



# Working together for a better South Cambs

No.1

Summer 2005

## Welcome to the first edition of the Community Strategy newsletter!

The South Cambridgeshire Strategic Partnership (SCSP) is made up of representatives of public, voluntary and business organisations in South Cambridgeshire who have come together to jointly develop a shared vision for the district. This long-term vision is reflected in our Community Strategy by describing the kind of place we would like South Cambridgeshire to be in the future and by including a series of results that need to happen if we are to achieve our vision.

The Community Strategy also provides the partners involved with a reference point so that public, voluntary and private organisations

can work together to achieve shared goals.

But most importantly, the Strategy reflects the key priorities local communities identified following consultation.

Cllr John Reynolds and Cllr Daphne Spink said: "By working together, the public, private and voluntary sectors can make life better in South Cambs, supporting communities and making improvements that affect everyday life."

"The community strategy is a positive step towards meeting the many challenges facing South Cambs, working with communities

to ensure significant and sustained improvement and developing opportunities for everyone living and working in the district."

You can obtain a copy of SCSP's Community Strategy from the District Council and County Council websites or by phoning 01954 713451



## Community Strategy launched

On a wintery February morning at Milton Country Park over 100 braved the conditions to attend the official launch of the South Cambs Community Strategy and enjoy a healthy breakfast.



SCSP members, guests and members of the public had the opportunity to hear about some of the exciting work that is being undertaken in the Partnership. The launch also included a variety of displays detailing a proposed new network of South Cambs cycle paths, plans for the new community at Northstowe, and healthier lifestyle projects for the district.

The first South Cambs Community Access Point (CAP) was also launched on the day [More about this innovative project in the next issue]

Participants also had the chance to work off breakfast with a healthy walk through the snow touched Park.



# Working for a Smoke Free South Cambs

For a number of years there has been a recognition that exposure to second-hand smoke causes disease and is a major contributory factor to coronary heart disease.

Locally it has been an area for action in the South Cambridgeshire Improving Health Plan and the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for South Cambridgeshire. Nationally there has been upsurge of interest in tobacco control including targets in the Governments White Paper – Choosing Health.

The British Medical Association approximates that at least a thousand deaths every year in the UK are due to exposure to other people's tobacco smoke. Exposure to other people's

cigarette smoke can:

- increase the risk of contracting smoking related diseases such as cancer and heart disease
- place extra stress on the heart and affect the body's ability to take in and use oxygen
- trigger asthma attacks
- increase the chances of sudden infant death syndrome
- harm children and babies even more than adults.

Standing in the path of a smoker or their cigarette smoke or being in a room in which there are smokers can expose you to at least 50 agents known to cause cancer and other chemicals that increase blood pressure, damage the lungs and cause abnormal kidney function.

In South Cambs we have formed a project group of partners to implement the Smoke Free South Cambridgeshire project



## What is Smoke Free South Cambridgeshire?

Smoke free South Cambridgeshire (SFSC) is a project to reduce people's involuntary exposure to second-hand smoke. (Also called passive smoking or environmental tobacco smoke)

Progress so far... So far the project group has taken a report to the Strategic Partnership highlighting the issues around smoking and second-hand smoke. The Partnership has set up an advisory group to look at the issue and practicalities of "going" smoke free, this group will advise the project group.

Next Steps... May-June 2005

1. Convene the Advisory Group
2. Consult with the public and businesses in South Cambs during the summer.
3. Analyse results of consultation
4. Investigate ways of publicising Smoke Free South Cambs using newsletters and networks following offers from the Strategic Partnership

If you need help quitting smoking or need advice on no smoking in your organisation

Call: Cambridge OASIS on 01223 723022.

Cambridgeshire OASIS (Overcoming Addiction to Smoking Intervention Service) are a small team of smoking cessation specialists within the NHS, offering friendly counselling and advice about quitting smoking.



## Coming up in the next issue..

### Parish Plans: Helping our villages to help themselves:

Parish Plans are community led and their aim is to set out a vision that will help them plan their development over the next few years. The plan will:

- Identify local problems and opportunities.
- Set out an achievable and long-term vision for the future.
- Prepare an action plan to achieve this vision.

The number of parishes producing a Parish Plan in South Cambridgeshire is growing. Currently ten communities have completed a plan with a further seven due to complete during the next year.

Developing new links with the strategy of the Strategic Partnership has now further enhanced the process.

Our next edition will report on the progress of the parish plan process and help those communities who are undecided about producing a plan.

### Community Access Points: Bringing technology to our communities

Twelve CAPs are planned across the district and will offer computer access in public or community buildings.

### TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ANY OF THESE EXITING INITIATIVES CONTACT:

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