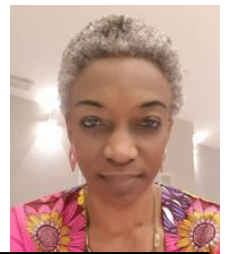


South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward Councillor’s Annual Report –May 2022

Caldecote Ward comprising the Parishes of Bourn, Caldecote, Childerley,
Kingston, Little Gransden & Longstowe



1. Introduction

I want to thank all the Parish Councils for their support throughout the past year. It has been a year still dominated by the Coronavirus (Covid19) pandemic though restrictions were gradually eased. This report covers the last 12 months of activities by the District Council and Councillors which I hope will be useful for you.

2. Governance

District Council – The District Council had its 4-yearly elections on 5th May 2022 with all 45 seats contested. I am glad to be back as your elected district councillor up to May 2026. The Council is still in LibDem administration as we increased our majority by 6 seats from 2021. There are now 37 LibDems (up six), 8 Conservatives (down three), no Labour (down 2) and no Independent (down 1).

We continued to build upon our ambitious 5-year business plan for 2019 to 2024 in the four key priority areas we identified:

- **Growing local businesses and economies** – We will support businesses of all sizes, to help create new jobs and opportunities near to where people live.
- **Housing that is affordable for everyone to live in** – We will build vibrant communities in locations where people have good access to facilities and transport links, so they can genuinely afford to lead a happy and healthy life.
- **Being green to our core** – We will create a cleaner, greener and zero-carbon future for our communities.
- **A modern and caring Council** – We will provide our customers with high-quality services, strive to reduce costs, build on what we are good at to generate our own income and make decisions in a transparent, open and inclusive way.

3. Green To Our Core

The achievements include but are not limited to

- created and adopted the Doubling Nature strategy
- created and adopted the Zero Carbon Strategies.
- Adopted the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document
- Greening South Cambridgeshire Hall - an energy-efficient retrofit of the Council office building including ground source heat pump
- Acquiring a fully electric bin lorry in 2020, one of the first Councils in the UK and 2 more lorries arriving soon
- Upgrading 1,800 street lights with low energy bulbs
- Introducing Tree planting where the “Three Free Trees” scheme in 2020 saw 54 parishes in the district plant a total of 162 trees and the “Six Free Trees” scheme in 2021 saw a further 227 trees planted.
- Creating Zero Carbon Communities Grant in 2019, and allocating £314,415 so far to 51 different community groups to support carbon reduction projects

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- Proposing Carbon Reduction Planning Strategies introduced in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan, to include all new homes to be net zero, locate new homes close to transport corridors to reduce carbon footprint, and other such policies,
 - using £1.5 mil to make SCDC Council houses energy efficient.
 - We have bought 3 Electric Bin lorries and more will be bought as the existing lorries come up for replacement at the end of their life.

We are going to

- Install solar-powered EV charging at our Waterbeach depot
- Install EV charging at South Cambs Hall and in sheltered housing schemes.

4. Housing and Planning

Affordable Housing – Council houses

The proposal in 2019/20 was to double the number of new council houses being built by 2024.

- Baseline in 2019 was 36 homes,
- Built 64 in 2020/21 and 89 council houses in 2021/22 totalling **189 Council houses** in our villages. Target exceeded
- Plans for more, up to 350 by 2025.
- Purchased land in Cambourne to build over 200 energy efficient homes
- Spent £1.5m to make council houses energy efficient

Housing Delivery

- The adopted Local Plans 2018 set a housing requirement of 33,500 homes to be built between 2011 and 2031 for Greater Cambridge - for South Cambs (19500) and Cambridge City (14000).
- Target delivery rate of 1,675 dwellings a year
- For 2020-21 we have met and exceeded that target, it with 1752 net additional houses built of which 1,335 are in South Cambridgeshire, and 417 in Cambridge.
- 362 of these homes were ‘Affordable Homes’ of which 311 are in South Cambridgeshire, and 51 in Cambridge
- Increasing the 5 Year Housing Land Supply to 6.5 years for 2022 to 2027, exceeding government target.

Emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan

We are working on a joint new local plan with Cambridge City that will determine how our district is developed over the period 2020-2041. We have carried out

- First Conversation – introducing local plan concepts and challenges (7 key themes)
- Held many local engagement events, reaching thousands of people than before in history of plan making in the district. 8,500 responses to questions, 5000 visitors to website, 6,000 people engaged at public events, 30,000 views of online videos.
- Held the Big Debate event at Corn Exchange and had over 300 attending <https://youtu.be/N3QXGma8MZM>
- Produced First Proposals for the emerging plan identifying jobs/housing needs, proposed new sites to build on, new policies including enhancing biodiversity, building net zero homes and much more

Other Planning Issue

- We created and adopted 9 Village Design Guides
- We are supporting communities to create Neighbourhood plans and have now adopted 5 giving the communities a say in how their area grows in future

5. Growing local businesses and economies

The economy of South Cambs is dependent on small businesses, so

- We created a new Business Support team to support both big and small businesses
- High Streets team has visited over 2000 businesses
- Over 2000 businesses receive our Open for Business monthly newsletter
- We created the On Your Doorstep campaign to help local shops recover after the pandemic
- Granted £1.4 mil to 102 businesses and start-ups to help them grow
- One of the Councils that was quick to distribute the government support grants
- We have helped 4 start up businesses find premises
- We have set up local markets
- The Council has bought Northstowe Enterprise Zone and will develop it to create 500 jobs by 2025
- We have bought a site in Cambourne to build specialist offices for start up companies
- We have also set up a Visit South Cambs website at <https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk/> to support companies that provide services to the leisure market
- We ran 9 webinars for businesses during the pandemic including on mental health

6. A Modern and Caring Council

Being a modern council means we have had to do a lot of work to update databases and processes. up to date.

- We have moved 10 council services online with a further 12 to follow
- We have achieved levels 1 and 2 of the disability standard
- The council adopted a new equality scheme in 2020
- As the council no longer receives revenues grants from government, we have made investments and earned £5mil per year from our investments
- We have saved £200,000 per year
- We have given £43.9 million in government Covid grants
- We provided £78,000 to support work with young people.
- We gave 70 grants to covid groups in the district
- We have given £58,000 in Community Chest grants a year
- Set up 7 new mobile warden schemes to support older people in their homes
- We set up a Life Line service for vulnerable people
- We set up a homes repairs service that older people and others could use to get small jobs done in their properties.
- To build new communities and help existing ones deal with new developments, we set up 19 Liaison forums and 9 community forums
- We set up covid groups in all 106 villages and towns with in the first 3 weeks covid lockdown, and continue to provide support for those that need it
- The council adopted an air quality strategy to ensure that existing communities are protected
- We have helped 14 at risk parish councils to create flood management plans
- We have helped 3 Syrian refugee families a year to find a home
- We have supported 8 Afghanistani families find a home
- SCDC has given Emmaus Cambridge, a one-off grant of £30,000 which will allow it to employ an additional support worker to continue supporting single homeless people.
- To help with health and wellbeing, we have run 7 Wild Minds schemes to support young people with mental health issues and

7. Community Issues

I continue to assist residents with issues either as individuals or a community group on issues including housing, planning, waste collection, benefits, grants application support.

Caldecote - Linden Homes – All Angels Park

The Phase 1 build is going on, and has over 10 new occupations. Phase 2 application for reserved matters for 74 dwellings was refused by Planning Committee after I raised objections in response to community concerns.

Caldecote – Balfour Beatty

The build is on target to be finished by end of 2022. Also has over 10 new occupations.

Bourn Airfield New Village

Though the outline application was approved by the South Cambridgeshire District Council planning committee on Friday 19th February 2021, the decision notice is yet to be issued as third party organisations responsible for some of the facilities to be provided have been difficult.

Little Gransden – Council land Primrose Walk

I supported the Parish Council and raised objections to the application for the land to be granted permission for a self-build, as it is used by children as the only available playground.

Caldecote – Land near Social Club

I supported one of the young people in the village to obtain permission from the Parish Council to turn this into a meadow. Funding is the next step and application will be made to the Council's zero carbon fund.

8. Casework

If you need my assistance at any time in the interim, I am always available to you, so please contact me in one of the usual ways, details in the box below. If you are on facebook, I strongly recommend liking my page at <https://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi/> to get information and updates quickly.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
11 May 2022

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