

# Cambridge

## Independent

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# City poised to be sustainable food capital

### Free water fountains, ban on plastic coffee cups and new restaurant ratings proposed under eco-friendly policy

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Cambridge could be on its way to becoming one of the UK's most sustainable food cities.

There are ambitions to introduce a raft of new policies that could stop the use of disposable plastic coffee cups, introduce sustainable food ratings for city eateries, install drinking water fountains in city parks and plant more fruit trees.

The concept of a sustainable food policy for Cambridge is being put forward by the Green Party's city councillor Oscar Gillespie and will be considered at a meeting tomorrow (Thursday).

Cambridge already has a bronze award from national body Sustainable Food Cities. Nine cities have a bronze rating and three have made it to silver.

Cllr Gillespie says Cambridge should be pushing for the gold, which is yet to be achieved.

Sam Dyer, Cambridge Sustainable Food (CSF) co-ordinator, said yesterday that the plan could be just the tip of the iceberg.

Cambridge Sustainable Food is now working with eight businesses in the city to help reduce their food waste.

She says a council sustainable food policy should be just as important as its environment and clean air plans.

**PLUS: What can we learn from Bristol?**

An exclusive report on the lessons for Cambridge  
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"Food and housing are two of the most important requirements for people's lives," Sam told the *Cambridge Independent*.

"We're already working in partnership with the council on many food issues and we have a large action plan under way.

"We really welcome the proposals and Cllr Gillespie's motion will hopefully start a conversation about these issues. I think our action plan for sustainable food goes further than the items mentioned.

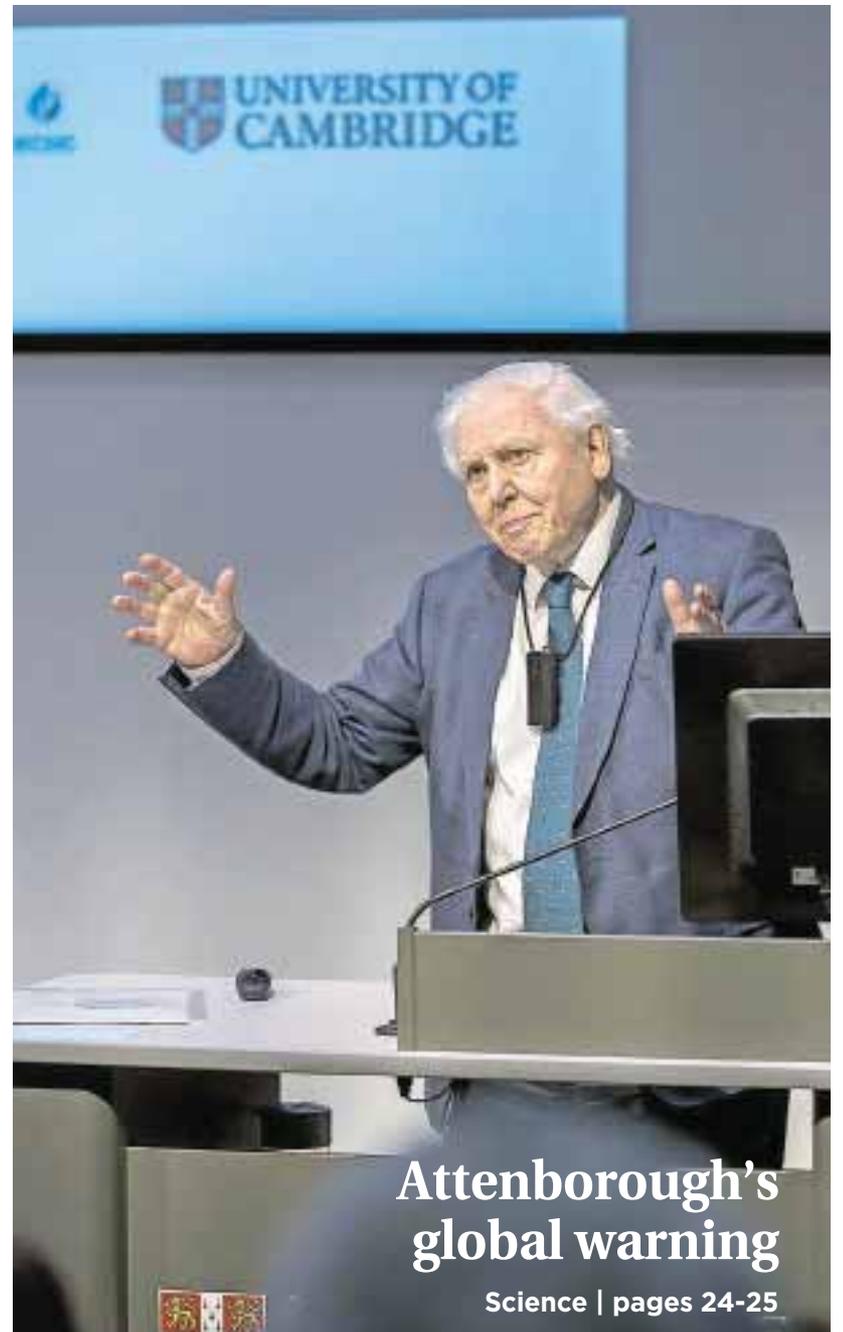
"We're taking a broad view and it covers everything from food waste to food poverty.

