

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

Councillor's Monthly Report – February 2022

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.

Check out articles on my facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi> and 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

Government eases restrictions

Restrictions to limit the spread of Omicron variant have been eased. It is no longer compulsory to wear a face mask, and people are being encouraged to go back to the office to work. However, it is strongly recommended that people continue to wear face coverings on public transport and enclosed spaces, and follow the simple guidance Hands-Face-Space-Fresh Air..

On 28 January the UK Health Security Agency published the latest reproduction number (R) and growth rate of COVID-19 in England. The R value is currently between 0.7 and 0.9 in England meaning that, on average, every 10 people infected will infect between 7 and 9 other people. The growth rate is currently between -6% and -2% which means that the number of new infections could be broadly flat, shrinking by up to between 6% and 2% every day.

Please get vaccinated, take a free rapid lateral flow test before going out to crowded places to ensure you are unlikely to spread the virus. Pick up home test kits from pharmacies and libraries, order online. www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting

Study shows positivity rates highest ever recorded, but prevalence plateauing

On 26 January, Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI published the findings from the latest report of REACT-1, one of the country's largest studies into COVID-19 infections in England. Findings covering 5 to 20 January indicate that prevalence of COVID-19 was 4.41%, by far the highest figure recorded since the beginning of the study, and over threefold higher than the prevalence observed for the period 23 November to 14 December. This means that around 1 in 23 people were infected with COVID-19.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan – First Proposals Consultation – Thank You

I recently wrote an article published in the Cambridge Independent to thank residents and businesses for taking part in the First Proposals Consultation. I also set out the facts to correct some of the misrepresentations some had been making about the emerging local plan. This new plan is adding 11,640 on 19 new sites to the sites already allocated in the current adopted Local Plans 2018. You can read the article at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/green-planning-proposals-protects-villages/>. Feel free to leave a comment or ask me questions of clarification.

Chalk Stream Project

As we know, our chalk streams are very special and precious to the natural environment in our region. They form part of the water supply for our area and are in need of help to restore and protect them. The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning service (GCSP) submitted a funding bid to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). The CPCA board agreed to provide £420,000 towards this work. We are keen to do our bit, along with other bodies such as the Environment Agency and Water companies who have the statutory responsibility for water supply. You can find out more at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/support-for-chalk-stream-project/>

Water Resources East (WRE) – Informal Consultation

On 17 January 2022, WRE launched an informal consultation on its Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP). This is their equivalent of our Local Plan, and it is setting out the options being considered to help meet the long term demand for water in our region up to 2050.

The emerging WRMP reveals that by 2050, the Eastern region could require around double (2,267 Ml/d) the amount of water currently used. This arises from an increasing demand for public water supply and for the agri-food and the energy sectors, alongside an increasing allocation to the natural environment, and mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change.

Read the press release at <https://wre.org.uk/wre-launches-consultation-on-emerging-water-resources-plan-for-eastern-england/>. You will find the proposals on the consultation page at <https://wre.org.uk/projects/the-regional-plan/>.

If you are concerned about water issues, then please take part in this consultation. It closes on 28 February 2022.

Fly Tipping

The incidents of fly tipping are increasing in the district. SCDC continues to advise residents and businesses to dispose of their waste correctly. Always check the credentials of anyone who you engage to dispose of your waste. If it is to provide a skip or get rid of waste, always use a registered waste carrier. You can check the Waste Carriers register on the Environment Agency website at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>

You can be fined up to £400 if your waste is found fly tipped by you or someone else. A man from Steeple Morden recently found himself in this unfortunate situation when rubbish from his address was found fly tipped in Guilden Morden. Don't let that be you. Read more on the SCDC website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/recycling-and-bins/keeping-your-community-clean/fly-tipping/>

Solar Together Cambridgeshire

SCDC is once again taking part in the Solar Together Cambridgeshire scheme in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council. The scheme operates as a group buying scheme for solar panels. Households can register their interest for solar panels – a company called iChoosr then run a reverse auction to get the most competitive price for households who receive a recommendation for their house and can accept or decline the offer. To date, 411 installations have taken place in South Cambridgeshire (and that includes my home), installing 1.93 MW of Solar PV panels. The scheme launches on 7 February, but householders can register their interest now at <https://solartogether.co.uk/cambridgeshire/home>

Zero Carbon Events

SCDC is delighted to invite you to the Zero Carbon Communities Team's annual series of events held to celebrate climate action taking place in the district, as well as looking at some of the things

that the council is doing to mitigate and adapt to climate change in the future. Please see the details of the sessions below, including information on how to sign up.

