

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

Councillor's Monthly Report – March 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.

Planning Training for Parish Councils

SCDC has arranged a number of planning training sessions for Parish Councils. I want to thank all those that attended the trainings, first on Drainage and the second on How Planning Works. The two sessions have been recorded and those recordings will be made available in due course. We are working on putting together a webpage for information aimed at Parish Councils.

The quarterly session on Area Parish Planning Meetings is also currently taking place, and the one for Area 3 for villages in Caldecote Ward is on Thursday 10th March 2022. Please send representatives as there will be presentations from all parts of the planning service. There is a specific session on the newly adopted Biodiversity SPD too!

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)

The Government requires councils to publish the Authority Monitoring Report every year to state how well we are doing in terms of number of homes delivered compared with the target in our adopted local plans.

For those that don't know, the adopted Local Plans 2018 for both councils set a housing requirement of 33,500 homes to be built between 2011 and 2031 for Greater Cambridge. This results in an average housing delivery rate of 1,675 dwellings a year for Greater Cambridge. I am happy to report that for 2020-21 we have not just met that target, we have exceeded it with 1752 net additional houses built of which 1,335 are in South Cambridgeshire, and 417 in Cambridge. Moreover, 362 of these homes were 'Affordable Homes' of which 311 are in South Cambridgeshire, and 51 in Cambridge.

One thing to note is that five year land supply sites have contributed 1332 to the total sites being built out in South Cambridgeshire-these were permissions granted prior to Sept 2018 as departure to the development plan when the previous Conservative administration did not have an adopted local plan in place and the district did not have five year housing land supply. For Caldecote, the Linden and Balfour Beatty developments are part of this figure.

Water Resources East (WRE) – Informal Consultation

As I reported last month, WRE launched an informal consultation on its Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP). That consultation closed on February 28. I am pleased to report that the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service submitted a response to this consultation on behalf

of both South Cambs and Cambridge City. You will find that response on the south cambs website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/councils-respond-to-water-resources-east-s-new-plan-for-water-management-over-50-years/>. In principle, we support the principle of building a Fens Reservoir to provide water, but emphasised that as this is not likely to happen until about 2035, interim measures must be brought forward before that. We also suggested that water use should be reduced to 80 litres/person/day, which is better than current building regs. I was interviewed by That's TV on Friday about this on Friday 25th February.

Zero Carbon Events

The Zero Carbon two weeks event is going well. This is the second week, and I was privileged to give the welcome speech to the attendees of Planning for Climate Change webinar on Tuesday 1st March afternoon. There is a lot of great work going on by our Planning Service on this issue. The recording of the webinar will be available shortly, so check out the website at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-events/> for more information and recordings.

Community Engagement Forums for 2022

Please remember that the forums for the A428 corridor is as shown below. Be there.

- Wednesday 9 March, 6pm onwards - A428 Cluster: Bourn Airfield
 - <https://www.scambs.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.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-forums/a428-development-cluster-cambourne/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/events/7798290350196695/>

For information on forums, email the Communities Team duties.communities@scambs.gov.uk or call 01954 713 070. The Forums webpage is at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-forums/>

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.scambs.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.scambs.gov.uk/business/grants-and-funding>

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

Civil Parking Enforcement

I have previously reported that South Cambs District Council and the County Council were working together to introducing civil parking enforcement. This will see responsibilities for dealing with illegal parking shift from Cambridgeshire Police to Cambridgeshire County Council. This will mean drivers parking illegally, such as on double yellow lines, could be issued a ticket by Civil Enforcement Officers and ordered to pay a penalty charge.

The County Council will prepare an application to the Secretary of State for a Special Enforcement Area, via the Department for Transport, to introduce the scheme. Subject to the approval of this application, it is expected that civil parking enforcement could begin in South Cambridgeshire in the autumn of next year.

In South Cambridgeshire, the upfront costs of introducing civil parking enforcement will be funded by the Greater Cambridge Partnership, including a full review of road lines and signs. They will also cover any financial deficit of the scheme for the first five years and all income that is generated by fines will be used to help pay for the costs of running the scheme.

