

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

(comprises the Parishes of Caldecote, Childerley, Kingston, Bourn, Longstowe & Little Gransden)

Councillor's Monthly Report – September 2021

This report of previous month events is for all the Ward, so please be aware that some of the content may not be relevant to your particular Parish.

General

Please contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc. Don't fight on your own. I am available to help you to get the best outcome possible for your situation.

If you have time to spare – check out articles on my blog <http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk>. What I post on there is my view and not LibDem or South Cambs official policy unless I state that it is.

COVID19 UPDATE

The case rate is 316 per 100,000 in Cambridgeshire, 0.1% decrease on the same time last week. This compares with national rate of 332/100,000 cases, but higher than the regional average (280 cases per 100,000). More specifically

Cambridge – 335.8 per 100,000, a decrease of 8.9% on last week

East Cambridgeshire – 305 per 100,000, a decrease of 16.2% on last week

South Cambridgeshire – 298.3 per 100,000, a decrease of 4.2% on last week

Fenland – 309.6 per 100,000, an increase of 17.9% on last week

Huntingdonshire – 327.4 per 100,000, an increase of 12.3% on last week

Public Health England and CCG have set up more pop-up vaccination clinics and encouraging young people 16-17 who only became eligible in August to get their vaccination. Anyone can book their vaccine online at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19 or by phoning 119, or from the walk-in centres and pop up clinics in their area. Find the closest at www.thevaccinators.co.uk

Secondary school students are being encouraged to test twice a week to help identify those who have Covid without symptoms and young people aged 16 - 17 should get vaccinated before the start of term. Children returning to school will no longer be in bubbles and school life will look more like it did pre-Covid, however families are still being asked to be cautious and to stay alert for the signs of Covid and get a PCR test if they have symptoms.

Please take extra precautions, wear a face mask in public places, limit contact with others and consider those who are more vulnerable. **Hands-Face-Space** is still the wise thing to do.

Attached is a copy of the new guidance on self isolation.

Six Free Trees – Doubling Nature Strategy for SouthCambs

The Council has just launched the Six Free Trees scheme. This follows our successful three free trees scheme last year. This year, parishes are being offered a choice of six native trees which can be either pot grown or bare rooted. This means every parish council in South Cambridgeshire can apply for six free trees which they can plant on their land.

It is a very simple process to apply and **the deadline is Thursday 30 September 2021**. Check out more information and application at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/nature-and-climate-change/six->

[free-trees/](#) The supplier will deliver trees direct to parish councils. If you have any questions, please email the Zero Carbon Communities team zcc@scambs.gov.uk

PLANNING

Greater Cambridge Local Plan – First Proposals

The next stage of creating the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan is here. The First Proposal, also called the “Preferred Options” stage was announced on 31st August on the Council website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/environment-put-at-the-heart-of-local-plan-as-possible-sites-announced/>. The proposals put the Environment right at the centre, driving the sites selected and proposes to add a further 11,596 to the current 37,198 in the pipeline in both adopted local plans. I explain this in my blog at <https://tumiawkins.org.uk/first-proposals-for-greater-cambridge-local-plan-is-centred-on-greener-living/> but see the table below for a summary of the allocations.

Breakdown of existing and new sites



Location	Current pipeline (adopted allocations, existing permissions and windfall allowance)	Proposed increased delivery rates/densification on existing allocated sites	New proposed allocations	Total
City (urban area)	5,791 (16%)		3,912 (43%)	9,703 (20%)
Edge of Cambridge	8,003 (22%)	1,000 (40%)	2,850 (31%)	11,853 (24%)
New settlements	15,225 (41%)	1,500 (60%)	1,950 (21%)	18,675 (38%)
Rural area	8,179 (22%)		384 (4%)	8,563 (18%)
Total	37,198 (100%)	2,500 (100%)	9,096 (100%)	48,794 (100%)
Proportion of housing supply	76% of total delivery	5% of total delivery	19% of total delivery	

Only 384 new homes are proposed for the larger villages, close to established transport routes or with previous permission. This protects the rest of the district from any additional development. The majority are proposed for new settlements at North East Cambridge and Cambridge Airport on the edge of Cambridge.

