

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

July 2013

1. SCDC Local Development Plan - Update

On Thursday 27 June, SCDC cabinet agreed the new draft Local Development Plan which will now go out to public consultation from 19th July to 30th September.

The draft plan includes proposal to build a new town at Waterbeach, a new village at Bourne Airfield, and a new settlement (or extension to) West Cambourne. It also includes proposals to build up to 900 houses in various villages, including up to 90 at Bennell Farm, Comberton (Toft parish). I have requested that the number be reduced even further, to take account of its location in the green belt and ensure the impact is minimal and will also put this in my consultation response.

The Bennell farm proposal, if it goes ahead, will benefit Toft because it will include a new football pitch and changing facilities for the Toft Lions, as well as additional car parking for Comberton Village College. In addition, both I and the district councillor for Comberton have been able to get SCDC to agree that the affordable housing on the site (40% of the final number of dwellings, up to maximum of 36) will go to local people only, meeting an equal percentage of the affordable housing needs of both villages.

There will be a series of exhibitions during the consultation period. The nearest ones will be **Comberton Village Hall on Wednesday 24 July** and **Caldecote Village Hall on Tuesday 3 September**. Please make a note in your diaries if you wish to see what is being proposed for our Ward.

2. SCDC invests in solar panels for homes

The Council has struck a new deal with its partner, Savills Solar, which will see a new batch of panels installed over the next six months. Recently the council fitted its 1,000th panel, and has said that it hopes to double this number by the end of the year.

The project is being financed by private funders, who receive the "feed-in tariff" for every kilowatt of electricity generated. Good news is that once a home is fitted with solar panels, tenants immediately reap the benefit of free electricity during the day and it is expected that in excess of £150 a year will be saved on fuel bills as well as cutting the carbon footprint. The council will contact tenants whose homes are suitable to accommodate the panels

3. Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire

There is not much else to report since my update in the June report. I live in hope that Kingston and Toft will come up in the schedule sooner rather than later. Last week, the Government announced a further £250 million to ensure fixed superfast broadband reaches 95% of the population by 2017 and at least 99% of the UK will have access to superfast broadband – whether its fixed, wireless or mobile broadband by 2018. I will continue to update and residents can visit www.ConnectingCambridgeshire.co.uk for updates as well.

4. Community Right to Challenge

If you are interested in taking over the running of a Council service and do it better and more efficiently, then this is the opportunity to say so. The Council has launched the Community Right to Challenge which was introduced under the Localism Act 2011. Groups, voluntary and community bodies, charities can submit and Expression of Interest (EOI). The council says it will accept bids each June and July. To find out more please visit www.scams.gov.uk/content/community-right-challenge

5. Shape Your Place

The award winning www.ShapeYourPlace.org has gone live in South Cambs! The project lets local people have their say about what matters to them most where they live. They can debate, suggest ideas and raise issues. The unique twist is that where someone raises an issue, the County Council, district councils, police and the fire service will respond on the site about how they will resolve the issue if possible. We alert

councillors if an issue is raised on the site that affects their area and they can also use the site to engage with local people.

For more information about the project or how to promote your service, please email shapeyourplace@scams.gov.uk

6. Caravans in Car Park on School Lane

On Tuesday 4th June, SCDC officers attached “Removal of Abandoned Vehicle” notices on the caravans in the car park within a specified period. The officer is due to re-inspect the car park on Thursday 4th July.

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 Mondays of every month, 6pm – 7pm. For the months of July and August, I will be going round Toft, 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 times.

9. Dates for your diary

3 July 2013	10 am	Planning Committee meeting
10 July 2013	11 am	Chief Constable briefing for Elected Members
19 July 2013		Consultation starts – Draft Local Development Plan
25 July 2013	2pm	Full Council meeting
5 August 2013	6pm-7pm	Councillor Street Surgery Toft
30 September 2013	5pm	Consultation ends – Draft Local Development Plan

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1-July-13

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