

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

Councillor's Monthly Report – June 2021

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.

If you have time to spare – check out articles on 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.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

These are items in my previous reports that require action due to time limitations or important.

1. East West Rail Consultation

Please submit your feedback to the consultation by **Wednesday 9 June**. You can do this in a number of ways:

- a. submit it online at https://communityhub.eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation-feedback/survey_tools/feedback
- b. download and print a copy of the feedback form here <https://eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/public/Feedback-Form.pdf> and send to Freepost EAST WEST RAIL
- c. Scan completed feedback form and sent to consultation@eastwestrail.co.uk
- d. Or just send an email with your comments to consultation@eastwestrail.co.uk

2. **Zero Carbon Grant Scheme**– Community groups can bid for grants between £1000 and £15000 for projects to tackle climate change. For those interested, the Council is running a webinar on 7th June 2021 titled “How to make a successful grant application”.

Go to <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/applications-open-for-cash-for-climate-change-projects/> to read more about the grant, how to apply and how to register for the webinar. Closing date for applications is **5pm on Friday 30 July 2021**

3. Wild Minds Programme for Teenagers

[Wild Minds](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/wildminds) is our free programme of wellbeing activities to support the mental wellbeing of 14-17 year olds with things like anxiety and low mood, or to build self-esteem and confidence. The course has been developed by South Cambridgeshire District Council together with Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust and is supported by a Clinical Psychologist. The next 8-week courses begins on Sunday 6 June and can still read about it and register free at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/wildminds>. Also check out this ITV video <https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2021-05-12/using-nature-to-nurture-well-being-how-being-in-green-spaces-can-ease-lockdown-anxiety>

4. Restart Grants Open for Local Businesses

Businesses that are predominantly reliant on delivering in-person services affected by the post-Christmas national lockdown can now apply via our website for the Government's Restart Grants of up to £6000. Go to <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/financial-support-for-business/restart-grants/> to make your application before closing date of **30th June 2021**.

Governance

The District Council held four (4) by-elections in May 2021. We retained the 3 seats we initially had and gained the fourth which was previously held by an Independent councillor. The make up of the council is now 31 Liberal Democrats, 11 Conservatives, 2 Labour and 1 Independent.

For the County Council elections, the LibDems made five gains from the Conservatives and as a result we now have a new LibDem County Councillor in Michael Atkins. I am pleased to welcome Michael onboard and look forward to working with him to provide you with the high level of service that your LibDem councillors are known for.

SCDC held its first Full Council of the new municipal year at The Imperial War Museum as it was the venue that could accommodate all 45 councillors and officers whilst keeping to Covid19 guidelines. Unfortunately, as I previously reported, Government did not extend the legislation that would have enabled us to continue to meet virtually. Added cost to taxpayer we could do without.

COVID19 UPDATE

Step 3 of lockdown easing started on Monday 17th May 2021. It means that social contact is now possible for maximum of 30 people outdoors, and the Rule of 6 people or two households can meet indoors. Businesses that provide indoor hospitality, entertainment and attractions can open, as well as organised indoor adult sport. Domestic overnight stays and international travel is permitted but you must check the destination country rules of admission and what you need to do when you get back to UK. Government is considering if Step 4 scheduled for 21st June will happen as planned.

The Delta (Indian) variant is now the most prevalent in the country. Bedford next door to us has one of the highest infection rates in the country and the new variant spreads more easily from person to person. Government is encouraging people to [get tested](#) twice a week, work from home if possible, and get vaccinated when offered.

Infection rates continue to be low in South Cambs but we cannot be complacent. Please do be careful out there. **Hands-Face-Space** is still very much the rule not exception.

[Regular rapid testing](#) is a key way that we can all keep ourselves, as well as our friends and family, safe as restrictions continue to ease. Anyone who does not have symptoms can now get regular rapid lateral flow tests to check for COVID-19. You can get the test or collect home kits at The Hub in Cambourne or order online <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Find the full details of easing lockdown at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary>

Health and Wellbeing

There is an opportunity to do something positive to help with our wellbeing each day. Action for Happiness is an organisation that brings together like-minded people from all walks of life and helps them take practical action, drawing on the latest scientific research. It has no religious, political or commercial affiliations and has a simple remit: to try to create more happiness in the world! It has created daily prompts for the month of June to help people find joy, even when things are difficult. Why not try the Joyful June calendar <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/joyful-june> and do share with friends and family.