The only new proposed allocation in Caldecote Ward is in Highfields and is the Phase 2 land of Linden Homes (Phase 1 is currently being built) where the permission granted at appeal had been let to lapse.

Village	#Houses proposed
Duxford	60
Great Shelford	100
Melbourn	140
Longstanton & Oakington	20
Caldecote	64
Total	384

There are misrepresentations going on in the press by the likes of Anthony Browne MP. He has chosen to spread fake news and not accept the fact that only 24% of the new proposals for housing is really down to this current LibDem council selection. Now you know the truth, and you will find it in the published documentation. This is what the the spread looks like.



2.1 How much development, and where?

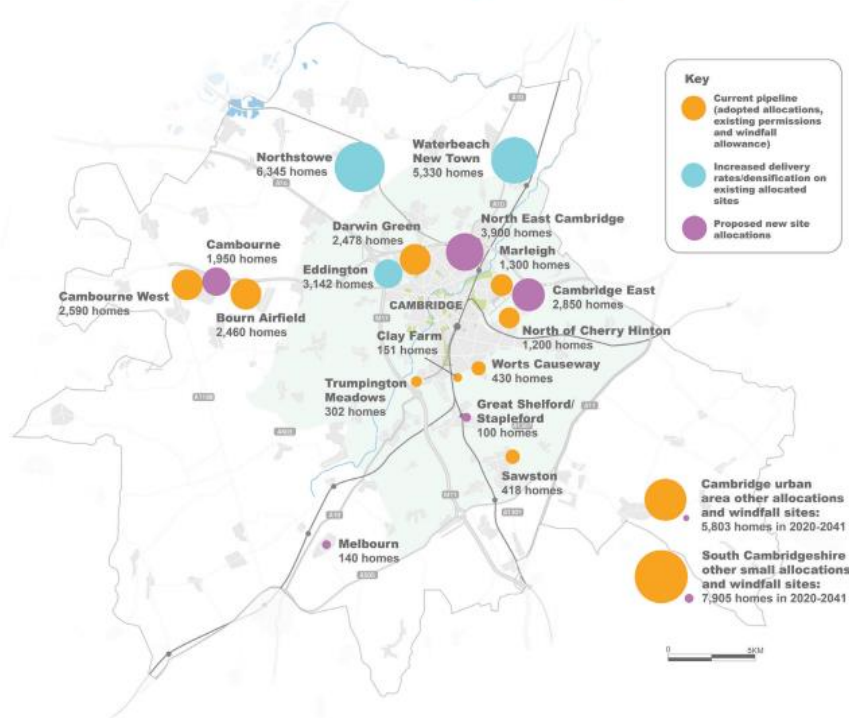


Figure 4: Illustrative map showing locations of proposed new development

These proposals will be discussed by the Joint Local Plan Advisory Group (JLPAG) meeting taking place on Wednesday 8th September. The full list of the published documents is [here](https://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=492&Mid=4077&Ver=4). The JLPAG will make recommendations to both Councils on what changes are needed to make it ready for public consultation starting in November 2021.

OXCAM ARC

The Government through the Ministry of Housing, Community & Local Government (MHCLG) issued papers for its First consultation for the Oxford-Cambridge (OxCam) Arc. The MHCLG said “We are seeking views to help us create a vision for the **Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework**, and in doing so guide the future growth of the area to 2050.”

MHCLG also said that “To ensure sustainability is embedded in the Spatial Framework we are producing a Sustainability Appraisal. As we are also seeking views on the initial work we have done to set the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal, a **Scoping Report** has been prepared as part of this consultation.”

You can read the full details and take part <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-vision-for-the-oxford-cambridge-arc>. The consultation closes **11:45pm on 12 October 2021**

This Government is setting the tone for the growth it wants to see happen in this region. It is what is driving the East West Rail project. I have written an explanatory note on my blog at <https://tumiawkins.org.uk/consultation-on-vision-for-oxford-cambridge-arc/>. I encourage everyone to take the time to send in comments on this consultation.

