

**COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN
WEDNESDAY, 3 MARCH 2010**

CONTENTS



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

1. Meetings and events from 4 to 19 March 2010

Date	Time	Name	Venue	Contact
Thu 4 Mar	5.30 pm	Scrutiny and Overview Committee	Business Suite, Linton Village College	Patrick Adams
Fri 5 Mar				
Mon 8 Mar				
Tue 9 Mar	2 pm	Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee	Swansley Room	Ian Senior
Wed 10 Mar	10 am	Standards Committee	Swansley Room	Holly Adams
Thu 11 Mar	10 am	POSTPONED: Climate Change Working Group	Monkfield Room	Ian Senior
	10 am	Leader's Portfolio meeting	Jeavons Room	Holly Adams
	11 am	Policy and Performance Portfolio Holder's meeting	Jeavons Room	Maggie Jennings
	2 pm	Northstowe Portfolio Holder's meeting	Monkfield Room	Guy Moody
Fri 12 Mar				
Mon 15 Mar				
Tue 16 Mar	2 pm	Environmental Services Portfolio Holder's meeting	Jeavons Room	Ian Senior
Wed 17 Mar	5.30 pm	Housing Portfolio Holder's meeting	Swansley Room	Guy Moody
	6 pm	Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder's meeting	Monkfield Room	Patrick Adams
Thu 18 Mar				
Fri 19 Mar				

INFORMATION FOR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

2. Member Development Survey reminder

Many thanks to the Members who have completed and returned their training and development surveys. However we're keen to hear from Members who've yet to respond. The survey is quick and easy to complete and can be accessed by the link e-mailed to members on Wednesday 17 February 2010 and with the reminder e-mail on Monday 1 March 2010.

If you'd prefer a hard copy of the questionnaire, please don't hesitate to ask Democratic Services on (01954) 713026, e-mail democratic.services@scambs.gov.uk

The deadline for responses is **Friday 5 March 2010**.

3. **2009/2010 Expense Claims - Deadline is Friday 30 April 2010**

Expense claims for the 2009/10 year have to be received by Democratic Services no later than Friday 30 April 2010. The [Members' Allowances Scheme](#) states that all claims "must be submitted by one month of the end of the relevant financial year to which the claim applies", so qualifying claims date from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

Members are requested to submit separate claims for each financial year if they are making a claim in April 2010 which includes dates from both the 2009/10 and 2010/11 financial years. Expense claim forms are in the Members' Lounge in the bottom right pigeonhole or can be downloaded off the Members' section of the Council intranet.

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

4. **Quick Guides to the Code of Conduct from Standards for England**

Standards for England has produced a range of Code of Conduct online guides covering the most frequent topics of telephone enquiries to their advisers. The guides, which can be viewed using the links below, offer explanations about complicated parts of the revised Code, arranged by topic:

- [Notifications to parish and town councils concerning complaints about their members](#) – what to do when you receive a notice from the Standards Committee that a complaint about one of your parish councillors has been received
- [The role and appointment of parish and town council representatives to the standards committee](#) – further details about SCDC's current process is available on the [Standards Committee's website](#)
- [Independent members of the standards committee](#)
- [Charitable Trustees and declarations of interest under the Code](#) – one of the most frequent interests for which parish councillors require a [dispensation from the Standards Committee](#)
- [Freemasonry and the Code of Conduct](#)
- [Blogging Quick Guide](#)
- [Predisposition, Predetermination or Bias and the Code of Conduct](#)

5. **Standards for England Bulletin 47**

The electronic version of the *Bulletin* from Standards for England allows you to choose which articles you would like to read and print.

To read an article, please click on the relevant heading below. You can also [read the whole Bulletin](#) or download it as a [pdf](#).

[2010 Annual Assembly of Standards Committees 'A place for standards'](#)

On-line booking now open for this year's Assembly.

[Stakeholder Tracker 2009 – 'A qualitative assessment of advice and guidance'](#)

New research into satisfaction of members and officers in local government on our performance and a look at their attitudes towards the ethical environment.

[A REMINDER: Please send us your hearing decision notices](#)

Authorities are required to send us a copy of their hearing decision notices.

