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Town & Parish Council Newsletter March 2024

Date of publication: 19 March 2024



Dear Town & Parish Councils

Welcome to the March edition of HDC's Town & Parish Council Newsletter.

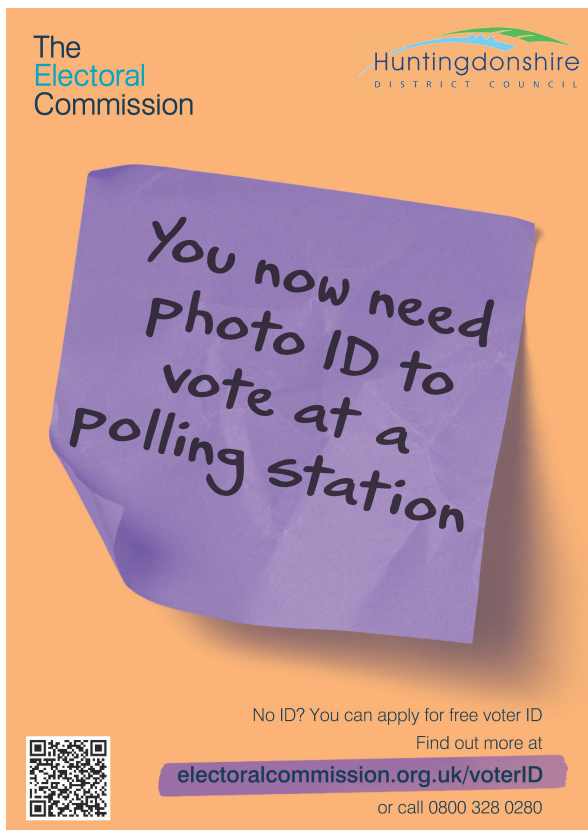
In what is the third newsletter since its restart, we have once again included a mix of items that teams from across the District Council have asked us to send out on their behalf, together with other information and news we believe will be of interest, even if serving as a reminder of details previously forwarded to you.

a General Election on 2nd May, we do have the election for the Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Commissioner on that date. Below you will see details on the requirement for all residents to bring Photo ID with them when voting at a polling station, and it can't be emphasised enough how important it is for people to be reminded of this.

As discussed in February's edition of the newsletter, in our effort to make this newsletter truly collaborative, you'll note further down (in Councils' Corner) that we are also reaching out to you, and we would be delighted to hear about what you'd like featured in future Town & Parish Council Newsletters.

If you would like to contact the newsletter editor, please note that our dedicated email account is: townparishcomms@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Elections – 2 May 2024



The Electoral Commission

Huntingdonshire
DISTRICT COUNCIL

You now need
photo ID to
vote at a
polling station

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID
Find out more at
electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID
or call 0800 328 0280

The District Council is holding the scheduled Police and Crime Commissioner election on Thursday, 2 May 2024.

As this will be the first scheduled election in the District using voter ID, and in preparation for this, please see **attached** a poster for display on your notice boards to help inform residents of this new requirement that they now need photo ID when voting at a polling station. If you do not have the facility to print the poster, please let **elections@huntingdonshire.gov.uk** know and we can arrange for hard copies to be posted out to you.

**Keeping People Healthier & Stronger for Longer
– Last Call for Funding Applications**

Councils, voluntary groups, and community sector partners to help us address the prevention of frailty and cardiovascular disease. So far, we have funded several organisations that will be offering sessions in 15 community settings around the district.

This is the last call for new applications – Deadline 31st March 2024

Last Call for New Funding Applications

Do You Have a Great Idea to Keep People Healthier & Stronger for Longer?

FUNDING AVAILABLE

HDC are looking for community partners including Parish & Town Councils, Community Groups and Charities.



To find out more:
health.inequalities@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/healthinequalities>

Level of Fixed Penalty Notices for Fly-tipping and Littering to be Increased from 1 April 2024

The Community Protection and Enforcement Team are set to increase the level of fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping and littering from 1 April 2024.

or £200 for a large waste item (bin bag size).

- Fly-tipping FPNs will be set at £400 for an amount of waste up to the volume of a car boot, £700 for an amount of waste to the volume of a panel van and £1000 for a large amount of waste, or where we believe the fly tipped waste was obtained commercially (Facebook man-in-a-van waste clearance).
- We are also increasing the FPN amount for household duty of care offences to £400. This is where a person has failed to ensure their waste was legally transferred to an authorised person.
- All of these FPNs will come with a 28 day payment window, with a discount of 25% is paid within 14 days.

