

### **Four-day working week discussed at Full Council**

At the Full Council meeting on Thursday 5 October, I submitted a motion that would have allowed all councillors a vote on the four-day week. Unfortunately, this was rejected by the administration – who then voted to refer the issue to Cabinet, and passed a motion to end the debate early before all could speak which I am very disappointed about.

I made very clear my opposition to this decision, which showed complete contempt for the majority of residents in South Cambridgeshire. Based on the average wage and contracted hours figures for full-time staff as mentioned during the meeting, £3.3 million will be spent in 12 months on salaries alone for hours not worked – and that's before some of the additional costs incurred by employing people.

By prematurely shutting down debate on the four-day week, we have been denied both the chance to vote and properly debate this important issue.

I am continuing to analyse the facts and figures and will continue to scrutinise the four-day week, which sees residents paying for five days' work but only getting four days' service.

### **Find your nearest pink bin to recycle electrical goods**

Bright pink bins for electrical waste have resulted in nine times more e-waste being collected for recycling since being introduced last year. Over 49 tonnes of small electrical appliances have been collected for recycling in the pink bins – instead of it all ending up in the black bin.

The pink bins are suitable for most small electrical items which have a plug or battery – including phones, toys, kettles, toasters, and many more. Items which cannot be reused are then sent to specialist operators for recycling into new products.

We are encouraging everyone to recycle their old electrical goods – so please see the list below of our nearest pink bins or enter you can enter your postcode [here](#) to find your nearest pink bin.

- Melbourn Village Car Park (Melbourn, SG8 6DZ)
- Morrisons Car Park (Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6FY)

## Cost of living support for residents

I appreciate that many are struggling financially at the moment and am pleased the Council is supporting people with this. Electric blankets, slow cookers, hot water bottles and warm clothes are being distributed to residents suffering from fuel poverty.

If you are struggling with the cost of living crisis and require support, or would like to support those who are, please visit the council's website: [Cost of living support - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.scambs.gov.uk). There is help out there so please do not suffer in silence. All information is dealt with in a confidential manner so please encourage people to reach out to myself or the council.

More Community Hubs (updated name for Warm Hubs) are being made available across Cambridgeshire thanks to funding of £200,000 from NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Community Hubs provide a warm, safe, welcoming environment for residents.

Please see the list of local Community Hubs to us in South Cambridgeshire with addresses and opening times.

- **Caldecote Community Hub** - Caldecote Pavilion, Furlong Way, Highfields, Caldecote, Cambridge, CB23 7ZH. Opens: Tuesday, 9.30am - 3.30pm
- **Cambourne Community Hub** - Cambourne Community Centre, High Street, Great Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6GW. Opens: Monday and Friday, 9.30am - 1pm
- **Comberton Community Hub** - Comberton Baptist Church, Green End, Comberton, Cambridge, CB23 7DY. Opens: Monday, 3pm - 5pm
- **Gamlingay Community Hubs** - Gamlingay Baptist Church's Back Room Cafe, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay, Sandy, SG19 3JR. Opens: Monday, 9.30am - 3pm and every third Sunday, 10am - 4pm. Also at **Gamlingay Eco Hub Community Centre**, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay, Sandy, SG19 3JR. Opens: Monday - Wednesday, 9am - 4pm; Thursday - Friday 9am - 1pm; and Saturday, 10am - 12pm
- **(Melbourn) MACS Cozy Corner** - Vicarage Close Community Hall, Vicarage Close, Melbourn, Royston, SG8 6DY. Opens: Monday and Thursday, 12pm - 3pm
- **Meldreth Community Hub** - Meldreth Sheltered Housing Building, Elin Way, Meldreth, Royston, SG8 6LX. Opens: Tuesday and Thursday, 12pm - 3pm

## **Green Grants for Cambs businesses**

The Council has teamed up with partner councils and business charity Allia to launch an 18-month project to help smaller local businesses go green. The project aims to help businesses reduce their carbon footprint, reduce energy costs and become more sustainable.

Applications are now open. If you are interested, please consider [applying online now](#).

Thank you for reading my report. If I can be of any assistance, please do get in touch.

**Cllr Heather Williams**

**SCDC The Mordens Ward**

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