

Bill Handley – South Cambridgeshire District Councillor’s Report

Community Hubs

Last winter, 25 ‘warm hubs’ were in operation across South Cambridgeshire in collaboration with Cambridgeshire ACRE. The benefits of these hubs quickly became clear; not only did they allow a warm space for individuals to go to keep warm but also to socialise with a hot drink and a snack. In the spring of this year, it was decided to continue the hubs but with some changes to the format in the light of experience. These new facilities have been renamed ‘Community Hubs’ and 13 are either already operating or will become operational very soon. Grant funding from the ICS has again made this possible. There is sufficient funding for up to 20 hubs.

Flooding Advice

The recent storm, Babet was a reminder (if we needed one) of how vulnerable we are to flooding in the Fen Edge villages, with parts of both Over and Willingham being affected, albeit (on this occasion) for a relatively short time. It is worth reminding those who live in high-risk areas of the importance of getting and remaining prepared for flooding in advance of the event. SCDC has useful advice on the [flooding page of its website](#). There is a useful list of things residents can do in advance under the ‘Be prepared for flooding’ section. This includes signing up for flood warnings, using the Government’s Flood Information Service to check for flooding risk and preparing a flood plan.

There are a number of authorities and companies involved in flood management and it can be confusing to work out who deals with what. On the same SCDC website, there is a list which residents can refer to for help. Here is a summary:

- Flooding from a sewer: Anglian Water. 0345 791 9155
- Blocked drain on the road or pavement: Cambridgeshire County Council.
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/report-a-flood
- Flooding damage at an SCDC property: Housing Services 0800 085 1313

While local authorities do not *ordinarily* provide sandbags (as it is the responsibility of residents to protect their own properties from flooding), SCDC will help vulnerable residents, such as the elderly who do not have friends, family or neighbours who can help them quickly in an emergency.

Northstowe Western Park Sports Pavilion

The Western Park Sports Pavilion at Northstowe has been completed and will open very soon. In consultation with the Town Council, SCDC has appointed a management company (Elite Sports) to run the pavilion and the associated sports facilities. The pavilion has six large team changing rooms and separate facilities for match officials and will serve a number of football and rugby pitches, a MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) and a bowling green. It has a large clubroom with well-equipped kitchen which will be suitable for social functions. SCDC staff are in communication with the leadership of Willingham Wolves to ensure that they are made aware in a timely way of the opportunities that will soon be available.

Climate Action Conference

SCDC hosted a Climate Action Conference in Cottenham in November, celebrating net zero action locally. It was held at Cottenham Village Hall which benefited from a Zero Carbon Communities grant of £15,000 for the installation of solar panels.

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