

# South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

## Councillor's Monthly Report – October 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.

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### 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.

### Transport

#### Stagecoach Withdraws Bus Service No. 18 and Citi4

It is now well known that Stagecoach announced cuts to a number of bus routes, and revised others removing services from many villages. It is no surprise that there is widespread shock, dismay and anger at Stagecoach's decision.

No.18 was removed completely, which affects Longstowe, Bourn and Kingston in the Ward, and then Toft and Comberton and Barton. Citi4 was re-routed and renamed to Route 4 (sly and disingenuous) to go from Cambourne along the A428 to Cambridge, removing service from top of Bourn, Caldecote and Hardwick. So the entire ward has had its bus service removed with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Outrageous! Stagecoach is cutting a further 17 Cambridgeshire services

Stagecoach is a private company that reports to its shareholders making its decisions based on financial profitability only. No local authority has any power over them or to control them. It has received Government grants to keep services during the lockdown, and will receive more but decided to cut some services anyway.

The responsibility for public transport lies with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) led by the Mayor, Dr Nik Johnson, who has pledged initial funding of £1.7million to replace the cut routes and has invited bus companies to bid for the routes. Though Citi4 was re-routed not withdrawn, it did remove services. Fortunately, my request at South Cambs Full Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> September to ask the CPCA to put Citi4 in the list with No.18 and withdrawn routes was accepted by the CPCA. Thank you to everyone who responded to my call and wrote to tell me their story and concerns. I fed that through to the CPCA.

I have written a number of articles on this service crisis, and the steps that I have taken to raise the Citi4 issue and confirmation from the CPCA it is doing that. You will find them at:

1. <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/stagecoach-withdraws-no-18-bus-services/>
2. <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/stagecoach-withdraws-citi-4-service-from-bourn-caldecote-and-hardwick-villages/>
3. <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/combined-authority-confirms-citi4-is-on-list-of-routes-to-replace/>

Please read and share them so that everyone is aware of the correct information and not hearsay.

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## **Luton Airport Flight Path and Airspace Deployment (AD6) change**

This continues to be a problem for many people. My continued reminder is for those who are being affected to send in a report to Luton Airport Authority (LAA) via the reporting process every time it happens. This period up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 is the Post Implementation Review (PIR) period when data on how the new deployment is operating should be collected and reported. The LAA prefer that complaints are registered through its Travis system on its site at <https://bit.ly/Ad6Complaint> . But you can use a simpler method. Send an email to [noise@ltn.aero](mailto:noise@ltn.aero) or [noise.enquiries@ltn.aero](mailto:noise.enquiries@ltn.aero), stating your name and address, the date and time of the flight and effect it had on you. Where possible make a video or audio recording on your phone of the flight event that caused the disturbance as part of your record keeping. Copy the MP in and the RELAS team [info@relas.uk](mailto:info@relas.uk) for the record. There is still a chance to make a change by reporting the impact AD6 is having on everyday life of everyday people.

Further to my report last month, you can now find the minutes of the August meeting I had with Luton Flight Operations at <https://bit.ly/AD6M012208>. It has a lot of useful information in it. Also join the RELAS group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/relas.ad6>

### **EWR Update**

Nothing much really. All we know so far is that Liz Truss the new PM supports building important infrastructure projects. She supports the EWR project, but there is no specification given so far. More details expected “later”. So we watch this space.

## **Council Staffing**

### **Workforce shortages and Four-Day Week Trial**

People now think differently about work-life priorities; nationally and locally it is harder than ever to recruit and retain staff. A three-month trial of a four-day week will begin in January for desk-based staff at South Cambridgeshire District Council. A similar pilot continues at more than 70 UK organisations.

In our own interactions with the district and county councils, as well as with a whole range of public services including rail and bus operators, health and care providers, schools, and many others, workforce retention and shortages are the headline concern hampering successful delivery of key public services.

A four-day week is when people work one less day per week but still get paid the same salary. A four-day week, which for a full-time employee at the Council would consist of 30 hours, can make an organization stand out from others and be more attractive to talent. It is also seen as a tangible incentive to encourage staff to stay.

In the trial, service levels cannot drop if a four-day week is to be considered as a viable option in the longer term. The Council will keep a check on things like how long it takes to process benefits claims, Council house rent collections, the speed of determining planning applications, staff turnover, call answering times and more.

For more than a year, the Council has only been able to fill around eight out of every ten, or fewer, of its vacancies. Between January and March 2022, only around half were filled. There are currently 23 agency staff covering office-based roles, which should ideally be filled by people in permanent positions. Over a whole year, these agency staff could cost the Council more than £2 million. If the Council filled all these posts with permanent staff, it would cost about £1 million.

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Not being able to fill vacant posts is hugely disruptive to services for residents - for example, when case officers change during the process of a planning application. Another aspiration of the trial is to investigate whether it would help the Council to attract a more diverse workforce. For example, for those families where childcare costs can be a big blocker from working, or those people with caring responsibilities, it could be a more attractive option than the traditional five-day working week model.

The news of this trial has found its way into national, as well as local, news but unfortunately some of the reporting has been inaccurate so a new website page is now available on SCDC website that contains a short form, which members of the public can fill-out if they want to ask a question, or make a comment about, the trial. <https://www.scams.gov.uk/yourcouncil-and-democracy/four-day-working-week-trial/>. Several officers from multiple services have access to the responses collected by this form and will be ensuring that a response is provided, where a resident has asked for one.

