

Future Cambridgeshire Competition Winners!

Three lucky winners picked up prizes in the competitions we ran as part of the Future Cambridgeshire consultation.

1. ‘What I love about Cambridgeshire’ words competition

This competition asked entrants to tell us in a short statement what they love about living in Cambridgeshire. We had lots of great entries but the one selected by our elected councillors as their favourite was from Mandy Entwistle of Longstanton, who wrote:

“What I love about Cambridgeshire is.....a better quality of life than many places in the country. Pleasant landscapes, varied wildlife, and in general a good community spirit. This is why most of the UK envy us and wish to move to Cambridgeshire. We did.”

The rest of the entries can be enjoyed below.

2. ‘What I love about Cambridgeshire’ photo competition

The winning photo representing the wild places of the county came from Niamh O’Mahony – see below. Niamh’s caption for her image was:

‘What I love about Cambridgeshire are the watery places where swans, kingfishers, moorhens and dragonflies live.’



3. Prize Draw competition

People who responded to our consultation had their names entered in a prize draw. Mrs Elizabeth Connolly of St Neots' name was first out of the hat and she wins £70 worth of vouchers for a retailer of her choice.

Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to everyone who took part.

What I love about Cambridgeshire competition entries

1. Relatively unspoilt countryside with beautiful and historic city centres. Low crime rates, brilliant hospitals and other centres of excellence. Generally good schools and a county council that doesn't waste too much public money.

639

2. There's something for everyone - always something to do - no excuses for boredom! It's a place of safety, freedom, opportunity, learning and friendship. It has a sense of purpose.... Although I'm foreign, I feel like I belong in Cambridge, it feels like home.

581

3. The many open and green areas in Cambridge and Huntingdon and easy access to the Fens. The big investment in public transport. The capital London within 1 hour of travelling. Very good hospitals and scientific resources.

500

4. When I am stressed and I need to think I take a walk in Wandlebury and admire the beauty of nature. I watch the young children play, and the old walk hand-in-hand. If you sit quietly and listen you can hear the birds sing sweetly. It always seems so surreal that only five minutes away I was in the bear shop buying designer gear for my daughters build a bear and now I sit deep in thought admiring the Cambridgeshire countryside.

277

5. The peaceful, quiet, open view across The Fens - the wildlife, birds and butterflies. We have a very low level of crime and lawlessness. I've chosen

to live in a country environment and not in an urbanised sprawl. I value the local community and do not wish to spoil it in any way, shape or form.
270

6. I love Cambridgeshire as I have felt safe and content since moving here 24 years ago. It is my father's birth place and that probably explains why I have settled here. I love visiting Cambridge, and Huntingdon and St Neots are nice places to shop. I find people are friendly and helpful. With bus passes it is easy for the elderly to go travelling around and see all the beauty of Cambridgeshire.
252

7. Having been very closely associated with horticulture and farming (in Cambridgeshire and all over England) for over 50 years I love the natural environment and the major part it plays in sustaining wildlife and biodiversity. Sites such as Wicken Fen generally need to be maintained and increased, but still keep a balance with other objectives.
240

8. Well kept open spaces, riverside walks etc. and the historic buildings all around the county; the BIG skies and sunsets due to it being flat. Also, the availability of fresh fruit and vegetables produced locally
236

9. The combination of the remoteness of the fens; villages that have remained as such but have moved with the times and technology; the flatness which means that you can see forever, and the wonderful skies! Although it is obviously good that stubble burning is no longer allowed, it was a wonderful sight to see the fields alight at dusk. The larger market towns (e.g. Wisbech, March, etc.) usually offer the shops and services that people want/require. Cambridge is lovely, especially to walk around, however, parking is a problem. The Park & Ride system is good but in some ways limiting.
189

10. Relatively short distance by road to many places of interest and leisure for family life. Next door to Norfolk (favourite county for days out). I live in Ely so far more relaxed and community focused than my previous residences (Herts/London). A lot of optimism from many sources as to the future.
135

11. The good transport (bus) for the retired and the peaceful meadows to go fishing and boating on the river Great Ouse. We have many nature reserves (Paxton, Wood Waltham etc.) which I enjoy. God save us from a 'concrete jungle'.

12. The friendly people and the help given to you in the shops, and where I live there are some nice walks in the country. That's why I like where I live in Soham.

108

13. Coming from Reading and now living in a village and working in the community with disadvantaged families, I love the warmth of the people. I also love the open spaces and natural countryside I can walk to from my front door, and drive through each day. Finally, the sky - being predominantly flat we get to see so much sky - amazing.

104

14. What I love about life in Cambridgeshire is the cultural and intellectual opportunities offered by Cambridge with its vibrant university and other activities organised by the City Council & others. The easy access by train to London and the lovely green spaces, river and gardens of college buildings in Cambridge itself.

