

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

Councillor's Monthly Report – February 2023

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.

Transport

GCP Making Connections Consultation

The Greater Cambridge Partnership Making Connections 2022 consultation closed on 23 December. This was about proposals for public transport improvements, better cycling and walking options, and a Sustainable Travel Zone or Cambridge congestion charge. Around 23,000 responses were received, and the Greater Cambridge Partnership expects to publish a final report on the consultation outcomes and next steps for consideration by its Board in June 2023. The GCP is doing significant work in the coming weeks to take on board the consultation responses which will then inform the report.

Update Bus Services

Buses continue to be a hot topic across Cambridgeshire. The Combined Authority is the transport authority responsible for passenger transport across our area, working within a legislative framework and a deregulated bus system.

The Combined Authority Board agreed a draft Bus Strategy on 30 November—consultation is planned to start in the week beginning Monday 9 January for six weeks. The Strategy will then go to the Combined Authority's Transport & Infrastructure Committee and the Board in March. The Strategy will form part of the suite of documents associated with the Combined Authority's emerging Local Transport & Connectivity Plan (LTCP).

Bus franchising is the Mayor's preferred solution for bus services in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. Under this model the local transport authority takes control of the public transport network, specifying and contracting bus services, as opposed to the deregulated free-for-all in place since 1986. Work is ongoing to refresh the outline business case for franchising. This will explore all potential funding options and assess the benefits of franchising against the current system. The business case will also review other issues including geography, contracting, depots, vehicles, and branding. The majority of bus services in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough are run commercially by private operators, and the Combined Authority has no control over these

The Combined Authority currently subsidises 73 services across its area. Full support for eighteen services and partial support for a further five began in October 2022 after Stagecoach withdrew from these services, including Citi4 and No18. There is an option to extend the contracts for these by one year from the end of March, and final decisions on these will be taken in February or March

following the setting of the Combined Authority's budget and taking account of the draft Bus Strategy. Contracts for a further six of the 73 services expire at the end of March 2023 and a procurement process has begun to retender these.

The GCP Making Connections proposals include an enhanced bus network and mechanisms for both upfront investment and ongoing subsidy. The Combined Authority will need to consider the effect of this on its own work. The GCP would develop any necessary outline business case, and any decision on road charging would rest with the County Council. In an initiative with Stagecoach and the Greater Cambridge Partnership, the Combined Authority secured Government funding for thirty zero emission buses for Cambridge. These are expected to be available from March.

CPCA - Mayoral Precept and Budget

The Mayoral led Combined Authority agreed at its meeting last month to levy a 'Mayoral Precept' to help subsidise those bus services which were recently threatened with being axed by Stagecoach. The precept will be £12 per year for a band D household. The Combined Authority was able to step in before Christmas to provide a 6-month subsidy for a large number of threatened rural service but this was from financial reserves and we always knew that a longer term solution would be required. The effort now needs to go into improving bus ridership so that in the longer term large subsidies will not be required.

The Combined Authority has not surprisingly received a letter from DLUHC putting it on formal notice to improve - or else.

Luton Airport Flight Path and Airspace Deployment (AD6) change

Reminder - those who are being affected should please continue to send in a report to Luton Airport Authority (LAA) via the reporting process every time it happens. This Post Implementation Review (PIR) period ends 31st May 2023 but could be extended if the request made for RELAS by Anthony Browne MP is successful.

There is a meeting taking place at Lt Gransden Village Hall, 7.30pm on 23rd February organised by RELAS and will have the 3 MPS Anthony Browne, Jonathan Djanogly and Lucy Frazer present to tell you what they've been trying to do on your behalf. There are leaflets to deliver – please let me know if you can help with that.

To report disturbance, send an email to noise@ltn.aero or 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 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. RELAS group is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/relas.ad6>

EWR

The government is still intending to go ahead with this. We expect to hear more about this later in the year.

A428 Dualling & Black Cat Roundabout

The highways Agency has sent a message as follows: We are disappointed to let you know that we won't be starting construction on the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme this month like we had initially planned. Planning permission was granted by the Secretary of State back in August 2022 and we have been busy preparing for construction.

However Transport Action Network (TAN) submitted an application to the High Court for permission for a judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision to grant the A428 Development Consent Order. They are challenging the Secretary of State's decision on the grounds of biodiversity, need for the scheme and climate change. The court is expected to decide whether the claim can proceed to a full hearing, and on what grounds. We were hoping a decision on the application could be made before the end of the year but the decision is now looking as though it will happen early 2023. As this is an ongoing legal case we can't provide any further information. However, we are continuing to assess the impact and will provide you with further updates as quickly as possible remain living with relatives. They may now realise they no longer require their Council home and wish to #DoTheRightThing by handing in their keys, enabling another family to come out of temporary accommodation or off the housing waiting list.

Additionally, the campaign is encouraging anyone who suspects housing fraud to #DoTheRightThing and report it to the District Council using the online form or emailing fraud@scams.gov.uk.

#DoTheRightThing runs across South Cambridgeshire District from February 1 to 28. To surrender keys, people are asked to hand them in to South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne CB23 6EA, in an envelope containing the property address. No more questions will be asked.

