

COMMUNITY & FINANCIAL SUPPORT FAIR 2022

The increase in the rate of inflation during 2022 has meant many people are struggling to maintain their standard of living. To try to help residents of Fen Drayton deal with the rising cost of living, the parish council organised a Community and Financial Support Fair, which was held on 23 September. The objective of the Fair was to make people aware of the advice and support they could get from various organisations, with tips on how to reduce outgoings, such as the cost of broadband.

According to HMRC, £3 billion in tax-free childcare support is going unclaimed. Similarly, Ofcom reports that only 55,000 people (1%) of 4.2 million people who receive benefits claim low cost social broadband from their providers.

The following organisations attended:

South Cambridgeshire District Council – provides advice on benefits, money and debt: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/>,

housing and homelessness: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/housing-advice/get-housing-advice/>

eco/sustainability (insulation, solar, etc): www.scambs.gov.uk/action-on-energy/)

Age UK – benefits advice and community warden services: [Information and Advice \(ageuk.org.uk\)](http://ageuk.org.uk)

Anglian Water – how Anglian Water can help you - priority services register, extra care support: www.anglianwater.co.uk/watercare

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust – CPFT Psychological Wellbeing Service such as Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. Telephone 0300 300 0055

Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency (CHIA) – a non-Government organisation that provides advice, support and assistance to elderly, disabled and vulnerable people who own/live in their property, or those in privately rented or housing association accommodation. CHIA can help you repair, improve, maintain or adapt your home to meet your changing needs: <https://www.cambshia.org/>

Care Network Cambridgeshire – a charity that helps people to stay healthy, independent and in touch with their community. Help at Home offers free practical and emotional support in the home for any adult who has come out of hospital or is experiencing an illness or crisis at home: <https://care-network.org.uk/help-at-home/>

Church of England, Fenstanton and Fen Drayton - Rector Rev. Rosie Tallwin

Christians Against Poverty – provides help with debt: <https://capuk.org/get-help>

Rural Cambs Citizens Advice Huntingdon
telephone 0808 278 7807

The Town Lands Charity – provides assistance to people living in the parish of Fen Drayton, who are in need as a result of poverty, ill-health or financial hardship, by providing grants, items and services to individuals or charities or other organisations working to help such people.

On 1 October, a scheme was launched to help low-income households and residents in Fen Drayton in financial difficulty. It provides a grant of up to £100 in the form of a supermarket gift card: <https://www.fendrayton.org/the-town-lands-charity>

Energy and broadband

Martin Lewis provides advice about energy at www.moneysavingexpert.com/utilities

For people who are on benefits, social broadband can be obtained from the following organisations:

BT

www.bt.com/broadband/home-essentials

Virgin Media

www.virginmedia.com/broadband/low-income-families

Sky

www.sky.com/help/articles/sky-social-tariff

Vodafone

Vodafone has set up VOXI For Now, a low-cost mobile phone tariff for people on benefits:

<https://help.voxi.co.uk/Joining-and-Set-up/Joining/1573624692/What-is-VOXI-For-Now.htm>