

**COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN  
WEDNESDAY, 11 AUGUST  
2010**

**CONTENTS**



South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

**1. Meetings and events from 12 August to 27 August 2010**

Date	Time	Name	Venue	Contact
Thu 12 Aug				
Fri 13 Aug				
Mon 16 Aug				
Tue 17 Aug	6:00pm	<a href="#">Finance and Staffing Portfolio Meeting</a>	Monkfield Room	Maggie Jennings
Wed 18 Aug				
Thu 19 Aug	11:00am	<a href="#">Standards Committee, (Dispensations) Meeting</a>	Monkfield Room	Joe Brown
Fri 20 Aug				
Mon 23 Aug				
Tue 24 Aug				
Wed 25 Aug	7:00pm	<a href="#">Scrutiny and Overview Committee Meeting</a>	Balsham Village Hall	Joe Brown
Thu 26 Aug				
Fri 27 Aug				

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**2. New Planning Application System - Update**

A new planning application system has been installed and went live on 26th July. Like its predecessor, the new system enables the public to search for planning application information via the web. For a few days last week, we experienced a technical problem with part of this search facility. The search facility was always available but some of its options were not. Those problems have now been resolved by our IT team and our supplier and the search facility is now working again.

**3. Community Orchards are Go!**

The Council has made Community Orchards a priority action this year and is supporting local people establish or restore one in their area. We aim to help six projects get up and running in 2010/11, but the more that can be achieved the better. Orchards need to have at least five trees and be accessible to the public to qualify for support.

Orchards are part and parcel of South Cambridgeshire's landscapes and heritage, and give us beautiful spring blossom, distinctive varieties of fruit and havens for wildlife. They can create attractive places, dappled with sun and shade, and teach children about where food comes from

and healthy eating.

Community orchards bring people together - everyone can contribute something - and give villages the chance to see an orchard grow and mature over time.

Community orchards are very much local projects run by local people. The community takes the lead, sets up an orchard group or enlists an existing group to organise the project, and arranges the planting and maintenance.

We will provide general advice and flag-up sources of guidance (for example on planting, tree care or involving communities) and funding (including our own grants).

Enclosed is a copy of our *Community Orchards* leaflet that gives an introduction to:

- Getting started
- Choosing a site and trees
- Caring for your tree
- Involving your community
- Grants
- Sources of further information

Also enclosed is an article on Community Orchards from the Autumn *South Cambs Magazine*.

The leaflet, article and other information is on our web site [www.scambs.gov.uk/CommunityOrchards](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/CommunityOrchards). For more advice contact our Ecology Officer on (01954) 713402.

#### **4. 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](mailto:editor@ruralcity.co.uk)

#### **5. 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 [Planning Weekly List option](#) to see planning applications determined or registered each week for the past ten weeks, or use the [Search option](#) to set your own criteria.

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. There are navigation tools to allow you to browse your results.

### **EXECUTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE 04 AUGUST 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](#).

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'](#).

## OTHER INFORMATION

### 6. Newly-Published Items on modern.gov

#### Agendas

- [Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder's Meeting 17 August 2010](#)

#### Decisions

- [Planning Committee 04 August 2010](#)

#### Minutes

- [Climate Change Working Group 08 July 2010](#)
- [Planning Portfolio Holder's Meeting 13 July 2010](#)
- [New Communities Portfolio Holder's Meeting 13 July 2010](#)
- [Policy and Performance Portfolio Holder's Meeting 20 July 2010](#)
- [Environmental Services Portfolio Holder meeting 27 July 2010](#)

### 7. SCDC Starters and Leavers

#### Leavers

Emma George – Personal Assistant to Executive Director (Operational Services) left on 10 August 2010.

Sarah Manktelow – Student Environmental Health Officer, Health and Environmental Services, will leave on 11 August 2010.

Greg Harlock – Chief Executive, will leave on 17 August 2010.

#### Change of Position

Trevor Faulkner - Principal Planning Officer, Planning & New Communities, fixed term contact to permanent post from 31 July 2010.

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# Community Orchards

## Health, Heritage and Biodiversity



### Advice on:

- Getting started
- Choosing a site
- Caring for your tree
- Involving your community
- Grants

South Cambridgeshire District Council is supporting local people to establish or restore community orchards. We aim to have six projects up and running in 2010/2011 but the more that can be achieved the better. Community orchards are local projects set up and run by local people. We will help by steering you towards guidance and funding. For more information on the scheme and grants contact the Ecology Officer on (01954) 713402.

### Getting started



To restore or replant? Restoring or expanding existing orchards should be the priority where possible as it keeps the heritage link to our past. It can also retain old varieties and conserve the biodiversity interest of a site that may have taken years to establish.

If you have no orchard to conserve then planting one is the right path to follow. Choose your site to avoid exposure to the wind, frost pockets, or water logged land.

Ideally, the site should be near to your community so that people can access it easily and regularly without using a car.

A well used site is likely to become a well-loved site in years to come.

You should form a group so that responsibility can be shared.

### Choosing the tree stock

An orchard is a term given to a collection of five or more fruit or nut trees. Fruit trees, such as apple, pear or plum are usually grafted onto a rootstock. The rootstock controls the vigour (height and spread) of the tree.

When choosing your trees plan a how you would like your site to look in 30 or more years, and choose a size and variety of tree to suit your site.