TRANSPORT

East West Rail

EWR company announced that they received 190,000 individual comments to their non-statutory consultation that finished recently. They are now sifting through and analysing them, as stated in their press release <https://mailchi.mp/eastwestrail/press-release-4781146>. We await the results. In the meantime, EWR has been sending out survey teams to monitor the use of paths, byways etc during the holiday month of August. Go figure!

Anthony Browne MP hosted the EWR CEO Simon Blanchflower and a Dept of Transport official to a tour of the villages along the route two weeks ago (18th August). But he very conveniently left out the villages in Caldecote Ward. I wrote to him on 20th August asking why, and he could not be bothered to reply – his Office Manager did, making the excuse that they did not have time, but drove through Highfields and Kingston and “pointed out” the issues. But he had time to sit down for a meeting with Cambourne Parish Council and meet with representatives of other villages along the route. You know who is on your side. Not your MP.

BUSINESS ISSUES

New Website for South Cambridgeshire

The Council’s Business Support team is working on a new website to promote everything there is to see and do in South Cambridgeshire to support the local economy by encouraging tourists to visit the area and local people to spend more time in the district.

Ahead of the site’s launch in the autumn, the team is inviting local businesses and event organisers to secure a free listing by submitting information and photos online via a short questionnaire.

Those that run a hospitality, leisure or tourism business, or a local green space or event can visit the website www.VisitSouthCambs.co.uk to create their free listing for parks, open spaces and cultural attractions| zoos, activity centres and places to visit | pubs, restaurants, cafés and places to stay | independent shops offering gifts, local produce and essentials | places for wellbeing, health and beauty services | plus local events and outdoor markets.

If you need further information, email visit@scambs.gov.uk and do encourage other business owners to register their listing.

The business team continues to support local businesses reopen and recover from Covid. The High Streets Business Support Team have now made over 1000 visits to local businesses. You can read about their work at <https://www.cambridgenetwork.co.uk/news/council-high-streets-team-passes-milestone-1000-visits-and-enquiries>

COMMUNITY ISSUES

Rehoming Afghan Refugees

South Cambs Council has agreed to support three Afghan families by providing homes for them in the district. The families will relocate to the UK through the Afghan Locally Employed Support (LES) scheme.

You can read more about the resettlement on the council website at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/council-commits-to-resettle-refugees-from-afghanistan/> and hear the Lead Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr John Batchelor's radio interview at <https://cambridge105.co.uk/julian-clover-27-08-2021/>

Health and Wellbeing

The Action for Happiness theme for this month is **Self Care September**. The calendar is at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/self-care-september>. This month's actions are encouraging everyone to be kinder to themselves (as well as others), especially when things go wrong. Self-care increases our resilience and helps us get more out of life. It also helps us accept others as they are too. As always please share with friends and family.

LOCAL ISSUES

Caldecote – I chaired the quarterly Caldecote Liaison Forum meeting on Wednesday 18th August 2021 even though I was on holiday! Thank goodness for Microsoft Teams. Both developers Linden Homes and Balfour Beatty attended. The works on the footpath along the western end of Highfields Road is part of the discharge of conditions imposed on Balfour Beatty for their development.

Little Gransden – We are still working on finding solutions to the issues of surface water flooding and the monitoring of the licence conditions and issues arising from the flying club and airfield.

Bourn – The maintenance work on Bourn Brook by the Environment Team at South Cambs continues in liaison with the Bourn PC. It is good to see the good working relationship now established between the PC and South Cambs team.

Cambridge Design Partnership (CDP) currently based in Toft announced their proposed move to their new high tech headquarters building at Bourn Quarter, which will be a net-zero-carbon-ready business park. The site is being built out now and they hope to move in 2022. Bourn Quarter is the site of the former Gestamp TKA Tallent factory on Bourn Airfield.

Casework

Irrespective of the current Covid19 lockdown, please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. I will help as best I can.

You will find my past reports at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/2020-21-monthly-reports/>. Feel free to read, share and/or download.

Please stay safe. The maxim **Hands – Face – Space - Fresh Air** is still very much the rule. Have a great summer

Tumi

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