

# South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

## Councillor's Monthly Report – April 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.

### Planning

#### Local Plans

This is a reminder that big developments going on now in the District are allocated sites in the current adopted Local Plan of 2018. This plan was the responsibility of and submitted by the previous Conservative administration, submitted to Planning Inspectorate for examination in March 2014, but not found sound till August 2018. Bourn Airfield being the significant site in our Ward is one of the site allocations. Others got planning permission during the period when the previous administration did not have a 5-year housing land supply, and this applies to two major sites in Caldecote (Linden-Angel Park and Balfour Beatty-Grafton sites).

Local Plans take several years to develop and the current emerging joint one being created for South Cambs and Cambridge City, as a requirement from the Inspectors for the current plan, is also taking time. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS) is the joint planning service of South Cambs and Cambridge City Councils. Important to note the emerging joint local plan uses the current adopted 2018 plan as a basis, as explained in the First Proposals public consultation that took place in November 2021. More importantly, they include all the current major sites at West Cambourne, Bourn Airfield, Waterbeach and Northstowe. The proposal was to add 11,500 new homes to the 37,200 already in the current 2018 plans for **both** South Cambs and Cambridge City

I am putting this reminder out because the South Cambs MP Anthony Browne is continuing to spread complete misinformation (**lies** really) about the number of proposed houses in the emerging plan, and blaming our administration for the site allocations done by his Conservative colleagues in 2014 that are now being built out and are even forming the basis of the emerging new joint local plan.

#### Compliance (formerly Enforcement) Policy

The new Compliance policy was formally adopted by the Cabinet at its March meeting, and is a joint one for both South Cambs and Cambridge City. The objective of the Councils compliance team is to resolve the harm that arises. Enforcement is discretionary and National Guidance provides that Councils should "enforce planning law", ensuring compliance with policies in a proportionate manner and where it is expedient to do so. The new document sets out the range of enforcement options available to do this and you can find it at <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/planning-applications/planning-compliance/#a11>.

---

The new e-form for reporting potential breaches of planning control is working well. I emphasise that when reporting, all the private information given by the individual reporting is confidential and not given out, even in an FOI. Please continue to use the eform and give feedback. Thank you.

### **New Money for Planning Service**

Government has given Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) £290,000 of funding to improve feedback processes for its emerging joint Local Plan. The funding seeks to build upon the earlier work in producing a “digital” Local Plan by speeding up the processing and the review of the thousands of comments made by communities and developers through the process. This will shorten the time between people making comments and Councillors and communities being able to see who has said what about the emerging plan. Really good news in helping us to engage more efficiently with our communities.

## **Housing**

### **Council Housing**

South Cambs is proud to have delivered 88 new council houses this municipal year 2022/23. This exceeds the target that our administration set to build 70 new council houses a year, which is double what used to be built up to 2018.

### **More Money to Decarbonise Council Houses**

South Cambs has successfully bid for £1.7 million Government funding, to continue work to decarbonise Council homes. This will be added to the projects the Council has already started to improve the fabric of Council homes. It will also support other measures being put in place to help the Council achieve its own and the Government’s Net Zero targets. The District Council owns and maintains around 5,600 Council homes in South Cambridgeshire. The new funding will go towards energy efficiency upgrades within these homes.

Energy saving measures such as exterior wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, new windows and doors, draft proofing measures, as well as heat pumps and solar panel installation can be provided with the funding. These measures could save tenants between £220 and £400 a year on energy bills.

### **Homes for Refugees**

The Council has been awarded additional funding to provide 10 additional homes for refugees. This is in addition to the funding for 30 homes that was announced in December. **In total the council has been granted just over £6m.** This, together with Council borrowing, will provide 36 homes for refugees including people from Ukraine, and an additional 4 homes for families from Afghanistan who are currently living in ‘bridging hotels’.

Under the terms of the funding, the properties will be initially used to house refugees, however when they are no longer needed for this purpose the properties will be treated as normal HRA (council) housing. The longer-term legacy for this project will therefore be an increase in social housing within the District.

The Council must complete the purchases by November 2023 and is looking to acquire a mix of new-build properties from developers, and open market properties through Estate Agents. We have already identified 25 properties from the original 30 properties, and have exchanged on two, so we are very confident on meeting the targets.

