

## **District Councillor report to Parish Council April 2024**

### **Increased fines for fly tipping**

In July 2023, the government announced that maximum fines for fly tipping, littering, household duty of care offences, and graffiti would be increased to help reduce the issues of environmental crimes and target the worst offenders.

The new fines for South Cambridgeshire which come into force on 1 April 2024 are:

- Fly-tipping Fixed Penalty Notices will increase from £400 to £700. The government maximum is £1000.
- Littering or graffiti fines increase from £150 to £400. The government maximum is £500.
- Breaching a household waste duty of care increase from £400 to £600.

Fly tipping is a blight on our beautiful countryside. We are encouraging people to dispose of their waste responsibly to prevent environmental destruction and landscape damage – whilst also avoiding a hefty fine.

### **Grants for community groups and parish councils**

If you are from a local community group or Parish Council, we are encouraging you to make the most of the council's available grant schemes. The Grant Grabber service helps you search for available grants – all in one place.

For further information on receiving a grant for a community project from the council, please visit the grants webpage:

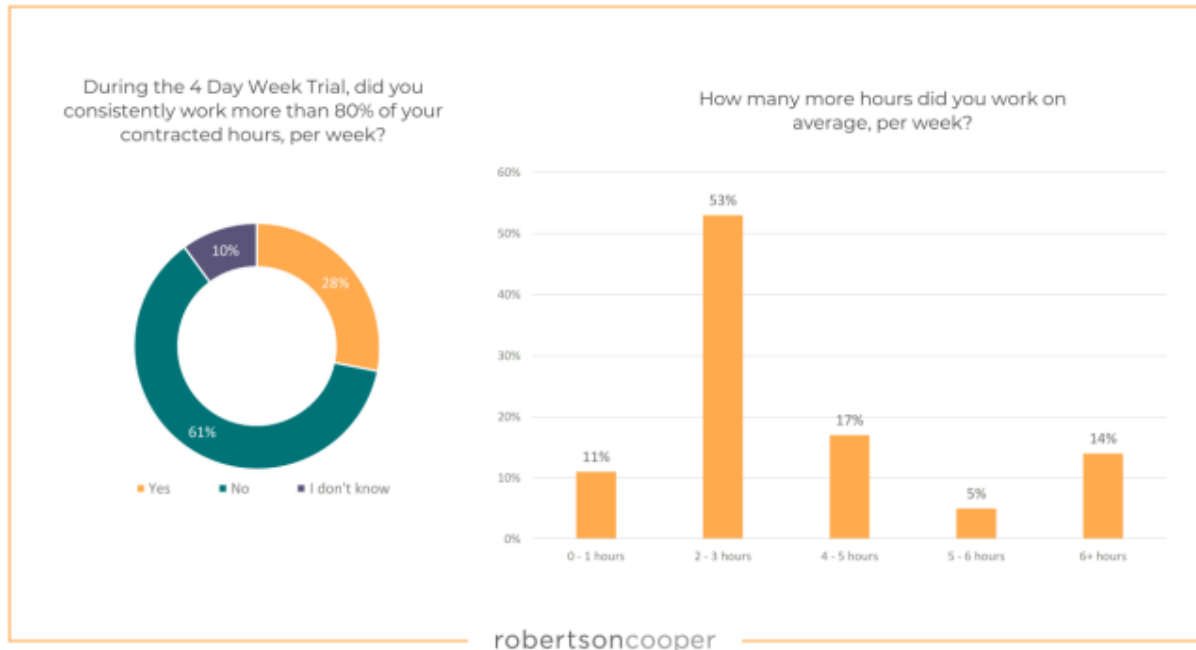
<https://funding.idoxopen4community.co.uk/supportcambs>

### **Four-day week update**

I and my fellow opposition Councillors are continuing to scrutinise the Council's four-day working week trial. A wellbeing survey completed by 328 staff showed that almost 100 staff are working more than four days a week – with 53% working 2-3 more hours a week, and 14% working a 6+ hours a week. This means performance is being propped up by some workers working more than four days a week – which is not right. Performance in seven out of 16 working areas has stagnated or declined during the trial, showing staff are struggling to fit all their work in to four days.

The Council repeatedly assured us that any drop in performance would stop the four-day week trial. And yet on Tuesday 12 March, the Council's Cabinet voted to continue the trial – with desk-based staff working 32 hours a week instead of 30, matching the hours worked by waste crews.

The opposition will continue working hard to ensure residents get what they are paying for – that is, five days' work for five days' pay. We are analysing the data sent to the government each week and will continue to hold the administration to account.



### Meeting with the senior team at the Biomedical Campus

Local members were invited to attend a meeting on-site at the Biomedical Campus to discuss how future development may impact the site and the surrounding area. It was really interesting to hear about the new Children's Hospital and Cancer Research Hospital which will be built on-site in the coming years and also how the site was contributing to the economy and healthcare both locally and on a national level. Some of the interesting points around this I have bullet pointed below but I'm always happy to talk more generally about the campus and growth etc.

- The CBC is the biggest employment site in Cambridge, supporting 22,000 jobs including 3,156 apprenticeships in 2022.
- Every 10 jobs on the Campus support a further 9 jobs across the UK
- The Campus contributes £4.2bn to the UK economy each year
- For every £10 the Campus makes, another £10 is made for the UK economy.
- We have three NHS hospitals caring for over 1m NHS patients every year which combine specialist expertise and leading edge science:
  - Lower cancer mortality rates - save an extra 182 lives every year
  - Lower cardiac mortality rates - save an extra 83 lives every year
  - Lower respiratory mortality rates - save an extra 208 lives every year
- Being co-located on the Campus has underpinned the development of new children's and cancer hospitals.

*Thank you for taking the time to read my report; if you have any questions or want to discuss any of the issues raised email me on [graham.cone@councillor.online](mailto:graham.cone@councillor.online) or ring 07595 361 285 (please leave a voicemail if I am unavailable) **Councillor Graham Cone***