

# South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

## January 2013

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### 1. SCDC Development Plans – new consultation – Have Your Say

The second consultation is still ongoing, and deadline for submission of comments is 5pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013. The public exhibitions have now ended, but there is a permanent one at the South Cambs offices in Cambourne which can be viewed during office hours.

Main points to note:

- (1) Bennell Farm, Comberton, but which is in Toft Parish is identified as having potential for development. It is an opportunity for Toft parish council to discuss and negotiate with Comberton parish council on how to approach this proposal to the mutual benefit of both communities.
- (2) Land at Bourn Airfield, former TKA site, is being considered for
  - (i) alternative types of employment use
  - (ii) community stadium (but least favourite of the sites proposed for this facility)
- (3) Caldecote and Toft have potential green spaces/recreation grounds to be designated for protection
- (4) Correction to previous report – the development boundary of Comberton to be extended to include the remaining buildings in Comberton Village College that are not already included. This will NOT affect the Toft parish boundary. Also if Bennell Farm goes ahead, it will be in development framework of Comberton but remain in Toft parish.

A series of public exhibitions will also be held at various venues where you can meet officers and ask specific questions. The most convenient for our villages are on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at The Hub, High Street, Cambourne, and 23<sup>rd</sup> January at Comberton Village Hall, Green End Road, both between 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

The full document can be downloaded in two parts, from <http://bit.ly/LDP2-P1> for the joint consultation with Cambridge City, and from <http://bit.ly/LDP2-P2> for the further sites for South Cambs.

You can send in your comments in one of several ways: online at <http://scambs.jdi-consult.net/ldf> which is the preferred method, downloading and completing the response form at <http://bit.ly/LDP2-P> (pdf format) or <http://bit.ly/LDP2-W> (word format), by completing the questionnaire leaflet which you can download at <http://bit.ly/LDP2-Q>, or email your comments to [ldf@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:ldf@scambs.gov.uk) or in writing to Planning Policy, SCDC, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne Cambridge CB23 6EA.

### 2. SCDC Grants Review Update

SCDC Leader, Cllr Ray Manning, at his portfolio holder meeting last week, approved cuts to the grants budget for the next municipal year. Although the Leader agreed to have consultations, he chose unsurprisingly to ignore the useful suggestions that came out of it. So much for being a listening council!

Upshot is that

1. funding for capital grants has been axed . There will be no grants from SCDC as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. There is still some money in the pot, and any groups needing a grant should get their applications in to Joseph Minutolo by 28 February 2013.
2. The CAB have a 2 year reprieve before their grant is removed, the arts grant that has supported the arts programme at our local village colleges has been completely removed though the Leader made a one off payment of £40 000 to St-art.

It is going to be a difficult year for our communities who may need funding for various projects. However, the grantfinder service is still available from SCDC for assisting communities to search for grants nationwide. Contact Joseph Minutolo directly, or me and I will do my best to support the application.

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### **3. Youth Council Launched**

The South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) Youth Council was formally launched on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013. The Council received nominations from young people from across the district, and though 20 places were available, only 15 of them have been filled. The Youth Council will give young people in the district a chance to have a voice and to influence the decisions taken by the Council which will ultimately affect the development of their neighbourhoods.

### **4. SCDC Business Support Service and Fund**

This is to remind everyone that the SCDC Business Support Fund is still available. The scheme being run by Exemplas on behalf of SCDC, offers free business advice and guidance to eligible small and medium businesses and may also provide grants of up to £1,000 to support struggling businesses.

It runs various types of workshops for those wanting to start a new business or those looking to grow their existing businesses. These workshops are free and take place in Cambourne, Fulbourn and Foxton.

The Business Support Fund is available to anyone that has been running a business within a South Cambridgeshire postcode for at least 12 months and can who demonstrate that the recession has caused or still causing them difficulties.

To book a workshop place or find if you or your business qualifies for a grant, call 0844 346 0755 (Mon-Fri) or email [southcambsbusinesssupport@examplas.com](mailto:southcambsbusinesssupport@examplas.com) or visit [www.examplas.com/southcambs](http://www.examplas.com/southcambs).

The service is only **available until 29 March 2013**, so get your skates on.

### **5. Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire**

As always, this is a reminder to residents of Toft, Kingston and Old Caldecote to continue to register their demand for broadband services at [www.ConnectingCambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.ConnectingCambridgeshire.co.uk).

People who do not have access to the internet can register online or on paper forms in libraries, council offices and other public places. Registration numbers as at mid January were 26.9% for Toft and 64.5% for Kingston.

The County Council is now hoping to appoint a supplier this month, so keep those registrations coming in. Please encourage your neighbours and friends to register or call me if they need assistance.

### **6. Broadband – BT Infinity for Highfields Caldecote**

Santa seems to have missed one stop, as residents of Highfields Caldecote are still waiting on BT to commission the PON (Passive Optical Network) that will bring superfast broadband to the remaining majority. It is frustrating that “technical problems” are still being claimed as causing the delay and inability to give a firm date. Keep watching this space or check my blog for updates.

### **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!

Don't forget our councillor drop-in surgeries held jointly with County Councillor Fiona Whelan take place:

Caldecote Village Hall: first Thursdays of the month, next on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013 7pm – 8pm,

Kingston Village Hall: second Thursdays of every other month, next on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 7pm – 8pm

Toft People's Hall: first Mondays of every month, next 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 6pm – 7pm

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## 8. Dates for your diary

4 February 2013	6pm-7pm	Councillor Surgery, Toft People's Hall
6 February 2013	10am	Planning Committee Meeting
18 February 2013	5pm	End of SCDC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Issues and Options Consultation
4 March 2013	6pm-7pm	Councillor Surgery, Toft People's Hall
7 March 2013	7pm-8pm	Councillor Surgery, Caldecote Village Hall
14 March 2013	7pm-8pm	Councillor Surgery, Kingston Village Hall
23 January 2013	9.30am-12.30pm	Exemplas Workshop "Starting a Business"
30 January 2013	1.30pm-4.30pm	Exemplas Workshop "How to research your market"
7 February 2013	9.30am-12.30pm	Exemplas Workshop "Managing money & making profit"
21 February 2013	1.30pm-4.30pm	Exemplas Workshop "Planning for growth"
22 February 2013	9.30am-12.30pm	Exemplas Workshop "Planning your business"
27 February 2013	1.30pm-4.30pm	Exemplas Workshop "Planning a website"

*Tumi*

Tumi Hawkins  
4-Feb-13

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