We have also organised a series of **free webinars for local businesses** to help owners and employees deal with the stress of keeping their businesses going during the pandemic. The next one is on 15th June 2021 and you can find out more and register at <https://www.cambridgenetwork.co.uk/news/council-offers-free-mental-health-webinars-businesses>

Business Grants

The District Council has as of 28th May 2021 paid out £12,050,994 since November 2020 grants opened (LRSG and ARG/hardship). £4,576,979 out of our £4,594,88 Additional Restrictions (discretionary - hardship), that is 99.6% of fund paid to 1,653 businesses. For Restart grants, we have paid out £4,270,018 out of our allocation of £5,814,090 to 453 businesses (73%). We continue to proactively make contact with those who haven't yet applied. Thanks to the new Business Support Team who have worked extremely hard over the past year. We've now paid out well over £40m in business grants over the past 15 months but without it, the local economic consequences could have been quite dire!

Welcome Back Fund – Parish Survey

SCDC is offering support to help businesses reopen as restrictions begin to lift. We are asking parishes to help us by completing an online survey so we can determine how best to help. The survey is at <http://bit.ly/SCWelcomeBackSurvey> and should only take a few minutes. Contact email for the Reopening High Street Safely team is reopening@scams.gov.uk.

PLANNING

Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood Plans (NP) are an important planning tool for communities to use in shaping how their local area is developed. It is a proactive way of thinking of development. Neighbourhood plans once adopted become part of our adopted local plan and carry statutory planning weight when it comes to decision making on applications that come forward in the Neighbourhood plan area. At the Full Council in May, South Cambs “made” (adopted) two more NPs for Cottenham, and Histon & Impington, making a total of 3 with Great Abingdon previously adopted. There are 16 more areas designated as NP areas and working on their NPs.

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plans-adopted-following-strong-community-support/>

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS) is continuing to work on the new local plan. We hope to have a preferred option strategy ready to go out for discussion with communities in the Autumn.

In the meantime, the Government is proposing changes to how local plans are created which may significantly impact communities as it will grant permission when a plan is adopted! This limits the ability of communities then to influence those plans further down the line. I will update as and when more information is available on the proposals. I was interviewed on 12th May on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire on the Planning Bill in the Queen's Speech and you can listen here

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09fs715> (at 1hr 10 mins)

Planning Awards

The Planning Service recently won the RTPI Planning Excellence award 2021 for Excellence in Planning to Deliver Homes (50 or more dwellings) for the Clay Farm (Great Kneighton) development. The level of affordable housing in the development was particularly commended.

There are four other projects that have been shortlisted for national planning awards taking place later including one for Stakeholder Engagement for our First Conversation in Jan/Feb 2020.

FINANCE & INVESTMENT

The new South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership (SCIP) has agreed to purchase land (£12.9m) in Cambourne to bring forward new homes. SCIP is a 50:50 partnership between SCDC

and Hill Group. It will bring forward about 275 new homes with 40% affordable on land south of Cambourne Business Park.

At the same time, South Cambridgeshire District Council is also investing in the future of Cambourne Business Park. It is purchasing a currently empty plot of land at the Park for £1.4m together with additional land for the access road, which is identified for commercial activity, with a view to completing this part of the Business Park. This gives the Council wider control of, and the ability to develop the Business Park as part of a proactive approach to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/investment-partnership-and-local-council-agree-143-million-deals-to-build-new-homes-in-cambourne-along-with-cambourne-business-park-investment/>

TRANSPORT

Cycling and Walking Consultation

Cambridgeshire County Council has begun [a consultation](#) on the creation of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Cambridgeshire. It finishes on Tuesday 13 July 2021. Residents are invited to complete the survey and/or mark cycleways and footpaths they would like to see created or prioritised on the map. Read and respond here <https://consultcambus.uk/engagementhq.com/cc-local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-consultation-2021>