Housing – Amnesty Campaign

People who are misusing Council properties are being offered a one-off opportunity to #DoTheRightThing and return their keys without facing criminal proceedings during a month-long crackdown by South Cambridgeshire District Council. The campaign targets people who have provided false information on application forms for housing; those illegally subletting, where the tenant moves out then rents the property to someone else - usually at a higher rent. In addition Right To Buy fraud is included where people do not meet the criteria to buy their property but make false applications to benefit from a discount as well as tenants who fail to use the property as the only or principal home as well as those who abandon homes without following the proper process.

It is hoped the campaign will also provide an opportunity to raise awareness among people who moved out of Council properties to create a family bubble during the Covid pandemic, who wish to remain living with relatives. They may now realise they no longer require their Council home and wish to #DoTheRightThing by handing in their keys, enabling another family to come out of temporary accommodation or off the housing waiting list.

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Adaptive Grants

Cambs Home Improvement Agency (HIA) has a range of grants available to people with disabilities living in South Cambridgeshire to help adapt homes. This may be particularly relevant to those who are elderly, vulnerable or have family members with disabilities as well as friends or neighbours. The Disabled Facilities Grant is a mandatory Government grant aimed at people with disabilities and older people on low incomes or low-income benefits, which helps towards the costs of making changes to their home to allow them to continue living there safely and comfortably. Each year Cambs HIA enables around 300 older people and people with disabilities to adapt their homes. Although some work such as ramps, stairlifts, specialist toilets, automated door entry systems and level access showers require an Occupational Therapist's referral, other work such as

new boilers, roofing repairs, new doors and windows do not. The agency can help homeowners or those in housing association properties make a wide variety of adaptations and repairs (www.cambshia.org). We can also help self-funders who are unable to organise and oversee the work themselves. You can reach Cambs HIA colleagues at hia@cambshia.org or take a look at their Facebook page ([Cambs Home Improvement Agency | Cambourne | Facebook](#)) for more info.

Community and Wellbeing

Warm hubs

Good to see lots of Warm Hubs now open, and helping those who need them

Villages that want to set one up can still contact Cambridgeshire Acre or South Cambs for assistance 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 **Friendly February**. This month's focus is "Be friendly to others and give your relationships a boost".

Cost of Living - financial support

From Council tax support to heat, food and free holiday activities, there is loads of useful information on financial support from a variety of organizations collated by South Cambs District Council, here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/>

Go Fund Me – electric blankets and slow cookers

The Go Fund Me page has been launched with money raised being added to Council support for people just about managing. The funding the Council has pledged could see around 400 people supported with free electric blankets and slow cookers; more can be done if donations are received. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/scdccostofliving>

The Council is first writing to people who receive a 75-85% Council Tax discount as they have been identified as potentially in greatest need of support. This group may be expanded depending on the number of donations received. The first group of people eligible will have three weeks to claim the support offered by completing an online form. A phone number will be provided for people without internet access to call and go through the form with a member of Council staff. If more budget becomes available after three weeks due to donations, the scheme will be expanded to more people on lower brackets of council tax discounts. The Go Fund Me page is part of a wide range of support worth about £400,000 being put in place by the Council to support residents.

Ukraine – new hosts for guests needed

Cambridge and South Cambs have between them about 500 hosts for Ukraine guests. With the war in Ukraine continuing, the six-month hosting arrangements have needed to be renewed, though not all hosts are in a position to do so. Anyone who might be able to provide a spare room for a guest from Ukraine is asked to get in touch with SCDC, or please contact any of us and we'll point you in the right direction.

Community Police Survey

South Cambs Police are carrying out a survey as they want to hear what residents think the neighbourhood policing team should be tackling. They are particularly keen to also hear from young people. It is at <https://bit.ly/CommunityPoliceSurvey> and I encourage all parish councils to complete this survey and share it with your communities too.

The South Cambs neighbourhood team are holding an online meeting next Tuesday at 7pm. To sign up, go to <https://bit.ly/3XZ93TF>

Grants available: riparian owners and ditch maintenance

The County Council is offering a 'riparian grant' to help with maintenance of privately owned watercourses, that would benefit adjoining networks for overall community drainage benefit.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/community-flood-action-programme/watercourse-maintenance-grant>

Electric vehicle charging point grant:

The Electric Vehicle (EV) Charge Point Grant is available to fund installation of Electric Vehicle Charge Points for use by the public, and related works, in the car parks of community buildings and village halls within South Cambridgeshire. The deadline for 2022/2023 applications is 31 March 2023:

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/grants-funding-and-community-support/electric-vehicle-charge-point-grant/>

South Cambs Magazine on-line

You can read the quarterly South Cambs Magazine online: <https://www.scams.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/the-south-cambs-magazine/>

King Charles III coronation street parties

Cambridgeshire County Council has published guidance for local groups seeking to organise street parties and highways events to mark the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023. All street party applications must be received by the County Council at least eight weeks in advance (Friday 10 March 2023) via the Council's website. Highway Events applications must be submitted at least twelve weeks in advance (Friday 10 February 2023). More information about the process can be found at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roadsand-pathways/highway-events/coronation-events>

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

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