

Whaddon Parish Council February 2025 - District and County Councillors' Report

Average speed A1198

Bassingbourn PC's MVAS cameras did a check on average speed on the A1198 between Kneesworth and Whaddon Gap, in conjunction with their LHI application seeking a safer right turn out of Bassingbourn Barracks. The average speed on their recent calculation was 48MPH, which even though over the speed limit demonstrates a fall in the speed limit since the 50MPH limit was lowered.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

It is becoming clear that the LGR is going to have a profound effect on local government. Yet, what a new unitary council will look like is impossible to say. The government is inviting district and county councils to produce ideas and submit initial proposals at the end of March, and then a final business case in the autumn. Watch this space!

GP capacity and population growth

Building on earlier work by Jose in securing a S106 contribution that underpinned the evolution of Health at the Melbourn Hub, Susan has been working with the Integrated Care Board (local NHS) and SCDC Planning on a better understanding of blockages to meaningful and appropriate growth in GP provision in growth areas. While the ICB has a statutory duty to oversee primary care provision, the reality is that processes around planning and development usually fall short, and the complexity of private GP practice within an NHS system presents sometimes insurmountable challenges. Good work is taking place in South Cambs, with constructive collaboration between SCDC planning and a dedicated primary care planning team at the ICB.

Community Hubs and local NHS support

Original funding for the 'Warm Hubs' around South Cambs, that evolved into Community Hubs, came from the Integrated Care Board. Further funding was provided for the Village Agents scheme, bringing expertise around benefits information, cost of living support and other signposting to Community Hubs. The Integrated Care Board, which is the local NHS, has recognized the enormous benefits that the Community Hubs scheme has brought. Further ICB initiative is expected; Susan is continuing a dialogue with the ICB about this.

Waste Service Update - Blue bin recycling contract

Following a thorough public sector procurement process, Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service (GCSWS) is finalising a new contract for blue bin recycling processing. The current contract with Thalia expires at the end of February, and from March 3rd, a new provider - Re-Gen Waste Management Ltd - will take over the processing of our recyclable materials.

Importantly, residents will experience no changes to their recycling service. The same items can continue to be placed in blue bins, and collections will remain unchanged. While the materials will now be processed at Re-Gen's facility in Northern Ireland rather than locally at

Waterbeach, this decision was made after careful evaluation of all options, with Re-Gen offering the best combination of cost-effectiveness, processing quality, and environmental compliance.

The new arrangement includes several positive features. Re-Gen's state-of-the-art facility uses advanced robotics technology that can achieve a 99% recycling rate - higher than current levels. The company has committed to sustainable practices, including plans to use more environmentally friendly fuels and establish a new facility in the Midlands during the contract term. To minimise environmental impact, they will coordinate transport with their existing operations, using return journeys of vehicles already delivering materials across the UK.

Most recyclable materials will continue to be processed within the UK - currently 82% overall and 100% for plastics - maintaining our commitment to domestic recycling. Materials will initially be consolidated at a Waterbeach transfer station before transport to Northern Ireland, where they will be sorted and sold to established UK-based processors and manufacturers.

The procurement process:

- ReGen Waste are being awarded the contract covering the haulage, sorting, onward processing and sale of recyclable materials from our blue bins. The procurement process, which was carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council on behalf of all the RECAP partner councils, explicitly defined how bidder's submissions would be scored and awarded. Therefore, all bidders knew in advance exactly how their submissions would be evaluated.
- Cambridgeshire County Council undertook this procurement exercise under [The Public Contracts Regulations 2015](#), which set out how public bodies have to procure contracts. Their procurement exercise was compliant with these regulations.
- All RECAP Partners were represented as part of the scoring process and scored the written submissions before being presented with any price information. The pricing was independently evaluated by financial consultants and then a total score was made up of the written submission score and the pricing score. This was a quantitative process which provided a result.
- Upon receipt of these bids, it was noted that the incumbent (Thalia) had submitted a non-compliant bid. This led to the incumbent bidder being eliminated from the process. This means that continuing to send materials to the Waterbeach site was not possible without breaking public procurement rules.
- The successful bidder, ReGen Waste, is appropriately licenced, authorised and regulated by the relevant UK authorities, to undertake the operations and activities required by the RECAP contract.

If you're interested in how blue bin waste is processed and where it ends up see the article in the most recent Zero Carbon Communities Newsletter

[Go to this Sway](#)

Grant Funding Opportunity - Increased grant Funding for Electric Vehicle chargers

Funding available from the Council's Electric Vehicle charging grant has increased from £5,000, to up to £12,000 per project. This grant is open to parish councils, community groups and charities for public EV chargers in car parks associated with community buildings and village halls. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis and is open for the remainder of the 2024/25 financial year. We cannot guarantee the funding will be available into next financial year, so encourage those interested in applying to get in touch soon. For more information about this grant, please visit the [website](#). If you would like to know about community EV charging more generally, please visit [Electric vehicle charging - South Cambs District Council](#), where you can find a video by Steeple Morden Parish Council which explains how they installed their EVCP. You can also contact the Council on evcp.grant@scambs.gov.uk.

Save the date - South Cambs Sustainable Food Network Summit

The South Cambs Sustainable Food Network Summit is taking place on **19 February 2025** from **10am – 3.30pm**. This one-day event will bring together those working in the local food system in South Cambridgeshire. At the Summit we aim to:

- consider the main themes of sustainable food in South Cambridgeshire, and think about how we can build a stronger, more connected and resilient Sustainable Food Place;
- take the first steps towards forming a sustainable food network; and
- bring together local businesses, groups, organisations and individuals to discuss ideas and opportunities around sustainable food in South Cambridgeshire.

To save the date, and for more information, [visit the Eventbrite page](#). We hope that this event will form the first step in our journey to becoming a [Sustainable Food Place](#).

