

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

Councillor's Monthly Report – July 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.

Reminders

Luton Airport Flight Path and Airspace Deployment (AD6) change

The Post Implementation Review (PIR) period now finishes end of September 2023. This gives opportunity for spring/summer time effects to be recorded and reported to Luton at using noise@ltn.aero or noise.enquiries@ltn.aero.

RELAS is holding a public meeting on Monday 17th July 8.00PM at Eco Hub, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay SG19 3JR. Opportunity to hear the latest updates and what to do to continue to make your voices heard. The noise from the air braking above our villages is what is causing the serious problems to the wellbeing of residents. It shows that the Airspace Deployment design is faulty, and needs to go back to the drawing board.

Planning Updates

ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standard

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Development Management Service have successfully received accreditation for the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standard. The external ISO 9001 auditor spent several days with the team, reviewing everything from processes, performance, internal audits to leadership and we have successfully achieved the standard without any need for additional work. As far as we know, we are the only Planning Service to have achieved this accreditation. The team worked hard to get to this stage and deserve the end result. This shows that the transformation project we've been working on is reaping good results.

Environment Agency (EA) Objections on grounds of water supply

Media reports as usual on anything planning is misrepresenting the situation. As is the MP. EA report on their concerns over water supply in Greater Cambridge formed part of their recent representation at the recent Brookgate public inquiry.

What the EA has done is ask Cambridge Water, (CW) the supplier of water for Greater Cambridge, for further information on the cumulative impact of the proposed developments (Bourn Airfield, Darwing Green Ph2 & 3) on water supply as part of the environmental assessment of proposals. CW as the supplier have abstraction licences and limits, and it's whether CW is able to carry on supplying based on those limits or find other sources. CW just finished consultation on their Water Resources Management Plan just last month. EA was not satisfied with it, even though it proposed bringing in supplies from Grafham Water (short to medium term) and building the Fen Reservoir

(long term) to meet the growth needs. The sites in all these cases are in the current adopted local plan of 2018, which we have to deliver to avoid being punished by Government.

So, Cambridge Water is now doing modelling work as EA has asked. The outcome of that will enable the review of the cumulative effects of new development and its impact upon the water environment, and then all can consider and agree the approach to mitigation. Meanwhile, our officers are regularly meeting representatives from DEFRA, Cambridge Water and the EA in an effort to seek resolution of the EA's concern relating to further development in our district.

Transport

East West Rail Route Alignment Announcement

EWR has held a series of update meetings with the Local Representatives Groups (LRG) last month. I attended two and missed one. These meetings were to explain the route selected and answer questions from the communities affected by it.

Further- the Council Leader, Director of Planning and I met with Beth West and Will Gallagher to understand better the reasonings for the choice of route alignment. In summary The reason for selecting the southerly route is entirely to do with access to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus site. A station at Tempsford should allow those at St Neots and Sandy to remain viable. The Outline Line Business Case will be submitted next summer and the DCO process is likely to be 18 months. They are working to a very compressed timeline. Construction is expected to start in 2027 and trains will run from early 2030s. The whole rail line will open at the same time to give reliability and encourage its use. There will be 4 trains an hour from the start with 2 freight trains each way per day. Any additional freight traffic will require a £1bn upgrade of the wider network, which is not in the budget yet. The embankments and viaduct height will reduce and more information on those will be available hopefully in September. And yes, they are working on taking the line under the A428 and between Comberton & Toft. However they have to go over the Kings Cross line. The 'red line' boundaries are not defined yet, but should be ready in the Autumn. They are looking at including a cycle way and connectivity infrastructure alongside the rail line, so it's a "transport corridor". They corrected the misrepresentation going round that 53000 homes are planned for Cambourne. No, that number is the population that is expected to use the station, from all over the area. There is an exhibition at Cambourne on 11th July in the Belfry.

Local Government

Resources

Four Day Week Trial

As I previously reported, the 3-month four-day week initial trial was successful and has been extended for 12 more months. My blog article on it is at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/four-day-week-trial-success-at-south-cambridgeshire-district-council/>. It is to be extended to the Greater Cambridge Waste Service, a shared service with Cambridge City Council as I wrote in my blog at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/future-of-waste-collections-in-south-cambridgeshire/>. City have now agreed to it.

A mystery shopper exercise was carried out on the Contact Centre by an independent organization Insight 6. It ran for 4 weeks analysing 400 contacts, to enable us understand the customer experience that the Council delivers, benchmark against similar authorities in Hertfordshire, and recommend any necessary improvements. The contact was across the council – Benefits, Environmental Services, Housing, Planning, Revenues and General Enquiries. The benchmark

results showed an overall contact average of 81% compared to benchmark average of 68%. You can see full [Benchmark report here](#).

However in the meantime, Conservative opposition through their MP have been attacking the trial and lobbied the Under Secretary of State DLUCH Lee Rowley, who without contacting South Cambs Administration, wrote to SCDC to instruct the trial be stopped. He relied entirely on misinformation from Mr Browne and lies from the Conservative funded pressure group [Taxpayers Alliance](#), whose founder was Chief Exec of the Vote Leave campaign. The Leader has written back to Mr Rowley asking for a meeting to give him the true facts. Even Rt Hon [Michael Gove has stepped in to make hostile pronouncements](#) without the evidence. Even some of their own Conservatives are against their pronouncements as happened at the annual LGA conference this week. Considering Government decisions are supposed to be evidence based, it shows this attack is politically minded. Till Ministers agree to meet and hear the truth, the trial continues.

Community and Wellbeing

Action for Happiness

The Action for Happiness theme for July at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendar> is **Jump Back Up July**. This month's focus is "*Let's take action to be happier and kinder together*"

Local Issues

Caldecote:

Issues at Balfour Beatty (BB) Development on Grafton End:

BB resited the play trail from the location it was granted planning permission for, therefore failing to comply with the planning permission. I have taken this up and confirm that the Compliance Team visited the site to assess and reached conclusion that there is sufficient planning harm caused, due to a loss of privacy to residents. BB claim they want to keep it there and regularise through a new planning application. But Compliance Team has written to them giving 28 days to remove the trail anyway. If they don't comply, Compliance will issue a [Breach of Condition notice](#). This is the standard compliance process.

The case of the fire at MUGA was also reported and I am liaising with the Communities Team on how to provide more information on reporting incidents like that and how to support local parish councils in dealing with such in future.

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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