"The Food Poverty Action Plan is for the whole of the city and we're hoping it will be adopted by the council and other partners."

Already eateries in the city are signing up to display their food sustainability rating awarded by CSF.

The ambition is for this to be displayed in the same way as a food hygiene rating.

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### Attenborough's global warning

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## In brief

## Arson attack on Cambourne site

A brand new piece of outdoor gym equipment in Great Cambourne was hit by arsonists just days after it was installed.

The equipment was worth around £3,000 and was only opened for use at the start of the month.

The facilities at the are used primarily by adults, but this installation was suitable for children.



The Junior Strider after fire damage

"A very small minority has ruined the enjoyment for many children as this is the Junior Strider," said a spokesperson for Cambourne Parish Council.

Anyone with any information is asked to call police on 101. The junior strider will be repaired.

Meanwhile, a new accessible roundabout has been installed at Great Cambourne play area.

## Salisbury Arms is county's best pub

The Salisbury Arms has been named the best pub in Cambridgeshire by the National Pub & Bar Awards.

Winners from 94 counties have been selected.

Tristan O'Hana, editor of *Pub & Bar* magazine, which runs the awards, said: "The sole purpose of the National Pub & Bar Awards is to tell as many people as possible about the incredible businesses that these county winners are running."

## Jailed for eight years after assault

Pouria Sadjadi, 25, of Cadwin Field, Cambridge, has been jailed for eight years after an assault in Cambridge. He was sentenced at Cambridge Crown Court on Monday (April 16).

Sadjadi had an altercation



Pouria Sadjadi has been jailed for eight years after he knocked out two men

with the two victims, both men aged 41 and 50, in St Andrew's Street early on September 16 last year. He pleaded guilty to actual bodily harm on his 41-year-old victim and was found guilty of grievous bodily harm with intent on the other.

The first independent mayor of a major UK city was bound to be controversial. Festivals, pedestrianising streets and tree planting schemes were all introduced by George Ferguson, the first mayor of Bristol who held the office between 2012 and 2016.

He will be in Cambridge this week to share his thoughts on how Cambridge could benefit from being a bit more "wacky".

George was successful in the bid to make Bristol the European Green Capital in 2015, and it's this, he says, that "gave him the excuse" to push for a more environmentally friendly city, restricting motor vehicle use against strong opposition.

He introduced Make Sundays Special, closing streets to vehicles (George says "opening streets to pedestrians") and hosting events on selected Sundays in the summer. He also started the city's biennial Circus Festival which spans four weeks, and a graffiti festival.

