

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

May 2013

1. SCDC Local Development Plan - Update

I attended the third Member workshop on the contents of the draft Local Development plan which took place on 23 April 2013. We discussed several topics including (1) sustainable development strategy (2) Housing site options (3) Employment site options (4) major joint areas with Cambridge – Cambridge East and the Northern Fringe East, (5) some Parish council proposals (for framework changes etc.).

Three issues that will be of interest to Caldecote are:

(a) 3500 homes proposed at Bourn Airfield: There was no appetite from members to build on this site because of the likelihood of creating a ribbon of development along the A428. And there is the issue of transport and that it is not big enough to sustain itself in terms of facilities (schools etc.).

(b) the proposal for the former TKA Tallent site to be redeveloped for employment use. This was given a cautious support, only on its own without housing. But there was still concern about transport to/from it.

(c) the proposal for a community stadium on Bourn Airfield. Most thought it was not a good idea. Too far out from the city, transport and parking issues, and viability.

There will be a fourth workshop this month and I will update further.

2. SCDC Transport Issues

Demand Responsive Transport: SCDC officers are working together with County officers to design a Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) scheme that will potentially replace the local services No.18 through Kingston and Toft and No 2 through Caldecote, when the County removes subsidies later this year. However, we require more information from residents who use the buses as to where they wish to go, what times etc. To this effect, I organised the distribution of the DRT information leaflet and questionnaire to the entire village in the hope that those who are interested will fill in the questionnaire and return to me or to South Cambs. Many thanks to those who have sent their completed forms to me already.

A14 upgrade: Central government has asked that all the local authorities along the section of A14 that needs upgrading should contribute some money to it (not sure but around £5m-to be confirmed). This seems to be an unfair request, particularly when it is a national road which the local taxpayer is already paying for through our general taxes. We also pay road tax, and petrol tax, and to be asked to contribute from our local taxes does not seem right. South Cambs administration seems to think they will want to use the New Homes Bonus or other capital funds that we get. But again, it seems that money meant for local projects should be used for local projects. I would welcome views from residents on whether or not we should contribute to the A14 upgrade.

3. Broadband – Race to Infinity

Thankfully, about half the village is now able to order BT Infinity. These are mostly roads in the newer parts of the village as shown in the table below

Clare Drive (upper part)	Strympole Way (parts of)
Parsonage Close	Copse Close
Damms Pastures	Grove Close
Round House Close	Goose Cross
Mill Quern	Dorral Dean
Grayway Close	Porthmore Close
Redmore Way	Stargoose Close
	Flaxon Glade
	Thorny Way

I have also circulated this list of roads to the village, and including it here for completeness. This follows on from the visit by Mrs Annette Thorpe on 17th April 2013 to the parish council meeting. BT Vans have been visiting the village almost everyday. On one day alone, someone said they saw three different vans in one location!

There's been a lot of activity in other parts of the village where additional ducting has been installed to the bottom of telegraph poles, and some poles have been replaced. I was hoping for some update this week, but nothing concrete yet.

However, Mrs Thorpe will be back to give a report to the parish council at its meeting on 16th May 2013, 8pm at the Village Hall.

4. Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire

I attended a meeting of the Broadband Champions of the Connecting Cambridgeshire project in Alconbury last month. The meeting was organised to explain how BT envisages to rollout broadband to the county by the deadline of end of 2015. It expects to be able to do this using only Fibre To The Cabinet (FTTC) technology. There is no timetable yet as to which community will be enabled first, but it will depend on the infrastructure that currently exists, and the ease of getting communities on the superfast broadband highway. No community will be left out!

5. Local Issues

Land Next to Casa-de-Foseta reference number is S/0255/13/FL: This application is going to planning committee on Wednesday 5th of June. Anyone can still make comments and address it to the members of the planning committee and the officer responsible dealing with the application.

101A West Drive: The developer has stopped the building work and is working to discharge the pre-commencement conditions that were put on the approval. We look forward to the 6-foot fence being moved back and reduced in height to improve visibility on the corner of West Drive and Grafton Drive.

18 – 28 Highfields Road – Banner Homes: The developers will be holding discussions with the parish council next week to consider the best options for use of the land.

6. 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!

7. Councillor Drop-in surgery

Caldecote Village Hall: first Thursdays of the month, next on 6th June 2013 7pm – 8pm

Kingston Village Hall: second Thursdays of every other month, next on 9th May 2013, 7pm – 8pm

Toft People's Hall: first Mondays of every month, next 13th May 2013, 6pm – 7pm

8. Dates for your diary

16 May 2013	8pm	BT Director Annette Thorpe attending to give update on rollout of Superfast broadband for Caldecote
8 May 2013	10 am	Planning Committee meeting
6 June 2013	7pm-8pm	Councillor Surgery, Caldecote Village Hall
9 May 2013	7pm-8pm	Councillor Surgery, Kingston Village Hall

13 May 2013	6pm-7pm	Councillor Surgery, Toft People's Hall
16 May 2013	8pm	Annual Meeting of Caldecote Parish Council
16 May 2013	8pm	Annual Parish Meeting of Kingston Parish
21 May 2013	7pm	Annual Parish Meeting of Toft Parish

Tumi

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2-May-13

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