81

15. For me it's not the waving fields of barley, the water, and huge skies - it's living within Cambridge. Cambridgeshire has few redeeming features - the best of these is Cambridge itself. Let's not spoil it with thousands of extra houses. 616

16. The beauty and peace of the countryside. That I can raise my family in a small safe village environment where they can walk/cycle in safety. Living in a friendly small community spirit. Please don't destroy village life. 644

17. What I love is rural living with plenty of open spaces for wildlife and humans. Please do not spoil it! 637

18. For me it's not the waving fields of barley, the water, and huge skies - it's living within Cambridge. Cambridgeshire has few redeeming features - the best of these is Cambridge itself. Let's not spoil it with thousands of extra houses. 616

19. I love the wide expanse of countryside and the wide range of flora and fauna therein. I also love the peace and tranquility. 605

20. What I love about Cambridgeshire is that, although the Fen Edge landscape is remarkably flat, there is a haunting beauty arising from the union of farmland and endless sky. My favourite walk is along Long Drove in Cottenham where the hedgerows are thick with blackberries and

blueberries in early autumn, the sunflowers are beginning to fade and the pinnacles of All Saints Church can always be seen, even from a great distance. It's a great place to be! 568.

21. The vibrant centre of Cambridge and the surrounding areas offer so much; nature etc. 542

22. I love the countryside. There is nothing better than taking the dog for a walk and taking in all of the beautiful scenery. My favourite place is Little Downham.494

23. What I love about Cambridgeshire is that there is a wonderful mix of interesting historical towns and beautiful countryside for leisure activities. 492

24. What I love about life in Cambridgeshire - it is a different world from London - people tend to be politer to each other. 345

25. It's flat but not boring. After 15 years we're still discovering gems - in Cambridge and out in the sticks - whilst having a great quality of life. 302

26. I love Sawston because I spent a very happy 50th wedding anniversary there. It is lovely and green, we would like it to remain like this. 286

27. I love the scenery. It's lovely for children - not too built up and there's a park around most corners where I live. 276

28. The vitality and diversity of our market towns. 272.

29. There's plenty to do if you want to be busy and plenty of places if you want peace and quiet. 268

30. After living in a big southern town I love the open spaces, the open sky and the quieter and less hectic lifestyle. 267

31. The rural greenness shrouded by a big, big sky. 263

32. Lots of green land and farm shops, orchards and places to visit. Rivers and parks. Shopping in Cambridge city centre. 253

33. It's full of history, plenty of entertainment, lovely open spaces for sightseeing or walking. Easy to get anywhere, transport very good. Has every chance for youngsters to make something of themselves. 244

34. It is rural and nature is on your doorstep. I have sheep and cows in front of my house and a view of farm fields to the year. Within 1 mile I can walk to a river. I am lucky to be within an easy distance of visiting Wicken Fen. I would love to be able to cycle everywhere but the volume of traffic makes the roads unsafe. 230

35. Easy access to pleasant countryside and big cities such as London and Birmingham. 228

36. It has one of the driest climates in Britain. It gets less rainfall than Barcelona. This means many more dry, sunny days than elsewhere. I also love the rivers and fens of Cambridgeshire - watery places where swans, kingfishers, moorhens and dragonflies live. 224

37. The vibrant atmosphere in the city centre and the relaxing nature around the city. 211

38. My home in a peaceful, beautiful environment. 210

39. The slower pace of the environment and the ability to enjoy the views of the Fens. 202

40. The countryside. There's so many places to visit and lots to see and do. 201

41. The beautiful countryside walks you can go on and the friendliness of everybody around you. 187

42. Its positive aspects e.g. countryside, environment, history, relative lack of overcrowding, local government, determination to preserve a healthy, peaceful area. 180

43. A beautiful place with vibrant villages and a power-house of a university, to be preserved, not destroyed, by over-building. 178

44. I live in a village just outside Cambridge and I love that I never feel isolated. Also, I feel that Cambridge is truly beautiful - a good all round mix. 172

45. The green idyllic landscape. 166

WINNER!

46. A better quality of life than many places in the country. Pleasant landscapes, varied wildlife, and in general a good community spirit. This is why most of the UK envy us and wish to move to Cambridgeshire. We did. 143

47. The good transport (bus) for the retired and the peaceful meadows to go fishing and boating on the river Great Ouse. We have many nature reserves (Paxton, Wood Waltham etc.) which I enjoy. God save us from a 'concrete jungle'. 126

48. Being able to cycle and walk in most areas. Living in Godmanchester we have a good community with lots going on. 123

49. It's very central to the country, less hectic than some regions and is a fairly affluent area. 116

50. It's safe, green, protected and peaceful. 109

51. Big sky and rich farming tradition in the rural areas and the unique beauty of the colleges and their backs in Cambridge. The smaller towns also figure with their major historical links with Cromwell and Pepys. 106

52. It is beautiful. I've seen places and places up and down the land and you can't beat a sunny, blue-skied day. It has everything you could find pleasing about life. Such a well balanced place to live, work and play. In a bash nowhere comes closer to a bit of wonder. 94

53. Culture, libraries and open spaces for walking and diversity of terrain, from howling fens to sandy heaths to chalklands; also, provision for people with disabilities by county council and charities. 88

54. Cambridge is the place to be, With miles of fields for you to see, But if you want a busy city, Then I think we are city pretty. 87