknesses, develop strategic options for future services taking into account other strategic transport initiatives so that any proposals will form part of a whole transport solution. It will consider new technology and other innovative solutions and assess franchising and other operational models for their relevance and value to the local area. It committed to engagement with all stakeholder groups including bus providers and local authorities. Full agenda pack and published decisions: <http://bit.ly/2zZaeeX>

COUNCIL STAFF GIVE GIFTS TO FULBOURN HOSPITAL

For the twelfth year in a row, staff at South Cambridgeshire District Council are donating Christmas gifts to patients at Fulbourn Hospital.

They will be received by 40 long-term patients at Fulbourn, who spent the festive period in hospital.

Volunteers from Friends of Fulbourn Hospital and the Community have visited the Council's Cambourne HQ to pick up the gifts, and will personally deliver them to patients, some of whom won't have any visitors during Christmas.

The scheme is made possible by the generosity of South Cambridgeshire District Council staff. Every year, with many employees buying an extra gift to donate in this way.

Fulbourn Hospital treats people with dementia and other psychiatric conditions that make it difficult for them to be nursed on open wards.

Our very best wishes to all residents for a very Happy Christmas and New Year

If you should need further information or advice or we can help in any way, please contact us

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