## **Transport**

---

## GCP “Making Connections” consultation

A motion at the last meeting of South Cambs Full Council suggested that the Leader of Council should write to the Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council expressing SCDC’s support for a referendum on the introduction of a Sustainable Travel Zone (otherwise known as the Cambridge Congestion Charge). The motion stimulated a lively debate but was voted down. Members were reminded that the GCP’s consultation document deliberately asked a range of open and closed questions to ask each respondent whether or not they supported the full making connection scheme which is in 3 parts (**bus service new routes/frequency, active travel improvements and sustainable travel zone**), which elements they did or did not support, what they might like to see done differently and what alternatives they would propose. This was intended to provide richer and more nuanced feedback than a yes/no referendum could give (**Brexit comes to mind**) and would allow decision makers to balance the wide range of different perspectives.

Since the consultation closed, the GCP has been processing around 24,000 responses. The analysis is ongoing, but the majority of concerns seen so far have been related to the how the proposals will affect patients and visitors to the Addenbrookes Campus, those wishing to visit friends and loved ones and those needing to enter the zone for business reasons.

It was always intended that the issues raised by the consultation would be dealt with by positive, practical changes and these are likely to include exemptions, dispensations and discounts, underpinned by the latest technology. This is what the GCP is now working towards, and they have a clear remit to protect the least well off. What is clear is that, going forward, messages about the benefits of the scheme (such as significant improvements to public transport, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure as well as less congestion and cleaner air in the city) need to be made clearer and more forcefully.

The results of the consultation will be included in a final report on the proposals and next steps, scheduled for the GCP Board in June 2023 after which they will make a recommendation to Cambridgeshire County Council on whether to proceed with a scheme.

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

**Reminder** that those being affected by the airplane noise should continue to report it to Luton. 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. RELAS group is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/relas.ad6>.

### **Cambridge to Cambourne Busway**

The County Council has approved the application for C2C going to the Secretary of State for a Transport and Works Order (TWO). This is the next stage in delivering a fast, off-road public transport link between Cambourne and Cambridge which will provide a service every 10 minutes using electric buses. The medium term plan is that local buses from villages will feed into this service which should be a game changer for young people attending 6th form and college in Cambridge and also for those people needing to work there.

The C2C is the only transport solution that was created in 2014 by the then Conservative controlled County Council in its Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSCSC) as found here <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/transport-plans-and-policies/cambridge-city-and-south-cambs-transport-strategy> . This was to support the local

---

plans of both Cambridge City and South Cambs councils and it was then adopted by the Combined Authority into its Transport plan when it was run by Conservative James Palmer (2017-2022).

The eight years of consideration included a detailed independent audit in 2021 and the report and other documentation is published at <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/public-transport-schemes/cambourne-to-cambridge/cambourne-to-cambridge-independent-audit>

Furthermore, the delivery of Bourn Airfield in the South Cambs Local Plan 2018 is dependent on the C2C being delivered. The Planning Inspector considered it deliverable based on the information available during the plan examination. On-road option via Madingley Hill was something many of us wanted to see but accept it is not viable based on the size of available land along there.

Officers have given a clear steer that the proposed on-road route was not good enough to meet the needs of Cambourne and further planned growth; and risks disturbing Madingley Wood, an ancient and hugely biodiverse site. The preferred route involving the loss of trees at Coton Orchard, a private site without public access, is regrettable. The final route will be aligned to reduce to a minimum the number of lost trees, almost or potentially all of which will be commercial fruit trees around 30 years old, currently estimated at one-fifth of the total current area of the orchard. It is very likely that large replacement sites with a wilder mix of native species will be able to more than replace the lost biodiversity, along with other benefits such as public access to wilderness. The next stage will almost certainly be a public inquiry for the TWO at which the integrity of the scheme and objections to it will be tested.

## **A428 Dualling**

The Judicial Review has now failed to get anywhere so construction of the new A428 and Black Cat junction can proceed.

## **Pot holes**

We're extremely concerned about the state of the roads and know that our Local Highways Officers are currently overwhelmed with potholes, many more like craters. This is a matter of urgency with the County council.

Sadly, the gradual deterioration of our road network has been unfolding over many years with the Conservatives Governments reducing revenue funding to councils, and strategic investment in maintenance did not happen in better times. Consequences of the political choice for 'managed decline' are with us now, making the job of getting on top of things that much harder. This has been exacerbated by drought and soil shrinkage, deep freeze and periods of persistent wet weather.

