

District Councillor Report November 2023

Garden Waste Subscription

On 31 March 2024 the existing free garden bin service will come to an end and be replaced with a new fortnightly garden waste subscription service.



Residents will be able to sign up to the service from December. There is an Early Bird Offer that reduces the payment from £57.50 down to £50. If this is paid by direct debit the early bird offer can be locked in for 3 years. This offer is available until 31st January.

If the council would like to obtain posters to advertise the Early Bird offer to their residents, please contact HDC by 30th November.

New CCTV in Huntingdon

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has collaborated with BID Huntingdon First and Huntingdonshire Business Against Crime (HBAC) to tackle anti-social behaviour in Huntingdon by installing a new deployable camera.

This collaboration signifies a collective initiative to enhance the overall safeguarding of Huntingdon, particularly of the Commemoration Hall and the surrounding murals. The implementation of deployable cameras, along with related endeavours, marks a progression in establishing a community space that is both safer and more secure.

The new camera is connected to the CCTV Shared Service Monitoring Centre. This shared service monitors cameras across Cambridgeshire, 24/7 from a central shared control room based in Huntingdon.

Local Plan Update

Planning have published some FAQs on our Local Plan update page [Local Plan Update - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk) in response to general questions from the public and town and parish councillors. One particular question is:

When is the next consultation?

The next consultation will be the Further Issues and Options consultation which is scheduled for spring/early summer 2024.

This consultation will set out and ask you to comment on:

- any further issues or topics that we think may be important to address in the district
- a draft vision and objectives for the Local Plan
- propose policy options and approaches for the future development of the district
- the assessments of all the sites submitted through the Call for Sites.

Postal and Proxy Voting Rule Change

[Postal vote changes](#)

From 31 October 2023 electors can apply for a postal vote via a new government online service. Electors are required to provide their National Insurance number when applying for a postal vote online or via a paper application form.

[Apply for a Postal Vote online](#)

Postal voters must reapply to vote by post every 3 years if they wish to continue to vote by post. Political parties and campaigners will be banned from handling electors' postal votes. Electors will be limited to the number of postal vote packs they can hand in at a polling station.

[Proxy vote changes](#)

From 31 October 2023 electors can apply for a proxy vote via a new government online service. Electors are required to provide their National Insurance number when applying for a proxy vote online or via a paper application form.

[Apply for a Proxy Vote online](#)

Electors will be limited to acting as proxy for two people living in the UK. Anyone voting on behalf of overseas electors could act as proxy for up to four people but only two of these can be based in the UK.

Community Health Prevention project supporting frailty

HDC are committed to improving the happiness and well-being of residents at HDC, and supporting residents' cardiovascular disease and frailty risk is paramount to this. The One Leisure Active Lifestyle team has been running an 'Over 60's Social Club' in St Ives, Huntingdon and St Neots leisure centres, consisting of free sessions offering a combination of free play, fun and competitive games whilst socialising with a tea or coffee afterwards, thanks to funding from the Integrated Care System.

Here are some of the fantastic feedback which showcases exactly how impactful such schemes can be to individual lives: "I have been really enjoying the over 60s club. Not only has it been great meeting new people and learning new sports but also being able to socialise afterwards. I live alone and at times loneliness is my norm. I rarely get to just sit and chat and enjoy the company of others. Since attending I have felt more comfortable talking to people and feel my

confidence has grown in initiating conversations. The club is making such a difference to my life and has become the highlight of my week. Both the instructors are great and very supportive and make the sessions fun. Thank you so much.”

Meet Your Councillor Sessions

We understand that sometimes it is easier to talk to someone face to face, rather than send an email or make a phone call. To help, we have scheduled some dates where residents can come and meet their District and County councillors face to face.

Saturday 2nd December 14.30-15.30 Godmanchester Town Hall

TBA – Saturday 6th January 14.00-15.00 Hemingford Abbots

TBA – Saturday 3rd February 14.00-15.00 Judith’s Field Godmanchester

TBA – Saturday 2nd March 14.00-15.00 Offord Village Hall

As always, we work for you year-round. Should you need us, please contact us on:

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