The Community Protection and Enforcement Team would be grateful if Town & Parish Councils could help communicate the above points to their residents, and prompt them to report incidents where they witness littering or fly-tipping, especially if they note vehicle details (such as seeing a person litter from a vehicle).



Garden Waste Subscription Service

The early bird discount may have ended, but you can still subscribe to have your garden waste collected after April 1st. Visit the HDC website to subscribe <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/garden-waste-subscription-service/>

An advertisement for a garden waste subscription service. The background is a blue sky with a green grassy foreground. On the right, there is a green bin overflowing with autumn leaves, with the letters 'HDC' on its side. A large orange starburst graphic contains the text: '£57.50 per year for your first bin and £30 for additional bins'. On the left, a dark blue diagonal banner contains the text: 'Missed out on the Garden Waste Subscription early bird discount? You can still subscribe to have your garden waste collected after the 1st April'. In the top right corner, the text 'Huntingdonshire DISTRICT COUNCIL' is visible.

£57.50
per year for your first bin and £30 for additional bins

Missed out on the Garden Waste Subscription early bird discount?

You can still subscribe to have your garden waste collected after the 1st April

HDC

Huntingdonshire DISTRICT COUNCIL

Starting from 31st March the current free garden waste collection service will be replaced by a subscription service provided by HDC. This subscription service offers residents the option to pay £57.50 (for their first bin and £30 for additional bins) annually to have their garden waste removed.

It is important to note that this is an opt-in service, which means residents will not be automatically charged or subscribed to the service. To subscribe to the service, residents can visit the HDC website or call 01480 388584 at any time. As a close working partner of ours, we seek your support in raising awareness among residents about this change in our garden waste collection service.

Introduction to the Cambridgeshire Rural Affordable Housing Partnership

HDC's Housing Strategy team works closely with Cambridgeshire ACRE to consider providing Rural Exception Housing. In turn, Cambridgeshire ACRE facilitates the Cambridgeshire Rural Affordable Housing Partnership.



The partnership consists of 4 local authorities; Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland District Councils, and 7 housing associations, with a joint aim of delivering affordable housing in Cambridgeshire's rural communities.



by people nationally, regardless of where they live, and the result of residents, including young people being unable to afford to remain in the community can result in the loss of many aspects of life that communities and many rural areas thrive on.

If you'd like to know more, please visit the [Cambridgeshire ACRE](#) website.

Introduction to the Cambridgeshire Rural Affordable Housing Partnership

One Leisure Active Lifestyles - March 2024 Newsletter

Oneleisure
ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

Let us help you be more active

Our One Leisure Active Lifestyles team run weekly physical activity sessions for all across the district.

For more information
www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/activelifestyles
email: activelifestyles@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
or call: 01480 388111

[@HDCactivelifestyles](#)
[@HDC_Active](#)
[@HDC_Active](#)

This month's newsletter is once again packed with lots of exciting opportunities.

As well as Active for Health courses starting in April, there are a number of introductory courses available, including; Intro to Bars & Bells, Intro to Studio, and Intro to Circuits

[OLAL Newsletter](#)

Why not join the Active Lifestyles team behind the scenes and see a typical day in the life of Harrison, our Community, Sport & Health Apprentice!

[A Day in the Life of Harrison](#)

Children's School Holiday Parish Sports Sessions

CHILDREN'S SCHOOL HOLIDAYS SPORTS SESSIONS 2024

Still time for Parish's to book!

We can deliver sports sessions for primary age children during half-term weeks or summer breaks in your Parish.

If you're a Parish Council member or other community organisation and would like more information on how you can get involved, please email:

activelifestyles@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.



Contact the One Leisure Active Lifestyles Team for more information

Market Towns Programme Update

Vibrant Communities

In the past year, we have delivered the Vibrant Communities scheme in collaboration with the CPCA and DLUHC as part of the wider UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Fourteen town and parish councils across Huntingdonshire have received between £5,000 and £20,000 to deliver new events, expand existing ones, or provide advertising and marketing support for local businesses. The purpose of this fund is to help our towns and large village centres become more vibrant places.