21 February: 7pm to 8pm: Community Action in Response to the Climate Emergency

What next after you've declared a Climate Emergency? A session with [Cambridge Carbon Footprint](#) for Parish Councils and community organisations

23 February: 7pm to 8pm: Cycling for Sustainability

Led by local campaign group [Camcycle](#), this session will explore action taking place on cycling in the district, including campaigns such as School Streets.

24 February: 1pm to 2pm: Making your business greener

This case study-based webinar hosted by our [Business Support Team](#) will feature a panel of speakers demonstrating ways businesses can operate more sustainably, reduce their carbon and waste, saving money by embracing renewable energy.

Alternatively, visit the website at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-events/> for more events including those in March.

LGBTQ+ History Month 2022

The Council is currently celebrating LGBTQ+ history month, partnering with Encompass Network to bring more information on their website <http://encompassnetwork.org.uk/history-month/> to residents and businesses. There is also a series of events from webinars to theatre productions. Find out more at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/equality-and-diversity/equality-activities-and-events/>

Community Engagement Forums for 2022

The dates for the community engagement forums have been set for 2022. These take place in locations where major development is planned (Bourn; Cambourne; Cambridge East; North East Cambridge; Northstowe; North West and West Cambridge; and Waterbeach). All of the forums will be held virtually on Zoom. Joining details and agendas can be found on our website no later than one week prior to the advertised date. The Forums webpage is at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-forums/>

The schedule of meetings for this quarter is as follows:

- Wednesday 9 February, 6pm - North East Cambridge
- Wednesday 23 February, 6pm - Cambridge East
- Wednesday 2 March, 6pm – Waterbeach
- Wednesday 9 March, 6pm onwards - A428 Cluster: Bourn Airfield
 - <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-forums/a428-development-cluster-bourn-airfield/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/events/226636826346319/>
- Wednesday 9 March, 6pm onwards - A428 Cluster: Cambourne
 - <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-forums/a428-development-cluster-cambourne/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/events/7798290350196695/>
- Wednesday 16 March, 6pm - North West and West Cambridge
- Wednesday 23 March, 7pm – Northstowe

For information on forums, email the Communities Team duties.communities@scams.gov.uk or call 01954 713 070.

Highway Code changes

Department for Transport announced changes to 'The Highway Code' that are set to come into effect from **29 January 2022**. Heavier modes of travel (lorries, cars etc.) have the greatest

responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others (cyclists, pedestrians) on the road. Cyclists will also be able to ride in the centre of a lane on quieter roads, in slower-moving traffic and at the approach to junctions in order to make themselves as clearly visible as possible.

Meanwhile, motorists will be encouraged to adopt the so-called ‘Dutch Reach’, opening the door next to them with the opposite hand so they look over their shoulder, meaning they’re less likely to injure passing cyclists and pedestrians. The government’s THINK! campaign will soon launch a communications drive, backed by over £500,000 in funding, raising awareness of the changes and ensuring road-users across the country understand their responsibilities. The campaign will run across radio and social media channels, with further campaign activity to follow later in the summer. The new updates are advisory, so non-compliance will not result in a fine.

Please see the announcements on the government webpages:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/highway-code-changes-set-to-take-effect-this-weekend>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-highway-code-8-changes-you-need-to-know-from-29-january-2022>

Highway Code: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/driving/highway-code-road-safety>

Campaign: <https://www.think.gov.uk/>

Business Support

South Cambs is offering a series of free-to-attend webinars for local businesses. The following are scheduled for this month:

- **Making your business greener** *Thursday 24 February, 1pm to 2pm*
Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing the planet. Come and hear how your business can reduce its carbon use and operate more sustainably. This case-study based webinar will feature a panel including speakers from Green Blue You, PECT and Greater Cambridge Shared Waste.