"Winning the European Green Capital enabled me to bring in a lot of change that otherwise I might not have had an excuse for," George told the *Cambridge Independent*. "I think it's environmental changes that push very much in the right direction in terms of Bristol's character. I think those are the things I'm most proud of. Things like that in the long run I think will have changed people's lives."

"If you talk sustainability to people I think they can glaze over, but if you talk health I think people understand it. Actually, they are exactly the same thing."

"I feel very strongly that a good city is a city that's good for young people and children. If you make a child-friendly city it's a good city for us all."

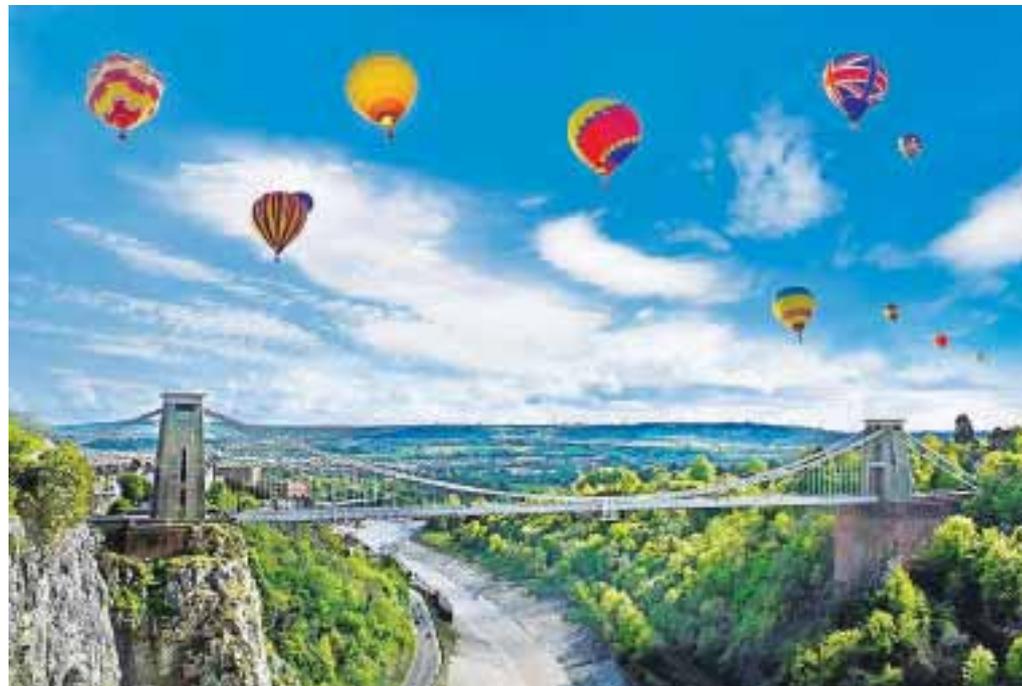
Environmental health, George says, is one of the factors that makes Bristol a "cool" city. Green policies and a vibrant cultural scene go hand in hand.

"Using culture as a way of opening people's eyes to the bigger possibilities I think is a really important thing to do. That is part of Bristol's cool."

"I declared Bristol a circus city; we have more circus activity than any city in the UK. Some will write me off as the circus mayor – I wear red trousers and I'm a clown and all that – but cultural activity is just as important in terms of people's attachment to their city, the good feel for a city, whether you're rich or poor, as those big infrastructure projects.

## What can Cambridge learn from Bristol?

Bristol's first mayor George Ferguson tells how a bit more "wacky" might be exactly what Cambridge needs. BEN COMBER reports.



Balloons over Bristol, which was 2015's European Green Capital

"I think it's those slightly wacky things that are really attractive to young people but actually contribute to making it a better place. I've always said that Bristol is a good city because of those individuals that take initiative and make things happen. It's not a good city because of the leader. Good leadership is about saying yes and encouraging those things to happen."

Being independent, George says, played a big part in that.

"I share a lot of Labour party values but I think there's much greater flexibility in having people who have a clarity about their job, and that is representing their place and not their party."