Since April 2023, over forty different events and activities have been delivered using the funding, increasing foot fall to town and village centres, promoting local businesses, and increasing residents' pride in their town and village centres.

newsletters and on our [website](#)!

Shop Front Grant scheme

The Shop Front Grant scheme launched in Huntingdon and St Ives in June. We are working with Huntingdon BID to deliver the scheme to our local businesses, and in January the scheme was extended to include St Neots and Ramsey.

The scheme is open to independent town centre businesses looking to upgrade or refresh their shop fronts, or make accessibility improvements, with grants of up to £10,000 (less VAT) available. Applicants are required to complete the online application form on our website, provide details of the proposed scheme and three quotes for the works, and evidence landlord permission for the work to be undertaken.



Since the start of the scheme we have approved 16 grants across Huntingdon and St Ives, with 9 already completed and paid. Following the scheme launch in St Neots we have received 9 applications which will be formally reviewed in March. We have been really pleased with the uptake of the scheme so far, and feedback from applicants has been very positive.

There is still funding available so if you receive any queries from local businesses, please direct them to our Shop Front Grant Scheme webpage where they can access information and our contact details.

[Shop Front Grant Scheme](#)

Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean Campaign

March, is calling residents across Huntingdonshire to show their pride in their community by taking part in the mass action litter pick. HDC is delighted to lend their support to back the charity's **#BigBagChallenge**.

The Great British Spring Clean, now in its ninth year, brings together individuals, community organisations, businesses and councils to make a difference to the environment on our doorstep.

You can order bags, litter picks, and/or a give us collection place to pick up the bagged litter, all for free, here: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/litter-and-fly-tipping/community-litter-picks/>, and take part in Keep Britain Tidy's pledge here: www.keepbritaintidy.org/gbspringclean.



Community Chest 2024/25

Coming soon... increase in Community Chest Grant Awards!

It has been decided that in our efforts to help drive forward our Corporate Plan initiatives, HDC will further uplift and support the local community financially. We are pleased to announce that to achieve this, a new upper limit of £2,500 for the community chest grant will be applicable for the new financial year.



Mayor of St Neots, Rob Simonis dropped in to visit Broadway Boogie with Lynne at St Neots Priory Centre

be able to apply for £500 towards the running towards their community spaces (previously warm spaces) and that information on HDC's website, application page and criteria will reflect this.

For more information please click on the link below:

**Community Chest
2024/25**

Community Spaces

- How to set up a community space and best support those who use it



Please click on the link below to access a new Community Spaces handbook. This has been asked for by our current local community groups, to pass on to new groups who wish to organise their own spaces.

This has been designed with a view to improving quality of life and creating a better Huntingdonshire for generations, as it puts in place hyperlocal meetups that local communities want - it's led by them.

forward from the Executive Councillor for Community and Health, Cllr Ben Pitt)

Setting up a Community Space

Invest in Huntingdonshire Property Portal Launched

The Economic Development team is pleased to announce the launch of its Invest in Huntingdonshire Property Search, a user-friendly platform open to businesses seeking to move into or expand within the district. The property search pulls live data availability from commercial agents across the UK who have sites available in Huntingdonshire. Users can search for offices, labs, industrial units, shops, pubs, hotels, or restaurants, in addition to available development land.

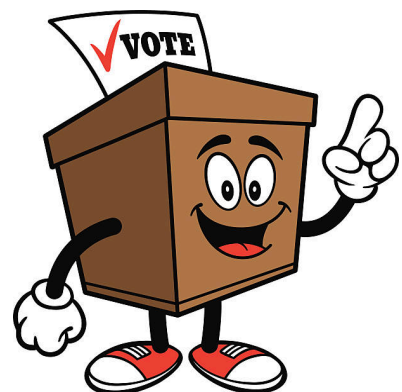
This initiative aims to simplify the property search process, providing a centralised hub for businesses to make their move to Huntingdonshire where they can grow, connect and flourish.

For more information and queries, contact the Economic Development team at: 01480 388287 or economic.development@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

The Elections Team at HDC needs you!

There are scheduled Police and Crime Commissioner elections being held in Huntingdonshire on Thursday, 2 May 2024 and, alongside these, we also have the risk of another snap General Election hanging over us, as well as changes already implemented with voter ID now requiring to be shown in polling stations.

