

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

Month of August 2012

1. Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation

A reminder that the SCDC Issues and Options Consultation is ongoing, having started on 12 July 2012 for a period of 10 weeks. The full document can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/SClpio>, the spatial strategy being proposed is at <http://bit.ly/LPIO4> and the actual sites being considered for development can be found at <http://bit.ly/LPIO5>.

There is a short version of the consultation document, which provides information and questions on ten key issues which residents can complete if they feel overwhelmed by the big document. You can access it at <http://bit.ly/LPioQ10> There are also additional road shows taking place, with the nearest being in Caldecote on 6 September 2012, 5-8pm. There is a permanent exhibition at South Cambs Hall.

Please respond by 12 noon on Friday 28 September 2012 which is when the consultation ends.

2. Consultation on Council Tax Benefits

Central government provides council tax benefit funding to Local Authorities, but that funding is being reduced. This means that those who are in receipt of council tax benefit will be affected, and it may lead to having to pay more council tax.

South Cambs is now consulting with residents to get views on how the District Council should manage the cut. It is envisaged that there will be no cuts to the benefits received by pensioners, as well as those with disabilities and their carers, and lone parents with children under five years of age. However there are a lot of others that will be affected. If you have ideas on how the council could raise more money to help support those in need, then come and have your say. The consultation runs till Friday 5 October 2012 and you can respond to the consultation by visiting www.scambs.gov.uk/ctsupport. There is a road show starting this week, with events being held at various villages. The closest to us is on Monday 17 September 2012 at The Hub, High Street Cambourne, from 3.30pm to 8pm. Do go along as you can speak to officers and discuss any areas of concern or ideas that you may have.

3. Consultation on Home-Link/Lettings Policy

Home-Link choice based lettings is the scheme that is used by South Cambridgeshire and six other neighbouring Local Authorities to allocate housing to applicants on the housing register in the area. This scheme and the lettings policy are now undergoing a review in a bid to deal with the changes that have come down from central government. Some of these changes could be significant, therefore the council would like to hear your views. To respond to the consultation online, go to <http://bit.ly/HLcons>. You can also find the Home Link Draft Policy at <http://bit.ly/HLreview>

4. Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire

As a Broadband Champion, I am reminding residents of Toft, Kingston and Old Caldecote to get online and register their demand for broadband services at www.ConnectingCambridgeshire.co.uk. These villages are connected to the Comberton exchange, and is the only opportunity for a while to get the Comberton exchange upgraded for broadband services.

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 and I can help as I have registered as a Digital Champion for both villages.

5. 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!

6. Dates for your diary

6 Sep 2012	5-8pm	Local Plan Exhibition at Caldecote Pavilion
17 Sep 2012	3.30-8pm	Council Tax Benefit roadshow, The Hub, Cambourne
13 July – 28 Sep 2012	12pm	Local Plan Public Consultation
20 July – 28 Sep 2012	12pm	Home-Link and Lettings Policy Review
5 October 2012	12pm	Close of consultation on Council Tax Benefits

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3-Sep-12

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