Cambourne to Cambridge Busway - GCP

The GCP agreed to carry out an audit of the assumptions underlying the route selection for the C2C. Details at <https://www.gretercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/cambourne-to-cambridge/cambourne-to-cambridge-independent-audit>. The audit has now been completed and will be reported to the GCP Assembly on 10th June 2021 then to the GCP Board in July. The papers are here <http://bit.ly/GCP-Assembly>

East West Rail – Bedford to Cambridge Railway.

The second non-statutory public consultation by EWR started on 31 March 2021 and closes on 9th June 2021. This is a National Infrastructure project, and completely in the hands of EWR and Department of Transport to make the decision. EWR is an integral part of the Government's planned growth agenda for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc!

I want to pay tribute to the various community groups and volunteers who have worked hard over the past few weeks to go through the mountain of documents and distil the information for residents. Both Bourn and Caldecote held virtual village meetings which I was able to attend to discuss the consultation and hear from residents. You will find the reports and responses for Bourn, Caldecote and Kingston on the respective parish council/village websites.

Kingston: <https://kingstonvillage.org.uk/home-2/east-west-railway.html>

Caldecote: <https://caldecote.gov.uk/east-west-rail/>

Bourn: <https://www.bourn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/DRAFT-Outline-response-to-EWR-Consultation.pdf>

The Caldecote EWR Action Group got some column inches in the Cambridge Independent which you can find here <https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/will-east-west-rail-demolish-homes-still-being-built-9199621/>. Well done team.

SCDC Cabinet considered its draft response to the consultation at its meeting on 24th May and you will find that report at <https://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s122001/EWR%20-%20Final%20report%20to%20Cabinet.pdf>. It agreed to strengthen parts of the response.

I liaised with the developers at Bourn Airfield, Bourn Quarter and All Angels Park and it turns out EWR did not consult with them directly and so did not take account of the impact of their alleged preferred alignments on those developments.

The consultation website is at <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation> so please have your say. See the first part of this report on the many ways you can send in your comments.

I have put my comments in my blog article here <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/east-west-rail-ward-member-comments/>

Pride 2021

This month is Pride 2021, celebrated both nationally and internationally. The Council supports Pride and would like to encourage everyone to check out the LGBTQ+ resources on our [webpages https://www.scams.gov.uk/LGBTQ-History-Month](https://www.scams.gov.uk/LGBTQ-History-Month) There are many events including talks, training, book and film recommendations and links to local Pride event organisers. The Council We also continues to support Encompass Network locally, and further information about their work and activities can be found on their website <http://encompassnetwork.org.uk/>

Some national events include [London Pride](#) - has been moved to September due to COVID restrictions. [UK Black Pride](#) Friday 2nd July - Sunday 4th July, [London Trans Pride](#) on 26th June and [Bi Pride \(BiFI Festival\)](#) on 20th June (virtual)

LOCAL ISSUES

Caldecote – Linden Homes have submitted a new planning application for 74 homes. The previous planning permission for 140 homes on the whole site was granted at appeal when the Council did not have a 5-year land supply. The developers applied for Reserved Matters only for Phase 1 for 66 homes and allowed the permission to lapse for Phase 2. This application will now need to be considered on its own merit.

Little Gransden – On 25th May I was pleased to be able to support John Jefferies on part of his 57km in a day walk to raise money for Leukemia UK. I joined him and Chris at Kingston and walked to Coton where I stopped. You will find John’s fundraising page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/john-jefferies4> so please do give generously.

Casework

Irrespective of the current Covid19 lockdown, 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 my past reports at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/2020-21-monthly-reports/>. Feel free to read, share and/or download.

Please stay safe. The maxim **Hands – Face – Space - Fresh Air**.is still very much the rule.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
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Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
Twitter:	@CouncillorTumi
Facebook	@itsCouncillorTumi
LinkedIn	TumiHawkins
Call me on:	07802 323269