

# **South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report**

**Month of October 2012**

## **1. Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation**

SCDC received over 12,000 responses and officers are now working very hard to register them all. In line with the guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework which will come into force in April 2013, SCDC and Cambridge City Councils both need to co-operate and work together to update both of their respective Local Plans. There is therefore a lot of work to be done over the next 2 years. The current thinking is to hold three member workshops to discuss the main issues identified from the summer's consultation, to be followed by three Portfolio holder meetings where the Portfolio Holder will agree on the contents of the draft Local Plan to be recommended to a meeting of the Cabinet in May 2013. Members of the public can attend the portfolio holder meetings if they feel strongly about or wish to discuss any issues close to their hearts! I will continue to pass on updates as and when we get them from Planning Policy Portfolio Holder and Officers.

## **2. Cold Weather Provision 2012-13**

During the cold months the District Council makes special provision for people sleeping rough. It is now trying to get a clearer picture of the number of people sleeping rough in the district on the **evening of Wednesday 7th November 2012**. Rough Sleepers are as "people sleeping, or bedded down, or about to bed down, in the open air (e.g on the streets, in doorways, parks, bus shelters); people in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as barns, sheds, cars, derelict boats, stations etc.etc. ). It will be helpful to the officers to know where the rough sleeper is actually located, so as to prevent double counting. If you are aware of anyone sleeping rough on this evening, please contact [Sue Carter](#) or Heather Wood, at SCDC on 01954 713044 or 03450 450 051 out of hours or let me know.

## **3. Help for Local Businesses**

The Council has decided to provide help for local businesses by creating a Business Support Fund to offer free advice and guidance to businesses operating in South Cambridgeshire for at least 12 months and can demonstrate difficulties due to the recession. Grants of up to £1,000 may also be available for further support. Those looking to start a business can attend also a range of workshops to help them along the way. The free service being provided by Exemplas on behalf of the council, will run until March 2013. For further information call 0844 346 0755 or email [southcambsbusinesssupport@exemplas.com](mailto:southcambsbusinesssupport@exemplas.com) or go to the website [www.cambridge-plus.com/content/business-support](http://www.cambridge-plus.com/content/business-support).

Further to the specific help offered by SCDC, Andrew Lansley the South Cambridgeshire MP launched a Business Support Group in September. The second meeting of the group is being held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012 at South Cambs Hall from 7.30am. The event is titled – **“What Funding and Support is available to Your Business?”** and is aimed at local businesses of all sizes. The event is FREE and a light continental breakfast will be served. Contact Maria Crick on 07545 872 857 for more details. I've also posted this on my blog. The next meeting will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and again in March (TBA)

## **4. Grants for Toft Peoples Hall and Kingston Village Hall**

A big congratulations to Toft, and in particular to Nick Nicholson and the People's Hall team that put together the bid for grant funding from Amey Cespa and South Cambridgeshire District Council. SCDC confirmed the award of £14,300 toward this project.

Congratulations also to Torrie Smith and his team for their successful funding bid for Kingston Village Hall. SCDC confirmed the award of £38,800 for this project.

Both communities may be able to apply for top-up grants in the future, depending on the grants budget for the council in the forthcoming municipal year.

## 5. Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire

The registration figures as of 1/11/2012 for Connecting Cambridgeshire project is as shown below

	#Premises	#registrations	%total registered
Comberton	870	57	6.6
Kingston	93	40	43.0
Toft	372	58	15.6
Caldecote	664	32	4.8

As the registered Digital Champion for Caldecote, Kingston, Toft and Comberton, I wish to remind residents of Toft, Kingston and Old Caldecote to get online and register their demand for broadband services at [www.ConnectingCambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.ConnectingCambridgeshire.co.uk). These villages are connected to the Comberton exchange, and this is the only opportunity for a while to get the Comberton exchange upgraded for broadband services. We need to have all premises registered to stand a chance of getting the exchange upgraded. Please encourage any one you know in those villages to register. People who do not have access to the internet can register online or on paper forms in libraries, council offices and other public places. They can also call me on 01954 210840 for assistance.

## 6. Superfast Broadband Race to Infinity Update

BT continues to carry out work to get the remaining 5 PONs (Passive Optical Networks) serving the rest of Caldecote and other communities in the Madingley exchange area to come on-stream. The top of Hardwick, Dry Drayton Estates and top of Caldecote are now on-stream. I will continue to update residents as I get the information from BT. In any event, I am hoping that we will all be on the information superhighway by Christmas. I hope to meet with the BT Regional director in the next couple of weeks and will pass on the updates via the village facebook group or the Madingley Exchange facebook page or my blog. Thanks for your patience.

## 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. Dates for your diary

2 November 2012	7am	South Cambridgeshire Business Support Group Event
7 November 2012	10am	Planning Committee Meeting

*Tumi*

Tumi Hawkins  
5-Nov-12

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