

# District Councillor's Report Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024 - Cllr Tom Bygott

## Fight to save the Cambridge Cancer Research Hospital project

The Cambridge Cancer Research Hospital was one of two Cambridge hospitals pledged to be built locally by the previous government, the other being the Cambridge Children's Hospital. The plan for this hospital was for it to bring together clinical and research expertise, allowing for the earlier detection of cancer, more precise treatment and, ultimately, to save more lives. About half the population will receive a cancer diagnosis at some point in their lives and it is one of the top causes of death in the UK, alongside cardiovascular disease and dementia.

Cambridge had been chosen as the site of the new national hospital because of the proximity of two other world leading research hospitals, Addenbrooke's and Royal Papworth, and the cluster of biotech companies and research institutes located nearby.

The current government has been considering whether to scrap plans for the new hospital. A petition has been set up to save the hospital, which has so far received nearly 1,000 signatures. If you would like to sign this petition, it can be found at:

<https://chnng.it/Yrbwh6z9sT>

## Civil Parking Enforcement update

We are pleased to see that Civil Parking Enforcement appears to be working in South Cambridgeshire. As in the table below, Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) have mostly been recovered – mainly issued to vehicles parked on single or double yellow lines.

Total PCNs issued	Number of PCNs paid to date	Recovery Rate %	Total amount Paid to date	Number of PCNs outstanding	%	PCNs cancelled	Cancellations as a %
555	439	79%	£16,090.00	56	10%	60	11%

It is encouraging that firm action is being taken on uncivil parking. Existing parking restrictions in South Cambs are there for a reason and protect the safety of pedestrians and road users. Everyone is being encouraged to check the signs where they plan to park to prevent being issued with a fine and to protect everybody's safety.

Where parking restrictions already exist, enforcement is important to prevent the growth of lawlessness and the unfairness of most people obeying the law and a small minority choosing not to do so. Our area was one of the last in the country to request the authority to undertake civil parking enforcement. However, we are fortunate to live in an area where free on-street parking is still widely available. The residents of many of our 105 villages have little or no access to public transport and driving is a necessity in these areas. I am opposed to excessive new levels of restrictions being applied.

## Unfair level of road funding for South Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire County Council is responsible for funding roads, including repairs to potholes in our area. When the funding levels for roads in South Cambridgeshire is compared to other district level councils in the County, it is clear that South Cambs is getting a raw deal. We receive about half of what Cambridge City does for its roads in total, and we get about half per kilometre as Fenland does.

In order to stand up for our residents and fight for a better deal for South Cambs, my group proposed the following motion at the SCDC full council meeting on Thursday 3rd October:

“This Council requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council to express concern and dismay at how little has been spent on South Cambridgeshire's roads compared to other areas in Cambridgeshire.”

Unfortunately, this motion was hijacked by the ruling group who amended it to become a one A4 page political diatribe, praising their own political group and heaping criticism on their political enemies in the former administration at the County. I had to remind my fellow councillors that we have been elected to serve the needs of residents and stand up for our local community, we haven't been elected to score cheap political points and put the funding of our services at risk by making political attacks on other party groups and other tiers of government.

## **Councils ask residents to recycle their unused cables this International E-Waste Day**

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service is working with Recycle Your Electricals to encourage Cambridgeshire residents to participate in The Great Cable Challenge. The challenge is a nationwide campaign aimed at tackling the millions of cables sitting idle across UK households. The initiative is part of this year's International E-Waste Day taking place on October 14. The aim is to give a second life to the valuable materials contained in cables, such as copper which can be recycled into new items such as wind turbines and new tech like mobile phones, laptops, tablets or smart watches.

The following is a selection of local venues hosting temporary indoor collection bins during October where you can drop off your cables or chargers during opening hours:

- Arbury Court Library
- Willingham Library
- Elsworth Village Shop
- Rock Road Library, Cambridge

In addition there are temporary outdoor banks at:

- Haslingfield Village Hall
- Fowlmere High Street, opposite The Chequers.

You can also recycle cables at permanent outdoor collection banks for small electrical items, plus at Curry's stores, all of which are listed on the locator at [www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk](http://www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk)

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