"That is a real practical issue. The required changes needed to

tackle some of the environmental and public health issues in our cities tread on people's toes. The required changes affect people's vote.

"A party politician's whole raison d'être is to be elected. It was never my raison d'être. Mine was to make my city that I have spent my whole working life in a better place."

"If you're a political party getting elected is your purpose and therefore it tends towards a lack of action. Certainly a lack of courage. I knew that if I was to make restrictions to the way people use their cars I would get a lot of opposition. I was warned by good people on the council in political parties that it would be a very dangerous thing to do, but I decided that was why I would do it."

Otherwise it would take 20 years to make the changes that I made in three years.

"You haven't got time to prove a project's worth by the end of your first term. People tend to judge change out of fear, that somehow it's going to be bad. Now I can't walk around Bristol without people stopping me to thank me. Some of the same people who used to curse me and tell me that I was going to kill their neighbourhood because I wasn't going to allow cars in now get it, because it's happened and they've experienced it."

■ George Ferguson is talking at the Federation of Cambridge Residents Associations event Making a Green City on Friday, April 20 at the Perse School on Hills Road. Book a place at [fecra.org.uk](http://fecra.org.uk).



A discussion about Bristol and its vibrant culture is due at the Perse School on Friday (April 20)

## Exhibition proves a great draw



The Cambridge Drawing Society held a private viewing at the Pitt Building for its annual spring art exhibition.

Society members and invited guests mingled among the artworks on Friday, April 13, the day before the display opened to the public.

New member Megumi Hashimoto, *above*, was having her work exhibited for the first time. She said: "I'm very pleased. I go to the exhibition every year and I know they have a very high standard."



## Camcycle wants safer city cycling

The inaugural Space for Cycling bike ride is taking place in the city on Saturday, organised by Camcycle (Cambridge Cycling Campaign).

The event starts at 10am outside the Cambridge Guildhall before a short ride around the city, including a stop at Cambridge Station Square, to highlight the need for more, safer and better space for cycling.

It's one of 12 events taking place in cities across the UK as part of national cycling group, Cycling UK's 'Vote Bike' campaign, which is promoting safer cycling ahead of the

local elections in May.

Tom Guha, Cycling UK's infrastructure campaigner, said: "That so many people are taking to the streets to demonstrate support for cycling shows that cycling is electorally popular. Hopefully candidates will listen and, if successful, act to encourage the growth of healthier, happier and more active places."

Meanwhile, the annual Reach Ride takes place on Saturday, May 7. Participants are asked to gather outside the Guildhall from 9am for a 10am start.

# Going for gold in sustainable food

► continued from front page

Cllr Gillespie will propose that the council helps encourage uptake of this rating and that enforcement officers should enforce it.

Sam continued: "It would be great if the city council really got behind going for a silver rating. Under Sustainable Food Cities we have achieved bronze, and not many cities have done that."

Among the other policies being suggested on Thursday is a refill scheme, which would mean installing public water fountains and encouraging the use of refillable containers in the city.

Cambridge BID is being asked to assist with the set-up of such a scheme. There will also be a push to ban cardboard cups with polyethylene linings, particularly from the market, and encourage businesses to use biodegradable food packaging.

The market has also been targeted by the need for a "sustainable food appraisal".

Cllr Gillespie is pushing for "more fruit-bearing trees in sites where they would help to relieve hunger".

He is also urging the council to ensure that community centres are equipped with adequate cooking facilities so that community groups can prepare food and teach cooking skills.

### Sustainable Food City

- 1. Promotes healthy and sustainable food
- 2. Tackles food poverty, diet-related ill health and access to healthy food
- 3. Builds community food knowledge, skills and resources
- 4. Promotes a vibrant and diverse sustainable food economy
- 5. Transforms catering and food procurement
- 6. Reduces waste and ecological footprint

A crackdown on event management would also mean food sustainability is prioritised, and the council is being urged to reduce its spend on catering and hospitality, and make a move towards offering "simple plant-based food from a local social enterprise rather than lavish fare, and donate any savings found this way to the Food Poverty Alliance".

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