The Elections Team at HDC would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in either acting as a Poll Clerk on the 2nd (07:00-22:00), or counting ballot papers on Thursday evening (from 21:30) at Burgess Hall, St Ives.



please contact us at elections@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Resignation of Councillor Richard West

- District Council Ward Member for Great Paxton

On 12th March we were informed of the resignation of Councillor Richard West as a District Councillor.

Councillor West, who represented Great Paxton Ward, was a serving Councillor for 18 years since 2006, and was elected five times - which I'm sure you'll agree is an amazing achievement.

A Conservative Group Member, Councillor West served in a number of roles on a number of committees. This included; Chair of Employment Committee, Chair of Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Joint Group, and Vice-Chair of Overview & Scrutiny (Social Well-Being) Committee.

Councillor West will, however, be best known across the district for his role as Chair of the District Council, which he undertook with the utmost vigour and professionalism.

A Notice of Vacancy was published on the HDC website on 12th March - to trigger an election for this seat, a request needs to be submitted from two electors for the Ward.



Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who joined us for our community planting day on 15th March. A key priority in the District Council's Climate Strategy is to promote biodiversity, and these plants will do just that as they absorb pollutants and attract pollinating insects!



Councils' Corner - Your Feedback and Suggestions

The District Council would be delighted to receive your feedback on the new Town & Parish Council Newsletter to date.

We would also love to hear about any items you'd specifically like featured in future editions of the newsletter.

Please forward all correspondence to:

townparishcomms@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

HDC in the News

[Free Business Support Programme for Huntingdonshire Businesses](#)

HDC launches new programme to support entrepreneurs and early-stage businesses
6 March 2024

[Council Budget 2024/25](#)

The new financial plan sets out how the council will balance its budget
22 February 2024

Bite sized News from HDC



OXMOOR JOBS FAIR

THURSDAY 28TH MARCH
2PM-5PM

Are you...

- Looking to develop new skills?
- Wanting a career change?
- Struggling with your next steps?

From local job vacancies and volunteering opportunities to help with CV writing and more. Whatever your age, whatever your situation, we can help.

Drop in for chat and a cuppa to see how we can help you.
The Coneygear Centre, Buttsgrove Way PE29 1PE




SHOOT FOR HEALTH

FREE 8 WEEK COURSE

STARTING THURSDAY 4TH APRIL 2024
ONE LEISURE HUNTINGDON - 5PM - 6PM

Are you finding it hard to get active? This FREE 8 week shoot for health course could be perfect for you! This course is aimed at inactive individuals who do less than 30 minutes of exercise a week. Get back into the much loved game of football with friendly and like minded people.

To enrol contact:
activelifestyles@huntingdonshire.gov.uk / 01480 388111

The ***NEW*** Fully Funded Business Support service is OPEN!



Whether you're seeking information, expert advice, or engaging workshops, we have the tools and resources to guide you on your journey to success.

Join the Huntingdonshire Business Accelerator today!



You can view the weekly update bulletin(s) from the main contractor (Taylor Woodrow), detailing the work that will be taking place.

Click on the images above for more information

Dates for the Diary

Monday, 1 April 2024 - **Huntingdon/Huntingdonshire DC 50th Anniversary**

Tuesday, 16 April 2024 - Town & Parish Council Newsletter - April edition

Thursday, 25 April 2024 - **Huntingdonshire Day**

See Calendar of Meetings for scheduled Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings:

[Calendar of HDC Meetings](#)

Resources

[Past Town & Parish Council Newsletter
January 2024 / February 2024](#)

[Let's Talk Huntingdonshire](#)

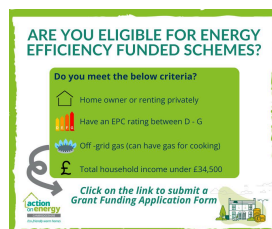
Huntingdonshire District Council Engagement Hub - a platform for you to have your say on various projects and engagement subjects.

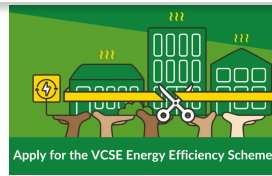
[Search for Licenses and Live Licensing Applications](#)

[Planning Portal](#)

[Investigating and Regulating Flooding: Who Manages What?](#)

Information from our Partners





- Action Energy
- Citizens Advice
- Loves Farm House Youth Cafe
- MMR
- HDC Skip Hire
- VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme
- Volunteer Cambs
- Wild about Huntingdon

Click on the images above for more information

Useful Websites



Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

