

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

June 2013

1. SCDC Local Development Plan - Update

The fourth Member workshop in May threw up the big news – that the bulk of the housing is to be built in new towns after all. These are Waterbeach, Bourn Airfield and West Cambourne, and the ongoing development at Northstowe. There's more details on my website at <http://bit.ly/LDP1301>.

There will be some development in some villages, including the land at Bennell Farm, Comberton which is a 6.2 acre site on the outskirts (in the green belt) but earmarked for 90 dwellings. The affordable housing element will be made available in the first instance to those in need in Toft and Comberton (land is in Toft parish). A football pitch for the Toft Lions and additional car parking for Comberton village college are some of the benefits to the local area.

The main issue for the ward is the proposed concreting over of the section of A428 from Hardwick to Caxton roundabout, and rightly so, people continue to ask why as I explain on my blog at <http://bit.ly/LDP1302>. But more importantly for Caldecote is the new settlement that will be plunked on our doorstep. If it goes ahead, when fully developed, it will be the same size as what Cambourne is today.

Public consultation on the draft new LDP is to take place from **19th July to 30th September 2013**. Please put it in your diary to ensure you have your say.

Redevelopment of old TKA Tallent Site on Bourn Airfield

To compound the issues raised by the LDP proposal, the owners of the industrial site at Bourn airfield have submitted a major planning application ref S/1020/13/FL to develop that part of the airfield for B1, B2 and B8 employment use. This is a separate issue from the LDP. Caldecote Parish council will be discussing the application on 13 June 2013 and I would encourage residents to attend and/or give their views both to the parish council and to south cambs.

2. SCDC Abolishes Sustainable Energy Committee (SEC)

At the Annual Full council meeting on 23 May 2013, the Tories on the council voted to abolish the SEC. It used to be called the Climate Change Working Group. The Leader (and his supporters), insisted that it had no more work to do, that "sustainability" is now embedded in the work that the council does, and does not need a separate "talking shop", completely ignoring the good work that it could still be doing. This is the committee that has spearheaded the SPEP (Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership), and done loads of other good stuff, and still doing, and can still do. I have written a full article about this is on my website at <http://bit.ly/SECnomore> for those who want to know more. Anyone who has ideas of projects should submit it to the Leader at his portfolio for consideration. Or it can be taken up by a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

Talking of which – the Scrutiny and Overview Function at the Council was almost non-existent in the last year. The yearly report to council was a miserly 2.5 pages of "work" done during the year. It was more an overview than scrutiny, there were no task and finish group projects carried out, and no challenge/scrutiny of the decisions taken by cabinet. As a councillor pointed out during the debate "the scrutiny and overview committee had been emasculated". Having abolished the SEC, the cabinet decided to set up a second scrutiny committee to look at partnership working with outside organisations. Not only that, the chair and vice chair are to receive special responsibility allowances totalling £5,243, creating more jobs for the boys at a time when we are supposed to be finding savings. Oh, and when asked where the money will come from, the reply was from savings to be identified. I leave you to make your own judgement!

3. SCDC Transport Issues

Demand Responsive Transport: This seems to have gone quiet a bit as the County officer that was responsible for this has left the authority. But South Cambs is still working on it. I have received more completed questionnaires and would remind residents to please fill them in and return to me or to South Cambs.

4. Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire

“Better broadband is on its way” – so said the last update that the project team sent to broadband champions at the end of last week. We now have an indication of the areas being considered for the first phase, and as I’ve posted up on my website at <http://bit.ly/CCSfBb01>, of the 50 or so communities, most are in East Cambs, Fenland and Huntingdonshire. Only two, Papworth Everard and Willingham are in South Cambridgeshire. It is expected that these first phase communities will go online by December 2013. I will continue to update and residents in Old Caldecote can visit www.ConnectingCambridgeshire.co.uk for updates as well.

5. Funding for Parish Plans abolished

I tabled a question to the Leader, Cllr Ray Manning, at the Annual Full Council meeting on the 23rd May 2013 asking why he took the decision to stop granting community chest funds for parish plans – in effect changing the rules unilaterally and what plans is he putting in place to help parishes publish their plans. I challenged him asking if he valued parish plans so little that he would deny them the resources they needed. He did not answer the question directly and I will not insult you with the full reply (read it on my website), but the main points were (a) there will be no financial help, only officer time and (b) the council will help to point parishes in the direction of other grants that could be used for the purpose. So much for democracy.

6. Site next to Casa de Foseta (Touring caravan park or Houses?)

Application S/0255/13/FL: The applicant has revised the previous application to build 4 large bungalows on the site rather than the touring caravan park. This was done after recent discussions with the parish council. The revision will be considered by the parish council at its next meeting (13 June) and is likely to go to planning committee on Wednesday 3rd of July. Anyone can still make comments and address it to the members of the planning committee and the officer responsible dealing with the application

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. Councillor Drop-in surgery

This normally takes first Thursdays of every month, 7pm – 8pm. For the months of July and August, I will be going round Caldecote, knocking on doors to speak directly with residents. If you want to raise any matters with me, then please let me know by phone or email, and I will make a point to call on you during my roving surgery.

9. Dates for your diary

11 June 2013	10 am	Planning Policy & Localism Portfolio Holders meeting
3 July 2013	10 am	Planning Committee meeting
4 July 2013	6pm-7.30pm	Councillor Street Surgery Caldecote
19 July 2013		Consultation starts – Draft Local Development Plan
27 July 2013		Caldecote village family
5 August 2013	6pm-7.30pm	Councillor Street Surgery Caldecote
30 September 2013		Consultation ends – Draft Local Development Plan

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
6-June-13

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
Follow on twitter:	http://twitter.com/CouncillorTumi
Facebook share:	http://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi
Link on LinkedIn	http://www.linkedin.com/in/tumihawkins
Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
Call me on:	01954 210840