## **Community and Wellbeing**

### **Black History Month 2022**

October is the month when Black History is celebrated in the UK. This year is no different. Black History Month has taken on extra significance since the murder of George Floyd a black unarmed man by a serving white Minneapolis Police officer in broad daylight. That incident resonated here in the UK, opening the eyes of many to the structural racism that permeates our society like hurdles invisible to most except Black people. It re-energised the Black Lives Matter movement, opened doors to discussions and debates, and positive anti-racist steps being taken by many organisations from private to public sector including many councils. South Cambs is once again celebrating this year and you will find lots of information on the website at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/equality-and-diversity/equality-activities-and-events/>. I will also be posting articles of celebration on my facebook page and on a page on my blog at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/black-history-month-2022-celebrations/>

### **Ukraine Guests**

The most recent data shows that 720 Ukrainian guests have now arrived in South Cambridgeshire involving 71 parishes. South Cambs District Council (SCDC) Officers have now made 278 welfare visits and conducted 790 DBS checks. Due to the rising cost of living, an additional payment of £150 per month is to be offered to hosts and council officers are now contacting hosts directly with more details.

The Homes for Ukraine scheme was initially set up for a six-month period and many Ukrainian refugees who came to the UK during the early part of the scheme are now reaching the end of the six-month hosting period. The majority of guests will be able to continue with their current hosts, but some will not. In such a case, the Council will try to find a new host (from the existing pool of volunteers) that is as close as possible to the guest's existing host so they can continue with the employment and/or education arrangements that are already set up. It is not always possible to do this, however, since the pool of potential hosts for rematching is limited, so we are looking for more potential volunteers. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in becoming a host, please encourage them to contact SCDC on [HFULiaison@scams.gov.uk](mailto:HFULiaison@scams.gov.uk) People who are hosts to Ukrainian guests and/or an have interest in SCDC's ongoing work in this area can sign up to the regular community updates by emailing [duty.communities@scams.gov.uk](mailto:duty.communities@scams.gov.uk).

### **Warm hubs**

Local authorities are responding to the cost of living crisis by helping communities to set up "Warm Hubs." These are places where people can find a safe, warm and friendly environment in which to spend part of their day and whilst doing so reduce their energy bills at home. Warm Hubs

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can run from any publicly accessible community building, such as community centres, village halls, churches and their halls, older peoples' day centres, youth centres or community libraries. They will be run by volunteers, with support and training delivered by Cambridgeshire ACRE. It is expected that first of the community-led Warm Hubs will open their doors in October as the weather starts to get colder. The "Warm Hubs in Winter" project is being delivered in partnership by Cambridgeshire ACRE, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System's South Place Partnership, South Cambridgeshire District Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council. Read more about it at <https://www.cambsacre.org.uk/introducing-warm-hubs/>

### **Action for Happiness**

The Action for Happiness theme for this month at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendar>. is **Optimistic October**. This month's focus is "Actions to help you focus on what really matters". Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is but focus on what is good.

### **Fostering**

Cambridgeshire County Council has launched an urgent appeal to encourage residents to consider becoming Foster Carers. There are many different ways you can foster to meet the different needs of Cambridgeshire children and young people and to suit different lifestyles. From long-term fostering to Link Care for as little of a couple of weekends a month. We can help find the best care option that works around you. The County Council will provide you with local training and development close to you; generous pay and benefits including a startup package; 24/7 support from a Supervising Social Worker as well as an amazing first year next steps training programme. To become a Foster Carer, you must be over 21, have a spare bedroom, and be willing and able to provide a stable, loving environment in which a child or young person can thrive. If this is you, please get in touch. Visit: <http://cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering> or Email: [fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or call: 0800 052 0078.

### **Business Support - Visit South Cambs**

The new tourism website for South Cambridgeshire – created by the District Council – has now been running for a year. It is called "Visit South Cambs" and is at (<https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk/>). I have found it useful and would say if you haven't visited the site yet, please do so. During the year, around 200 local venues have enjoyed free listings and more than 230 local events have been promoted, from village fetes to art exhibitions. The site now has had more than 8,000 unique visitors from around the world, reaching countries including America, Australia, and Japan.

SCDC's Business Support and Development Team will soon be using social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) to ask residents and businesses to share what they love most about South Cambridgeshire using #WeLoveSouthCambs. The idea is to build-up recommendations and insider secrets about the district's hidden gems. You can nominate who you think serves the best ice cream, who gives the friendliest service, where are the most scenic country walks or most relaxing pub garden. Please feel free to share your tips on social media and re-share our Visit South Cambs posts too on. You can contact Paul Jenkins-Green with your ideas: [Paul.Jenkins-Green@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Jenkins-Green@scambs.gov.uk)

### **Environment Services**

#### **South Cambs trials plant-powered bin lorries**

In our latest step towards decarbonisation, South Cambs has conducted a trial with eight bin lorries using biofuels, cutting their net carbon emissions by 90%. During the past two months, Greater Cambridge Shared Waste, a partnership between South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Councils, ran the eight vehicles on hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) instead of diesel.

The Councils are transitioning their fleet of around 50 bin lorries to electric and alternative fuel vehicles to reduce net carbon emissions. Currently, a significant proportion of the waste service's,

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and therefore the councils', carbon emissions originate from diesel bin lorries. Two fully electric bin lorries are already being used in the city of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire and a solar farm is planned at the service depot to be able to charge more of them in future.

Once a sustainable fuel source is secured, the Councils could purchase further vehicles which could be powered by HVO. This would be an interim solution ahead of more electric or hydrogen trucks joining the fleet as and when they become available from manufacturers, and in-line with the depot charging facilities becoming operational.

## **Casework**

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 on my blog at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/caldecote-ward/reports/monthly-reports/2022-23-monthly-reports/>. Feel free to read, share and/or download.

*Tumi*

Tumi Hawkins  
5 October 2022

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