

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

Month of June 2012

1. Street Lighting – County Council Briefing

The County is embarking on a project to replace all the street lights in the county. This is because it is judged that these street lights have gone past their sell-by dates, in poor condition and needing replacement. The funding for the replacement is coming PFI – Private Finance Initiative, together with £100m from central government over the next 25 years. The new equipment will be based on white light which gives better colour recognition and night time visibility. They are taller and therefore light up a wider area which could lead to a potential reduction of 10%-30% of the number of units in some areas.

The plan is to consult with District and Parish councils prior to the work beginning in various villages- although some of that work has already started, for example in Caldecote. However the promise is to learn from any mistakes, improve on their process as they go along. Consultation will start about 6 months before the change is due, and residents will be sent leaflets 2-3 months before and again 2-4 weeks prior to installation.

Villages can chose to upgrade with decorative lighting (£1000) or adopt specific lights (£42 per year) or want specific lights removed, so give your feedback during the consultation period.

2. Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation

On Thursday 28th, Councillors met in Full council to consider the 196 page issues and options documentation which set out the potential development plans that the council is considering. It was a very intensive session, as councillors considered all the 120+ questions that are to be put to the wider public in the forthcoming consultation. In summary, it seems that new local plan is being driven by the business growth in South Cambridgeshire and is projected to continue at a rate of 1200 per year from 2016 to 2031. Therefore, the council is aiming to plan for Sustainable Development, providing infrastructure and homes needed to cater for the jobs growth. The current development plan will carry forward some of the planned homes, but the council will need to build additional 7400 homes. It aims to concentrate these in large settlements on the edge of Cambridge, and then in the villages that are classed as Rural Centres and Minor Rural Centres.

It is proposed to reclassify Comberton as Minor Rural Centre, which may have an impact on Toft. Bourn airfield, one of three potential large sites (including Waterbeach and Northstowe) is being considered to take up to 3,500 of the proposed homes, which will affect Caldecote and Childerley.

The full document can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/SClpio>, the spatial strategy being proposed is at <http://bit.ly/LPIO4> and the actual sites being considered for development can be found at <http://bit.ly/LPIO5>.

The 120+ questions are now being finalised, based on the discussions at the meeting last week, and the final draft will be approved by the Planning Policy and Localism Portfolio holder. Thereafter, it is expected that parish councils will be invited to a meeting prior to the document being launched for the formal public consultation that is planned to take place between Friday 13 July and Friday 28 September 2012. Please make sure you send in your views when the time comes.

3. Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire

This is to remind residents of Toft and Kingston to get online and register their demand for broadband services at www.ConnectingCambridgeshire.co.uk. This is the next opportunity to get the Comberton exchange to which these villages are connected, upgraded for broadband in the upgrade project being done by the County.

People who do not have access to the internet can register online or on paper forms in libraries, council offices and other public places. They can also call me on 01954 210840 and I can help as I have registered as a Digital Champion for both villages.

4. A Guide for Businesses

The Council has woken up to the need to support businesses in their growth rather than obstruct them, and has prepared a new planning guide that businesses can use to navigate their way through the complex planning system. The guide is based on the most popular and frequently asked questions by businesses. It is available in paper format which residents can request by calling the Duty officer on 0345 045 5215 or by downloading from the website at <http://bit.ly/BizG>.

5. A Guide for Householders

The Council is also looking to help householders navigate their way through the planning system when it comes to time to extend existing homes or build new ones. As such, it is making available a document called the Householder Design Guide, which provides information on how to apply for planning permission, what factors to consider when designing new homes and extensions. This guide is available in paper format which residents can request by calling the Duty officer on 0345 045 5215 or by downloading from the website at <http://bit.ly/ResiG>.

6. Youth Council

Nominations still open for the Youth Council. The deadline of 1st August is fast approaching, and there are still places up for grabs. It is not yet known if an election will be held, but anyone interested should get their nominations in now before its too late.

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

7. 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!

8. Dates for your diary

4 July 2012	10am	Planning Committee meeting
7 July 2012		Caldecote Feast
13 July – 28 Sep 2012		Local Plan Public Consultation
1 st August 2012	5pm	Close of Nominations for Youth Council

Tumi

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2-July-12

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