Traditional orchards have trees of more than five metres in height with wide spreading branches. These grow to form attractive landscape trees. Dwarfing rootstocks will give more compact trees that can be grown in smaller spaces.



Fabiola Blum



Many fruit tree nurseries can supply a wide range of trees. Some are available for immediate planting, while others, particularly old varieties, are grafted to order and so must be chosen a year in advance of planting.

To maximise the production of blossom and fruit, most fruit trees need a nearby 'pollinating partner', a different but complementary variety of tree which flowers at the same time.

Your fruit tree nursery can offer advice on rootstocks, the best tree varieties to choose and which pollination partners will be most productive. Local growers and established community orchard groups can also be a useful source of information.

Conservation of old fruit varieties is important, and some may have local connections to Cambridgeshire such as the Cottenham Seedling or Histon Favourite. However, modern varieties can give regular cropping and greater disease resistance. A balance of old and new varieties could make for an attractive and productive orchard.

## Caring for your tree

Trees should be planted in well-prepared ground, avoiding freezing or waterlogged soil. A supporting stake should be provided to prevent rocking in windy conditions.

Initially weeds and grasses should be removed from around the base of trees in order to reduce competition. A 75mm layer of mulch or wood chippings can suppress weeds and increase water retention in the soil.

You must be prepared to water the trees during dry periods, possibly for at least two years.



## Involving your community

There are many ways in which orchards can bring your community together:

- 🌳 Planting days
- 🌳 Management tasks
- 🌳 Recording species and habitats
- 🌳 Holding apple days to collect and divide up the fruit
- 🌳 South Cambs staff may have further ideas



## Grants

The following sites should be searched for their suitability:

- [www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk) - “wildlife enhancement scheme”
- [www.scambs.gov.uk](http://www.scambs.gov.uk) - “funding tool kit”
- [www.cambscf.org.uk](http://www.cambscf.org.uk) - “the natural environment”
- [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk) - “community wildlife”
- [www.sitatrust.org.uk](http://www.sitatrust.org.uk) - “enriching nature programme”
- [www.biffaward.org](http://www.biffaward.org) - “small grants”
- [www.veoliatrust.org](http://www.veoliatrust.org) - “Veolia Environmental Trust”
- [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) - “Higher Level Scheme”

## Sources of further information can be found at:

- [www.commonground.org.uk](http://www.commonground.org.uk)
- [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/natureconservation/action/partnership](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/natureconservation/action/partnership)
- [www.england-in-particular.info](http://www.england-in-particular.info)
- [www.applesandorchards.org.uk](http://www.applesandorchards.org.uk)
- [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)
- [www.nat-orchard-forum.org.uk](http://www.nat-orchard-forum.org.uk)
- [www.transitioncambridge.org](http://www.transitioncambridge.org)
- [www.trumpingtonorchard.org](http://www.trumpingtonorchard.org)
- [www.plymouthtrees.org](http://www.plymouthtrees.org)
- [www.brogdale.org](http://www.brogdale.org)





# Village initiative to bear fruit

Orchards are part and parcel of South Cambridgeshire’s landscapes and heritage. They give us beautiful spring blossom, distinctive varieties of fruit, and a home for wildlife.

**T**he Cottenham Seedling and Cambridge Gage are just two of the district’s fruit varieties, and the Chivers jam factory at Impington was one of the works that relied on local orchards.

Many of our traditional orchards have been lost or are overgrown and some excellent community orchards such as Harston and Orwell are vulnerable. Restoring existing orchards and planting new ones has tremendous benefits, ranging from creating attractive places dappled with sun and shade, to teaching children about healthy eating. Community orchards also make great local projects. Everyone can contribute something and villagers can see an orchard grow and mature over time.

We have made the creation and revival of community orchards a priority this year with an ambitious target to support 6 new or restored orchards, and to carry on the initiative in the future. The orchards have to consist of at least 5 trees and be accessible to the public. We will flag up sources of guidance and funding where necessary such as our existing wildlife



grants. It is, however, the community that takes the lead, setting up a local group and organising the planting and maintenance. And it is the village that will benefit, whether from events such as apple

days, enjoying the fruits of their labours or cultivating a new community pastime.

**To find out more visit:**  
[www.scams.gov.uk](http://www.scams.gov.uk)



## Creating Community Orchards

Local fruit farmer and leader of the council Cllr Ray Manning has some words of wisdom for community groups looking to create or revive local orchards.

“The first consideration is always which site to choose. It needs to be well drained with no signs of heavy clay as fruit trees will not tolerate waterlogging during the winter. Another factor to bear in mind is whether the site is low-lying. If this is the case there will be a risk of spring frost damaging the blossom. On the flipside, if it is very exposed to cold winds, pollination will be poor so it is a bit of a balancing act.

“The next decision is what trees to plant, apple, pear or plum. Apple trees require the most maintenance and plums the least. In the north of the district plums were widely grown for processing and market. Pears were also an important crop whilst apples were the least in demand of the three.

“All fruit trees are grafted or budded onto a rootstock which will determine the size. For example, Bramley on a M16 or M25 rootstock may grow to over 30 feet high and equally wide. On a M1X rootstock the same tree will be no more than 10 feet high. It will need a strong stake to hold the tree as its roots are very weak.

“Many of our villagers worked in the orchards and, I’m sure, would be happy to offer advice.”

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