To find out more and to register, go to the business webpage at

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/business-networking-and-events/>

Covid Business Support Grants

South Cambridgeshire businesses can now apply for the latest COVID Government support grants via the District Council. Applications opened Monday 17 January for the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG) for up to £6,000 and the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG). These grants are primarily aimed at those businesses in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors.

Applications should be made by 18 February. Final payments will be made by 31 March 2022. Full eligibility criteria, and online application forms, can be found on South Cambridgeshire District Council’s website <https://www.scams.gov.uk/business/grants-and-funding>

Don’t delay, send in your applications as allocation is on first come first served basis.

Health and Wellbeing

The Action for Happiness theme for this month is **Friendly February**. The calendar is at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/february>. This month’s focus is on reaching out to connect with others and doing our best to be a good friend.

Local Issues

Little Gransden: Application for Self Build Dwelling 20/05251/OUT

This application was unanimously refused at planning committee in January. I am working with Housing Officers to try and find a solution to the maintenance of Primrose Walk, as I have now established that it is owned by the District Council.

Caldecote Liaison Meeting – the next one is taking place on Monday 7th February 2022. We expect both Linden Homes and Balfour Beatty as well as Parish Council representatives to attend.

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 the current and past reports at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/2021-22-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.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
01 February 2022

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
Twitter:	@CouncillorTumi
Facebook	@itsCouncillorTumi
LinkedIn	TumiHawkins
Call me on:	07802 323269

Notes from Area 3 Planning Meeting 14 December 2021

- Staffing continues to be challenging. There are two vacancies for officers in the team but there is hope that ongoing recruitment will result in the vacant Senior Planner position being filled.
- The Service received a high number of planning applications in November. December tends to be busy as agents try to get them in before Christmas. We expect January to be busy.
- Validation time for new applications is about 7 days, compared to target of 5 days. The case load is about 80 per officer
- Greater Cambridgeshire Local Plan: consultation ended on 13 December. All comments will be analysed and feedback provided.
- Two applications likely to go to Planning Committee in January/Feb – single dwelling in Little Gransden and Linden site major application for 74 dwellings.
- No Amendments being allowed for Planning applications since July 2021. It means agents and applicants are more careful in what they submit. It simplifies the process for officers and especially Parish councils inundated with changes they have to decipher.
- Land Charges was very busy and the time to fulfil the enquiry now down to the statutory 10 days.
- Public access database is undergoing housekeeping of addresses, so those that have not accessed it in the last 7 years are being contacted to warn them before being deleted from the system. They can always re-register going forward.
- Biodiversity SPDs (Supplementary Planning Document) consultation responses being collated so that the final document can be produced. Expected in new year.
- The Tree Officer Miriam Hill has left and her post is being advertised. Jay Patel (Tree assistant) is still in position.
- Pre-Application service was revamped and Agents/developers being encouraged to use it. A new Design Enabling Panel is starting in the new year focussing on Climate, Community, Connectivity and Character as important criteria for new applications.
- Emphasis from Cabinet Member that the Service is very keen to work collaboratively with Parish Councils. Cultivate relationship with Area Team Leaders and discuss issues/concerns with them and the Case officers.
- The Service is proposing future training for Parish Councils. PCs asked to inform the service of any areas they would like training for. Future topics could include Flooding and Highways issues
- Presentation of S106 by James Fisher, S106 Officer (Slides to be available later).
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) update -changes show government keen on ‘well-designed and beautiful homes’(whatever that means), also on green infrastructure, trees.

Area 3 Team

Area Manager - Lorraine Casey
Principal Planner - Aaron Coe
Principal Planner - Katie Christodoulides (Maternity leave)
Senior Planner - Charlotte Peet
Senior Planner - Charlotte Spencer
Senior Planner - Mary Collins
Senior Planner - Tom Gray
Planning Officer - Sumaya Nakamya
Planning Officer - John McAteer

