

District Councillor's Report – June 2024

Dear Residents,

I'm pleased to share updates on some green initiatives in Huntingdonshire that are accessible to residents of Buckden, Diddington, and Southoe. In my view, we need to create more avenues for the younger generation to explore and benefit from green technologies.

Additionally, it's essential for all of us to stay informed about the district's and wider efforts in addressing climate change. By working together, we can create positive change for our environment, save money on energy and protect future generations.

DISTRICT COUNCIL LAUNCHES ONLINE CLIMATE HUB

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has launched an Online Climate Hub as result of feedback from local people.

The 2023 Climate Conversation events invited local businesses, residents, parish councils and environmental groups to gather and discuss Climate Change and Huntingdonshire's environment. Feedback from these sessions showed a clear wish for a platform where this collaboration could continue, leading to the Online Climate Hub.

The hub is split into 12 sections showing what HDC is doing to tackle climate change, resources for local authorities, information on biodiversity, funding opportunities and much more.

The Online Climate Hub supports the goals of the council's Climate Strategy and Climate Action Plan. The hub serves as a platform that will encourage and enable our communities to tackle climate change, in turn helping the Council achieve its ambition of becoming Carbon Net Zero by 2040.

View the Online Climate Hub here: <https://letstalkhuntingdonshire.net/hub-page/online-climate-hub>

SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT SECURED TO ADVANCE THE FUTURE OF GREEN SKILLS IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) is celebrating the opening of the East Anglia Energy Academy in St Ives, which will bring forward new jobs, skills and investment into the district.

The East Anglia Energy Academy, a joint venture between Reed Environment and Oxford Energy Academies (OEA), a leading provider of energy training courses, aims to attract

more young people onto the trades skills career path and encourage established tradespeople to upskill, with a focus on renewable energy.

The council's Invest in Huntingdonshire team has worked with Reed Environment over the last six months to identify a suitable site for their second national academy to help assess and retrofit social housing stock. Reed Environment's ambition is to become the largest network of green skills training providers in the UK to support an enabled workforce with the skills they need to thrive in the transition to the green economy.

The Invest in Huntingdonshire team conducted a property site search, provided an overview of the local trades and economy that would help identify and support the enrolment of local business owners to sign up to training at the new Academy.

The support the team provided enabled Reed Environment to win significant local contracts that accelerated their timeline. As a result, the Academy will open this September and support 150 apprentices and 400 adult learners by September 2025.

Located in St Ives, with easy access to the M11 corridor and out to Suffolk and Norwich, the state-of-the-art new skills centre will offer a wide range of training courses, assessments, and qualifications across gas, electrical, plumbing, oil, and renewable energy skills.

Wishing you well,

Martin

Martin Hassall

District Councillor for Buckden, Diddington and Southoe

Phone: 07480 798 342 - Email: martin.hassall@huntingdonshire.gov.uk