

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward

Report to Haslingfield Parish Council May 2020

Funding for community groups

South Cambridgeshire District Council has updated [their dedicated funding page](#) with the latest information on funding for community groups, including:

- the National Lottery's Awards for All fund, which offers up to £10,000
- the National Survivor User Network (NSUN) fund to support small organisations providing support for people's mental health

Pension credit claimants now able to apply online

Pensioners are now able to apply for Pension Credit online in a move to assist those who are self-isolating or shielding during the coronavirus pandemic.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pension-credit-claimants-now-able-to-apply-online>

Existing methods of claiming Pension Credit, by phone or on paper, will both remain available to claimants. The digital claim will simply provide an additional option.

To make an online application, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim>

Green Waste service

The phased starting up of the green waste service began on Monday 4th May. Under the new monthly guaranteed schedule, the Shared Waste Service had planned to collect 5 of the 9 collection rounds for green waste on the first day. However, with the support of 2 additional spare vehicles and staff, they were able to complete collections for 7 rounds with 9 vehicles, whilst maintaining safe working practices, including driver plus one loader operations.

On the first day of the phased return, staff collected over 235 tonnes of garden waste, which is about 26 tonnes per crews of one loader and one driver; with all vehicles completing either 2 or 3 loads.

Under the phased reintroduction of the green waste service, residents are guaranteed one collection per month but are encouraged to put the green bins out each time the blue recycle bins are due for collection, in case crews are able to collect more than the scheduled rounds.

To find out which weeks have a guaranteed collection, residents can check by postcode at:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/bins/find-your-household-bin-collection-day/>

Vulnerable people, shielding and access to food

The [Government website providing advice accessing food and essential supplies](#) is now live. This page reflects in a single place the range of support available to vulnerable people and points those who have no other options and in need emergency support to their council (through the 'contact your local authority' finder). We do not expect the Government to proactively promote this page in their communications at this stage. We understand retailers have fed into the content and will be using the page reactively to respond to customer enquiries.

What to do if you are concerned that someone needs help

Cambridgeshire police have provided some guidance about what residents and community group volunteers should do if they are concerned about someone and not able to make contact with them – for example, if they knock on someone’s door or try to reach them by telephone and the resident does not respond. In this situation, there are a few steps to take before calling 101 or 999 for support. The main steps are:

- Have a quick check through windows to see if you can see the person involved (make sure you exercise social distancing and don’t touch any surfaces);
- Check for signs that the person may not be at home or may need assistance, such as a build-up of post, milk on the doorstep or anything else that may suggest the occupant needs help;
- Speak to neighbours, making sure you keep the 2-metre social distancing rule to see if they know of any close friends or relatives that may be able to help or know where the person might be; could you contact them to confirm their whereabouts?
- If the person is home but does not wish to answer the door/telephone but requires food or medication, you can email communityCV@cambridgeshire.gov.uk who will be able to help;
- If you are still concerned, call the police on 101 giving the person’s name, address and telephone number if possible; the police call handler will then go through a set of questions to establish if an officer should attend;
- If you see someone whose life is in danger, for example, they are lying on the floor, always call 999 and request an ambulance.

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