

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

February 2013

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

The second consultation is still ongoing, but deadline to submit comments is **Monday 18th February 2013 5pm**. 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.

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.

Caldecote Parish Council is expected to send in a formal response on behalf of the village which hopefully will be made available to the public on the village website. I would also encourage everyone to **send in your individual comments** in one of several ways: online at <http://scams.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@scams.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 1st 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. The community chest grants program will continue.
2. The CAB have a 2 year reprieve before their grant is removed
3. the grant that has supported the st-art programme (www.start-arts.org.uk) at our local village colleges has been removed though the Leader made a one off payment of £40 000 to give them breathing space.

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.

3. Youth Council Launched

The South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) Youth Council was formally launched on Wednesday 23rd 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. See article on my blog at <http://bit.ly/10MzGMS>

4. SCDC Business Support Service and Fund

The SCDC Business Support Fund is still available **until 29 March 2013**. 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. Timetable is at the end of my report.

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 or visit www.examplas.com/southcambs.

5. Planning

- a. Caxton Gibbett: Planning approved to redevelop the old Yim Wah site. It will house McDonalds, Costa Coffee and Subway, creating up to 80 jobs.
- b. Plot 7, The Willows – appeal is ongoing. Site visit postponed.
- c. Site East of Casa-de-Fosetta: Application for Lawful Development Certificate (LDC) refused.
- d. Banner Homes 18-28 Highfields Road, approach made to SCDC for pre-application talks.

6. Environmental Services

Service Fees and Charges Increase: The Environmental services portfolio holder has agreed to increase the fees that SCDC charges for some of its services. Those wanting additional or replacement black, green or blue bins will now be charged £69.50 (formerly £63.50). Stray dog kennelling fees have gone up from £12 to £15. Pest Control fees have also increased. Reason for increase is that charges will contribute to the efficient and cost effective delivery of a range of council services that impact directly on people's safety and health. List of revised charges can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/EnvChg>

Trial textile and shoe recycling collection service

A new textile recycling trial started at the end of January in South Cambridgeshire in an attempt to collect textiles and shoes and stop them ending up in landfill.

Households in Bar Hill, **Childerley**, Chittering, Dry Drayton, Knapwell, Landbeach, Longstanton, Swavesey and Waterbeach are in the trial.

Around 5,000 homes in the trial villages got blue recycling bags to put out spare clothing, shoes and household linen for collection alongside their blue bin. The first collection took place on Wednesday 30 January and will continue until further notice. If the trial proves successful, it will be rolled out to the rest of the district

7. Children's Centre Events

The advisory board meetings of Little Footsteps Children's Centre (of which I am a member) and Cambourne Children's Centre are being combined. The board members will remain the same for each centre, but the meetings will be held together. The first one was held on 18 January 2013.

Parents of children under 5 with additional needs or disability are invited to Coffee and Information morning on Friday 1st March 2013, at the Cambourne Children Centre. Free crèche provided. To book a place or arrange transport call 01480 878534, or text 07517 419761 or email caroline@pinpoint-cambs.org.uk.

8. Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire

The County Council Cabinet at its meeting on Monday 4th (which I attended), appointed BT as the supplier of superfast broadband to the County. It is a welcome decision, which gives hope to residents of South Cambs, but in particular those at Old Caldecote, Kingston and Toft, that they too will join the information superhighway. Contract will be signed in March and rollout planning will start after that. We don't know in what order the rollout will happen, so keep those registrations coming in to give us a good chance in getting it first. Please encourage your neighbours and friends to register or call me if they need assistance.

9. Broadband – BT Infinity for Highfields Caldecote

Superfast broadband seems to be crawling its way toward Highfields Caldecote! We are still waiting on BT to commission the PON (Passive Optical Network) that will get us on the information superhighway.

10. Events

Saturday 09 February 2013 is National Libraries Day, topping celebrations in school, college, university, workplace and public libraries across the country. Everyone is encouraged to join in in a number of ways including organising an event, contributing to the libraries forums, tweeting with the #NLD13 hashtag and visiting the local library.

Comberton Library has cause to celebrate, following reprieve from closure. It is well used by residents of Caldecote, so let's join in the celebrations in whatever form we can. Visit your library .

11. 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 7th March 2013 7pm – 8pm,
Kingston Village Hall: second Thursdays of every other month, next on 14th March 2013, 7pm – 8pm
Toft People's Hall: first Mondays of every month, next 4th March 2013, 6pm – 7pm

12. Dates for your diary

9 February 2013	11am – 1pm	National Libraries Day celebration, at Cambridge Central Library
18 February 2013	5pm	End of SCDC 2 nd Issues and Options Consultation
20 February 2013	7pm	Comberton Policing Panel meeting, SCDC Council Chamber
1 March 2013	9.30am – 12pm	Pinpoint Coffee and Information morning, Cambourne
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
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"
20 March 2013	1 pm-4 pm	Exemplas Workshop "Finding and Keeping Customers"
20 March 2013	4.30pm – 7 pm	Exemplas Workshop "Business Networking"

Tumi

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7-Feb-13

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