[Adjudication Panel for England becomes known as First-tier Tribunal \(Local Government Standards in England\)](#)

An update on the changes to the powers and procedures of the Adjudication Panel for England.

[Our risk based approach](#)

An article on the development of our risk based approach and what this might mean in practice.

[Social networking: an effective medium of communication but not without risk](#)

Key messages from a session at the recent Cllr' 10 event on social networking sites.

[New online guides on our website](#)

An announcement on our increased range of online guides.

[Standards committees can take a lead from 'notable practice'](#)

New notable practice research highlighting examples and case studies.

[Impartial and objective investigators](#)

A reminder that monitoring officers use impartial and objective investigators.

[Have your say](#)

Current popular topics on our online forum.

[Delay on the new Code of Conduct](#)

An announcement that parliamentary approval of the new Code of Conduct for Members has been delayed until after the general election.

GENERAL INFORMATION

6. Rural Services Network Weekly Digest

The Rural Services Network is a group of over 250 service providers and local authorities working to establish best practice across the spectrum of rural service provision. The network has representation across the complete range of rural services. For general comments or enquiries, email: editor@ruralcity.co.uk

- [Internet combats rural isolation](#): Elderly villagers are receiving computer lessons so they can use the internet to combat rural isolation.
- [MPs: Transport investment vital](#): Investment in public transport is vital to alleviate rural dependence on private cars, MPs have warned.
- [Project supports 60 communities](#): A two-year rural project has been hailed a success after supporting almost 60 communities in north-west England.
- [MPs slam broadband levy](#): Rural business owners have voiced dismay after MPs criticised the government's proposed broadband levy.

7. Weekly Planning List

To view the list of planning applications submitted in the past seven days, please visit the Council's on-line [Planning Application Search](#). Once the page has loaded, select the relevant parish from the drop-down list, set the date period to '7 days' and click the Search button **or** click the Advanced button, select a ward from the drop-down list, then set the date period to '7 days' and click the Search button.

The system will provide a range of information on current and decided applications since 1948, including a brief description of the development, reference number, decision and the date of decision. More recent applications show the name and telephone number of the council officer who is dealing with the application.

Search results are presented in a collection of pages, the number of which depends on the number of results your search produces. Each page displays 30 results and there are navigation tools to allow you to browse these results.

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE 24 FEBRUARY 2010

In accordance with the [Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution](#), any executive decision shall be published normally within five days of being made. That record will bear the date on which it is published and will specify that the decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 5 working days after the publication of the decision, unless called in for review by the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or by any five other councillors.

A list of decisions currently within the call-in period is available [on the Council's website](#).

Unless otherwise specified, the [Democratic Services Section](#) must be notified of any call in by **Wednesday 10 March 2010 at 5 pm**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Thursday 11 March 2010**.

Any member considering calling in a decision is requested to contact the [Democratic Services Section](#) to determine whether any relevant amendments have been incorporated.

The call in procedure is set out in full in [Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, 'Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules'](#).

8. **Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

The Planning and New Communities Portfolio Holders **AGREED** the adoption of the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and to proceed in accordance with Regulations 18 and 19.

Decision taken 2 March 2010 and published 3 March 2010. Call-in expires at 5 pm on 10 March 2010. Decision can be implemented from 11 March 2010 if not called-in.

9. **Cambridgeshire County Council Local Development Framework - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (DPD) - Proposed Submission Document**

The Portfolio holders for Planning and New Communities **AGREED** the responses to the Minerals and Waste Development Plan consultation as contained within the report to their 2 March 2010 meeting and in Appendices 2, 3 and 4.

Decision taken 2 March 2010 and published 3 March 2010. Call-in expires at 5 pm on 10 March 2010. Decision can be implemented from 11 March 2010 if not called-in.

