

# **South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report**

**Month of April 2012**

## **1. South Cambridgeshire Youth Council**

The Council has opened up nominations for the Youth Council, starting from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Members of the Youth council will represent young people in all the Council's work, highlight the issues of concern to the young people, and have a real say in things that happen in South Cambridgeshire.

There are 20 places up for grabs and these are open to all young people between the ages of 13 and 18 who live in South Cambridgeshire. Nominations close on August 1<sup>st</sup> and, if there are enough candidates, an election will be held in September.

For more information, call Tracy Mann on 01954 713342 or email [tracy.mann@Scambs.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.mann@Scambs.gov.uk). Follow <http://www.facebook.com/SCYouthCouncil>

## **2. New Housing Repairs Contractor**

Mears, the new housing repairs contractor started the 5-year contract on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

Mears was selected following a bidding process in which the DLO, the Councils on in-house repairs team was forced to re-apply for their own jobs even though they met their key performance targets and had good feedback from council tenants. They lost to Mears, a national company by a mere 2.5%. However, some have been absorbed into Mears and some of them have left.

A letter went out to all tenants informing them of the changes. We wish Mears well and hope that the level of service does not drop. The telephone number for repairs is now 0800 085 1313.

## **3. Land Adjacent to Casa De Fosetta – Planning application S/1383/11 Change of use to Touring Caravan site**

The SCDC Planning Committee gave consent for change of use of the land to Touring Caravan Site. This is the plot of land on the old A428 next to the white Spanish style bungalow. The planning permission allows the land to be used for holiday caravanning, and nothing else.

However, it is well known that the owner of the land has threatened to use it for other purposes, and SCDC has for the last two years known about this. I had put in place an escalation procedure in the event that the threat to bring travellers onto the site was implemented. This was not considered material planning consideration, nor was the fact that the land had been gradually degraded to the point where the protected great crested newts were no longer on the site. You can read more about this issue on my blog.

The Planning Office is now putting together the planning conditions to be attached to the licence to operate the caravan site. Your Parish Council is also taking an active part in this process.

## **4. Casework**

Your Councillor is here to help you. Please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints. I can be contacted by phone, email or via my website. I hope I can help but even if I can't, then it's highly likely that I know someone who can!

## 5. Dates for your diary

7 <sup>th</sup> May 2012		Caldecote Sport Pavilion Opening
1 <sup>st</sup> August 2012		Close of Nominations for Youth Council

*Tumi*

Tumi Hawkins  
3-May-12

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