Planning Update – Biodiversity SPD -Focussing on Nature

SCDC has just published its newly adopted Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which you can see at <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/media/2476/gcsp-biodiversity-spd-feb-2022.pdf>. I was pleased to present this to the Full Cabinet meeting so it could be agreed. You will recall that Biodiversity and Green Spaces is one of the four key themes of the emerging Local Plan, and it is important that we start to encourage developers to focus on increasing biodiversity in new developments. The SPD supports the Doubling Nature Strategy that we published last year. It details how all new development must protect, preserve and enhance nature and encourages parish councils to develop their own nature recovery plans.

Budgeting for Climate Change

Further to the above, I am pleased to tell you that South Cambridgeshire District Council is allocating £6.83m of its £70m total spend to its Zero Carbon Strategy and Action Plan. The measures range from a solar farm to power bin lorries - to the completion of a massive programme to install energy-efficient LEDs in street lights all of which contributes to the ambition to halve carbon emissions locally by 2030 - and reduce them to zero by 2050. Money will also go towards maintaining the 275km (171 miles) network of watercourses in the district, and financial support of parish councils and community groups to reduce their carbon footprint. More electric vehicle charging points would also be installed.

South Cambs DC Budget for 2022/23

SCDC has approved its budget for next year and set its Council Tax charge from April 2022. Continuing to have one of the lowest Council Tax charges in the country, councillors agreed to raise it by 10 pence a week or £5 a year for a Band D property to enable the Council to continue to transform council services and deliver £230,000 of savings every year.

This coming year it will cost over £80 million to run South Cambridgeshire District and Council Tax will bring in just £10.7 million. Business Rates is expected to bring in £11.6 million. Only £2million is expected in government grants. Investments account for over £5 million in income. Our investments include Ermine Street (our wholly owned housing company providing private rented accommodation, such as houses in multiple occupation for single people), the Cambridge Ice Rink and even Cambourne Youth Centre. The council is also supporting business start-ups and the

development of tech industries by investing in the Cambridge Science Park which is in South Cambridgeshire.

We also receive income from our fees and charges and contributions from fellow councils for the cost of running the shared planning and waste services. But unlike many other Councils we do not have income from car parks or civic amenities such as a sports centre.

Council housing stock, is now growing again and with 189 new council homes having been built over the past three years it now stands at over 5,500. However, we have to fund this mainly from council rents. £7 million will be spent on refurbishing council houses to reduce tenants' heating bills.

We appreciate that in these difficult times those on lower incomes are struggling which is why we have more officers advising those finding themselves in financial difficult and we also pay Citizens Advice £85,000 a year to help our residents. Apart from Housing Benefit we also have a Local Council Tax Support Scheme and discretionary support for Council Tax. As a result of this support, last year we were the best in the country for collecting Council Tax and in the top ten for the collection of Business Rates.

We are one of a few councils in the country to have set a balanced budget for the coming financial year with a small surplus going into reserves to off-set possibly deficits in the future.

Council Tenancy - Fixed Term Tenancies

The Government has revoked the legislation that limits council to issuing 10-year fixed term tenancies to council house tenants because it meant that council house residents faced uncertainty about their futures once their lease expired. The fixed term tenancies that South Cambs had to issue previously are now up for renewal and will be replaced with secure tenancies.

Street Trading Policy

Are you a street trader or interested in doing some street trading? Then you might find this information useful. SCDC has approved a new street trading policy to ensure local businesses are supported whilst providing residents with a varied choice of goods and services. All streets in the District will now come under its remit, with the exception of the A11 and A14 and any area of land which is in direct ownership and control of the County, District or Parish Councils. Read the details at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/new-street-trading-policy-approved-for-all-south-cambridgeshire-streets/>

Health and Wellbeing

The Action for Happiness theme for this month is **Friendly February**. The calendar is at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/march>. This month's focus is "Let's pause, breathe and notice, so we can respond more mindfully".

Local Issues

Caldecote – Linden Homes [21/02265/FUL](#) – The application to build 74 homes on Phase 2 of the Angel's Park was refused by Planning Committee in the February meeting. The site is outside the village framework, so contrary to current adopted planning policies. The reason it got planning permission in the first place does not exist anymore. There were other reasons for the refusal including the character and design. You can watch the recording of the meeting at <https://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Mid=9183&x=1>

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.

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