10. **Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy**

The Planning Portfolio Holder **RECOMMENDED** that the Council's reply to the Green Infrastructure Strategy consultation should be:

- (a) The Council supports the role that an effective strategy will have in the protection, creation and management of green infrastructure.
- (b) The Council supports the development of a strategy which will provide a robust and defensible basis for green infrastructure planning and delivery, for both existing communities and the growth areas.
- (c) The Council has significant concerns about the approach and content of the draft Green Infrastructure Strategy as set out in this report and previous officer comments to Cambridgeshire Horizons.
- (d) The Council will require major changes to the strategy addressing its concerns before it will be able to endorse it.
- (e) Council officers will work with Cambridgeshire Horizons and other partners to achieve

the changes required.

Decision taken 2 March 2010 and published 3 March 2010. Call-in expires at 5 pm on 10 March 2010. Decision can be implemented from 11 March 2010 if not called-in.

DECISIONS MADE BY OFFICERS AND REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

22. Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2010/11: Grants under £5,000 with three-year funding arrangements

The Partnerships Manager **AGREED** to award the following grants under £5,000 to Voluntary Sector Organisations under the approved delegation scheme:

Voluntary Organisation	Grant Awarded	Reason(s)
Encompass Network	£0.00	Funding over-subscribed, not essential to fund, seems to duplicate work of other infrastructure / sexual health groups.
The Cambridge and District Community Mediation Service	£2,500.00	Grant reduced from 2009-10 because of lower referral numbers.
The Connections Bus Project	£3,095.00	Funding over-subscribed. Grant reduced from 2009-10.
Cambridge Family Mediation Service	£2,500.00	Grant maintained at 2009-10 level. Funding over-subscribed so, despite increased need for family mediation as a result of the current economic climate, cannot increase grant amount.
Age Concern Cambridgeshire Core Funding	£3,155.00	SCDC supporting of this work. Grant maintained at 2009-10 level.
Disability Cambridgeshire & Disability Huntingdonshire (joint application)	£3,250.00	Separate grants in 2009-10. Disability Cambridgeshire grant was over 3 years. Disability Huntingdonshire grant was for 1 year. Combined grant is slightly lower but over 3 years to enable medium-term planning.
Relate Cambridge	£2,500.00	Grant reduced from 2009-10 level. Funding over-subscribed and cannot prioritise given focus on older people.
Dhiverse	£0.00	Funding over-subscribed and cannot prioritise given focus on older people. SCDC is supporting of this work but feels there are better, more relevant sources of funding to be found.
Cambridge Dial-A-Ride	£3,500.00	All to be funded at appropriate levels given activity in South Cambs during the last few years and given Council priority of Community Transport.
Royston and District Community Transport	£2,650.00	
3CT	£1,500.00	

23. Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2010/11: Grants under £5,000 with one-year funding arrangements

The Partnerships Manager **AGREED** to award the following grants under £5,000 to Voluntary Sector Organisations under the approved delegation scheme:

Voluntary Organisation	Grant Awarded	Reason(s)
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Cambridge Joint Play Schemes	£2,000.00	Grant to be increased slightly due to increased demand for this service and under-funded in the past.
The Meadows Children & Family Wing	£1,000.00	Funding over-subscribed but SCDC would like to make a contribution to a valuable piece of work for South Cambs residents.
STRADA Cambridgeshire	£2,000.00	SCDC supportive of this work given the priority being given to older people and would like to fund at same level as 2009-10.
Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise	£500.00	Organisation does good work. SCDC would like to make a contribution towards newsletter production costs and costs of surveying the real needs of the older people of South Cambs, in particular regarding transport.
Vitalise	£0.00	Funding over-subscribed. SCDC cannot prioritise given the high turnover of this organisation. SCDC very appreciative of their services in our district.
Cruse Bereavement Care	£850.00	SCDC supportive of this work and would like to fund at same level as 2009-10.
Haslingfield and Harlton Youth Club Bus Project	£0.00	SCDC considers it better VFM to fund the core costs of the Connections Bus Project.
Cam Sight	£1,000.00	SCDC would like to make a contribution to costs due to priority being given to older people's work but with over six months of reserves, this organisation's grant must be reduced.
Guilden Morden Pre-School	£0.00	Funding over-subscribed. SCDC is supportive of this work but feels there are better, more relevant sources of funding to be found. Cannot prioritise given the focus on older people's services in the district.
123 Soleil	£0.00	Funding over-subscribed. SCDC is supportive of this work but feels there are better, more relevant sources of funding to be found. Cannot prioritise given the focus on older people's services in the district.
CAMREAD	£500.00	Applied for 3-year grant but allocated on 1-year basis. Funding over-subscribed. Does good work and SCDC would like to make a contribution.
The WAY Project	£650.00	Applied for 3-year grant but allocated on 1-year basis. Funding over-subscribed. Does good work, would like to make a contribution, but cannot prioritise given the focus on older people's services in the district.
STARS Children's Bereavement Support Services	£1,000.00	Applied for 3-year grant but allocated on 1-year basis. Funding over-subscribed. Does good work, value for money, would like to make a contribution but cannot prioritise given the focus on older people's services in the district.
Royston & District Volunteer Centre	£1,500.00	Applied for 3-year grant but allocated on 1-year basis. Funding over-subscribed. Has been significantly under funded in the past and

