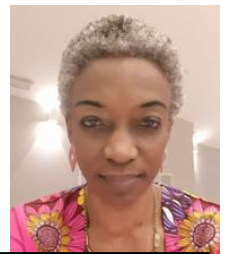


South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward Councillor's Annual Report –April 2023

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 municipal year as life resumed some semblance of normalcy after the Coronavirus (Covid19). 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 is in LibDem administration. Following two by-elections comprises 36 LibDems, 9 Conservatives and 1 Independent councillor.

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. Housing and Planning

Housing

Following are some of our achievements on housing issues:

- Delivered 88 new affordable homes (acquired and/or built). Prior to 2018 when we came into administration, delivery was 30 or less per year.
- Produced an Asset Management Plan. This will improve the energy efficiency of existing Council housing to reduce carbon impact and running costs.
- Implemented new maintenance contract for all council housing stock. This should improve the service that Council tenants receive.
- Adopted an Empty Homes Strategy to enable empty homes be brought back into use.
- We have installed solar Photovoltaic Systems on 60 Properties. Actions on target to be completed 2022-23.
- We continue to support the liaison meetings in Cottenham, Sawston, Hardwick, Caldecote (which I chair), Swavesey and Barrington. Also supported and community forums in Northstowe, Waterbeach, North-West Cambridge, Cambridge East, North-East Cambridge and Bourn Airfield and Cambourne (which I chair).
- Approved a work programme for insulation measures over the next four years to narrow the gap on the zero-carbon target.

Homes for Ukraine

- Very active in the local administration of the government's Home for Ukraine scheme.
- We have issued a weekly community update for hosts and, recently, one for guests
- South Cambridgeshire has remained one of the local authorities with the highest number of Ukrainian arrivals showing high level of hospitality in the district.
- As of year ending March 2023, 408 hosts have welcomed 787 Ukrainian guests into their homes, 914 DBS checks have been completed and 405 welfare visits made.
- We are helping some to find a new host, apply for social housing, or to rent privately.
- The council is still looking for potential hosts, so those who can help, please contact duty.communities@scams.gov.uk

Planning

- We continue the work on the joint local plan with Cambridge City that will determine how our district is developed over the period 2020-2041.
- Produced First Proposals in 2021 for the emerging plan identifying jobs/housing needs, proposed new sites to build on and new policies. It proposed for both Councils areas adding 11,640 to those in current local plan, on 19 new sites and only 384 homes proposed to be in 5 villages. There are already 33,500 allocated in current adopted local plans 2018 for the period 2011-2031.
- In 2022, we produced a report assessing feedback provided by local people from The First Proposals. This is informing the next steps in the Local Plan process as discussed in a series of 5 meetings of the Joint Local Plan Advisory Committee which I chair.
- We continue to monitor the economic growth in Greater Cambridge, and this year reported the update on jobs growth and housing need require additional 8,000 homes. But emphasised that the needs cannot be met unless the water supply issue is resolved by Cambridge Water and Anglian Water. So no further sites have yet been identified beyond what was in the First Proposals
- We adopted three (3) more Neighbourhood plans giving the communities a say in how their area grows in future, bringing total so far to eight (8).
- We have adopted a new joint Compliance Policy (formerly Enforcement) and created e-form for reporting potential planning breaches.
- The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS) has been commended finalists and won industry awards, including for Community Engagement and Youth Engagement. The GCSPS also won £250K from Government to further develop our online community engagement process.
- The joint Five Year Housing Land Supply with Cambridge City is 6.2 years. Housing trajectory shows house building going well and more anticipated to be delivered than set in the local plan 2018 for the period 2011 to 2031.

4. Growing local businesses and economies

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

- We implemented a new and improved policy to support the street trading sector across South Cambridgeshire. This policy will ensure high levels of safety compliance and enable the sector to thrive through the introduction of flexible trading models.
- Supported some existing markets to grow and helped to set up new street markets for example in Northstowe;

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- Created an SCDC specific operational/implementation plan based on the Nov 2021 refreshed Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Employment and Skill Strategy.
 - Provided business support advice to over 100 businesses.
 - Completed a feasibility study looking at how South Cambs Hall could be used to provide workspace for businesses, including start-ups.
 - Established an up-to-date list of Business Premises for start-ups.

5. A Modern and Caring Council

Being a modern council means we have had to do a lot of work to bring databases and processes up to date, and continue to transform how the council works to meet with the times.

