

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

Month of November 2012

1. SCDC Cuts Grant Funding

At the recent Leader's meeting, Cllr Ray Manning the Leader of the Council accepted the proposal to reduce the grant funding for the next municipal year by £300,000. The reason being given for the cuts is that the Council needs to find savings in its budget to make up for shortfall in funding from Central Government. This is a decision that will affect several groups and organisations in the district, and in particular our young people who have not been consulted at all, and yet the briefing papers state that it not a key decision. **ALL arts funding is set to be removed.** This includes the payments to the 5 village colleges to pay part of the staff salaries for the Arts Development Managers and it is likely that the jobs will go, and there will be no support for community arts, and the Arts Award ceremony may have to be scrapped.

In addition to this, Capital Grants for COMMUNITY, SPORTS AND PLAY will be axed in March 2013, which means there will be NO grants to help communities build community centres or sports pavilions etc. I am very concerned about this proposal, and would urge everyone who is also concerned to write to the Leader with their views. Note that at the same time as the proposed cuts, the Council is also to spend £45,000 to buy new chairs and tables for the Council Chamber.

2. New Customer Contact Centre opened

At last, the "new and improved" customer contact service South Cambridgeshire District Council has now opened at the Council Offices in Cambourne. It will allow residents and businesses to get in touch with the Council by phone and web-chat. It is even expected that text messaging will be introduced early next year thus moving SCDC into the new digital age of communications even more. Please note that the telephone number is still the same, 03450 450 500, it's the location of the centre that is different.

In December a new self-service website will also be launched so that customers can carry out more of their business online at any time of the day or night. Most residents should then be able to contact the council in the best way that suits them – that's the plan anyway.

3. Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire

A reminder to residents of Toft, Kingston and Old Caldecote to continue to register their demand for broadband services at www.ConnectingCambridgeshire.co.uk.

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.

4. 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!

5. Dates for your diary

5 December 2012	10 am	Planning Committee Meeting
25 December 2012		Christmas
26 December 2012		New Year

WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
3-Dec-12

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