		current economic climate has put additional strain on resources.
SexYOUality	£500.00	Applied for 3-year grant but allocated on 1-year basis. Funding over-subscribed. Does good work, would like to make a contribution.
Cambridge St Raphael Club	£850.00	Applied for 3-year grant but allocated on 1-year basis. Funding over-subscribed. Does good work, would like to make a contribution.
Cambridge and District Volunteer Centre	£3,000.00	Applied for 3-year grant but allocated on 1-year basis. Funding over-subscribed. Has been significantly under funded in the past and current economic climate has put additional strain on resources.

24. Village Mobile Warden Schemes - Annual Grants 2010/11

In order to support a valuable community-led service within each of these Wards, in keeping with the Council's aims and priorities, the Corporate Manager, Community and Customer Services, **AGREED** to award the Mobile Warden Schemes the grant funding requested for 2010/11:

- **Milton** - £1,000
- **Meldreth** - £1,000
- **Cottenham** - £1,500
- **Haslingfield** - £250
- **The Mordens & Litlington** - £2,000
- **Harston & District** - £1,021
- **Teversham** - £2,086
- **Linton** - £2,739
- Small Villages - £3,347
- **Histon & Impington** - £1,850

The decision was made taking into consideration the amount requested, the client fees charged, the number of users and the scheme finances.

OTHER INFORMATION

25. Newly-Published Items on modern.gov

Agendas

- [Planning Enforcement Sub-Committee 9 March 2010](#)
- [Standards Committee 10 March 2010](#)
- [Leader's Portfolio meeting 11 March 2010](#)
- [Policy and Performance Portfolio Holder's meeting 11 March 2010](#)
- [Northstowe Portfolio Holder's meeting 11 March 2010](#)

Decisions

- [Council 25 February 2010](#)
- [Scrutiny and Overview Committee 25 February 2010](#)
- [Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2010/11: Grants under £5,000 with one-year funding arrangements](#)
- [Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2010/11: Grants under £5,000 with three-year funding arrangements](#)
- [Village Mobile Warden Schemes - Annual Grants 2010/11](#)

Minutes

- Windmill Estate Project Steering Group 9 February 2010 (group members only)

- Senior Management Team 17 February 2010 (intranet only)
- [Leader's Portfolio meeting 19 February 2010](#)

Issues

- [2010 Annual Assembly of Standards Committees: A place for standards - Birmingham, 18-19 October 2010](#)
- [Politically Restricted Posts](#)
- [Village Mobile Warden Schemes - Annual Grants 2010/11](#)

Meetings

- New: Northstowe Portfolio Holder's meeting 11 March 2010
- Postponed: Climate Change Working Group 11 March 2010 – new date will be either Thursday 8 April 2010 or Thursday 15 April 2010

26. Upcoming Training Sessions for Members

Subject:	Date:	Trainer:	For:	Contact:
'Moving Sands': Action and Policy Conference	25-26 March 2010 at Chilford Hall, Linton	External	Elected Members	Patrick Adams or Guy Moody

27. SCDC Starters and Leavers

Post Title Changes from 1 April 2010

Steve Annetts' post title will change from Housing Asset & Investment Manager to Planned Maintenance Manager

Sid Webb's post title will change from Repairs Operational Manager to Repairs & Voids Manager