In recognition of the nationwide problem, the Chancellor announced in his budget £200m funding to councils for road repairs. It is a small gesture and what Cambs County will get is unknown. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highways-maintenance-funding-allocations/additional-budget-2023-highways-maintenance-and-pothole-repair-funding-2023-to-2024>.

I encourage residents to keep reporting problems using the reporting page on the County Council website at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>.

## **Taxis in South Cambs**

Taxis registered in South Cambs will be required to have CCTV installed in the cabs. This is for the safety of the drivers and their passengers.

---

## Community and Wellbeing

### Coronation Big Lunch

This year, people across the UK will come together to celebrate the Coronation of Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort with a Coronation Big Lunch in their communities. Following tremendous support in 2022 for the Platinum Jubilee, councils again have a key role to play and are encouraged to enable as many residents as possible to join the celebrations by spreading the word about the Coronation Big Lunch and how to get involved. More information is here:

<http://www.coronationbiglunch.com/>

<http://www.thebiglunch.com/>

<https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-big-lunch/councils>

SCDC's Safety Advisory Group (SAG) can offer help and advice on holding an event (deadline 21st April).

The most recent parish e-bulletin gave specific advice relating to collecting and disposing of waste and recycling that originates from Coronation events and remember that the Community Chest grant scheme remains open and welcomes applications for grants of up to £2,000 that meet the approval criteria. Contact [community.chest@scams.gov.uk](mailto:community.chest@scams.gov.uk) for help.

Also members of the public and community organisations across the UK have been invited by the government to share how they will celebrate the Coronation on a digital map launched on 4 March. The map can be found on the Coronation website here <https://coronation.gov.uk/events/>. The map is designed to encourage people to add their own Coronation Big Lunches, street parties, Big Help Out plans and other Coronation activities so others in the local community can find out about events near them and get involved.

### 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.scams.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/>

### Fuel Payment for Oil Users

**Reminder:** The Alternative Fuel Payments scheme is intended to deliver a one-off payment of £200 to UK households who are not on the mains gas grid and therefore use alternative fuels, such as heating oil, to heat their homes. The scheme not through the Councils but is now open via GOV.uk website at <https://www.gov.uk/get-help-energy-bills/alternative-fuels>. Applications open till end of May 2023, so don't delay.

### Zero Carbon Communities Grants

A grant scheme has opened for 2023 to encourage exciting community projects that reduce carbon emissions and engage local people about climate change. Community groups are invited to bid for a share of £125,000 with the scheme closing on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Previous projects have included cooking classes that reduce food waste, tree planting, a community e-bike rental scheme, solar panels for village halls and a men's mental health and wellbeing project that runs a mobile library for gardening equipment and tool hire.

Parish councils and non-profit groups or organisations that are based in the district can apply. Other groups, such as social enterprises and community interest companies can apply as part of a partnership led by a parish council or not-for-profit group. Groups can apply to the grant scheme by visiting [www.scams.gov.uk/zerocarbongrant](http://www.scams.gov.uk/zerocarbongrant). For further information contact Kath Sansom in South Cambridgeshire District Council's communications team on [kath.sansom@scams.gov.uk](mailto:kath.sansom@scams.gov.uk)

---

### Parish/Cabinet Liaison Meeting

The next Parish Council / SCDC Cabinet Liaison meeting is scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Please put this date in your diary. I strongly encourage all Parish Councils to select a representative to attend on their behalf and send in their RSVP.

### South Cambs Magazine

Many people tell us that they really value the magazine the council sends out at regular intervals which is why - despite many competing financial demands on our budget - we continue with it. It is disappointing though when something goes wrong with its delivery and people do not get it. We use a mixture of private delivery service and Royal Mail and we know there have been problems with the latter. If you have not recently had a magazine by the time you read this, please do report it on the council's website or let us know.

### Action for Happiness

The Action for Happiness theme for this month at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendar> is **Active April**. This month's focus is "Let's find ways to get moving and stay active and healthy"

### 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  
11 April 2023

<b>Email me @:</b>	<a href="mailto:tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk">tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk</a>
<b>Read my blog at:</b>	<a href="http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk">http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk</a>
<b>Twitter:</b>	<a href="#">@CouncillorTumi</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="#">@itsCouncillorTumi</a>
<b>LinkedIn</b>	<a href="#">TumiHawkins</a>
<b>Call me on:</b>	07802 323269