- Complete and analyse a staff satisfaction survey.
- Introduced hybrid working arrangements further increasing our attractiveness as an employer.
- Introduced a modular management skills program for middle managers.
- Completed a survey of all council tenants to better understand their priorities and to be able to compare satisfaction with other organisations.
- Refresh caravan site licencing policy, fees and charges. The new policy will ensure that caravan sites are inspected periodically and that residents have suitable housing provision. Actions on target to be completed 2022-23:
- Use the Council's Community Led Plan toolkit to support local communities identify, plan and address the issues they identify in their communities.
- Support 150 new clients through the housing department's visiting support service.
- Spend £500,000 in total in the form of disabled facilities grant and repairs grant to allow people to live independently and safely in their homes.
- Prevent homelessness for at least 50% of the people who approach us who are at risk of becoming homeless throughout the year and offer support to those who are homeless.
- Continue the proactive working relationship with the job centre in delivering mentoring circles plus upskilling and cross training initiatives throughout the year.
- 100% compliance with landlord safety checks to council housing including, electrical safety, gas installations and where appropriate fire risk assessments and water safety tests.

Cost of Living support

The cost-of-living crisis affects everyone and SCDC has been supporting residents through the winter.

- We supplied more than 300 residents who are 'just about managing' with free electric blankets and slow cookers - low-cost methods of staying warm and cooking food.
- Extra funding was provided to support an extra 100 eligible families with housing costs through Discretionary Housing Payments, Discretionary Council Tax discounts and a Warm Hubs programme.
- A further £200,000 has recently been allocated for further support.
- Amongst other initiatives, a series of roadshows are planned, giving cost-of-living talks designed to highlight the support available to the most vulnerable.
- We plan to evolve the successful Warm Hubs into Community Wellbeing Hubs, offering more services.

Financial Accounts

- We updated the system for use in recording the Council's accounts (from spreadsheets we inherited in 2018)

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- We introduced a single data base system for the councils register of assets (from the spreadsheets we inherited)
 - As the council had not met its audit targets for the preceding four years in 2018, upgrading we had to do took time and effort, but great progress now.
 - Approved accounts for 2019/20 are awaiting audit by the Auditors and for 2020/21 have been finished waiting for the 2019/20 to be signed off by EY. Work has started on 2021/22, but we paused till two previous accounts get signed off.

6. Green To Our Core

The achievements include but are not limited to

- Provided equipment and information kits to minimise waste and separate recycling at community events.
- Reviewed the impact and outcomes of the existing food waste collection trial and the future of the scheme including budget requirements.
- 2 electric refuse collection vehicles to replace the diesel versions have been received. • Annual Statutory Status report for air quality has been submitted to DEFRA and accepted. Actions on target to be completed 2022-23:
- Review community rooms and other small sites to identify and deliver opportunities for carbon reduction.
- Develop planning policies consistent with zero carbon by 2050 for adoption in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, in partnership with Cambridge City Council.
- Identify and deliver opportunities to invest in publicly accessible electric vehicle charge points in priority locations in the district, working with partners - pilot installations of fast EV Chargers at Sheltered Housing Schemes for public use, and install one rapid charger for public use.
- Identify and deliver new opportunities to plant trees, establish wildflower strips and in other ways enhance nature on our own estate, in consultation with residents.
- Work to ensure that development in South Cambridgeshire contributes to the goal of doubling nature by developing planning policies for adoption in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, and by adopting a new Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document in partnership with Cambridge City Council.
- Work with partners to develop landscape-scale habitat creation projects.
- Deliver '6 Free Trees' initiative to increase the amount of tree cover of parish council land, enhancing biodiversity and carbon capture.
- Define and implement required improvements at the depot to prepare for further electric refuse collection vehicle (eRCV) charging. Page 94 Appendix A: Draft 2023-24 Business Plan Action Plan

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.

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.

Luton Airport Airspace Deployment AD6

I continue to assist residents who are being affected by the AD6 flight path changes.

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- I support RELAS campaign group
 - I was interviewed on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire in July 2022 and you can read about it on my blog at <https://bit.ly/AD6onBBCRad>.
 - The SCDC Leader Cllr Smith secured quarterly meetings with Luton Airport for updates
 - I also met with and chaired a meeting with Head of Luton Airport Operation – Noise enquiries, a Community Noise Executive - LLA Noise Enquiries together with two co-founders of RELAS in mid August.
 - I also supported the RELAS public meeting held in February which had record attendance.
 - The Post Implementation Review (PIR) period has now been extended by 3 months from May to end of September 2023
 - I encourage those being disturbed to continue to complain to Luton during this post implementation period (PIR) and join the RELAS facebook group, or offer any expertise they have to the campaign. It is very important because Luton Airport have a separate Development Consent Order planning application with the Planning Inspectorate. They want to expand capacity from 18million to 32 million passengers per year. If AD6 is permanent, the airspace over our villages will become very noisy.

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
30 April 2023

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