

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

Councillor's Monthly Report – October 2020

This report is for all the Ward, so please be aware that some of the content may not be relevant to your particular Parish.

General

Please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. These are housing, 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.

COVID19 UPDATES

Beginning to sound like a broken record but I will keep saying that the virus is still with us and so we must continue to be vigilant and take precautions. Government has u-turned again and now encouraging employees to work from home where they can. The rule of 6 is now applied for all indoor informal and sport gatherings, facemasks mandatory in service industries, leisure and entertainment venues, services provided in community centres, and close contact services will be subject to the COVID-19 Secure requirements in law and fines of up to £10,000 for repeated breaches. You can find out more here <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-what-has-changed-22-september>

Numbers of those testing positive is going up in our district but still very low compared to national average and compared to City! Let's keep it that way.

South Cambs NOT re-opening to public

South Cambs Hall reopened for a week or so before new government guidelines kicked in. So its back to contacting us only online and by phone now.

Local Covid Testing Site

The testing facility at the **Milton Park & Ride** is still operational though plagued with unavailability of testing kits. Government now advising to only request test if you have symptoms. Whatever happened to the “world beating” testing system?

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/> or by calling **119**.

Local SCDC Support

South Cambs held a zoom meeting with support group representatives on 23rd September to provide update and guidance on anticipated support going into the autumn/winter months. While we don't expect a full-blown lockdown or selective lockdown, we however should be prepared to support those who might have to self-isolate, shield, are vulnerable or those who live alone. The support group coordinators in each village will be in touch with their networks on this.

The South Cambs Coronavirus page <https://www.scamsb.gov.uk/coronavirus/> is kept updated. Please continue to buy from your local shops to support South Cambridgeshire economy.

Business Support and Businesses reopening

The Business Support team has got into its stride and assisting businesses operating in the district to re-open and providing assistance to help them get through this difficult time. You can read more

about the team here <https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/business/the-new-team-helping-south-cambridgeshire-s-businesses-to-recover-9118631/>, and contact via scams.gov.uk/business, email openforbusiness@scams.gov.uk or call 01954 713 465.

The team is hosting a webinar on Tuesday 20th October 2020 to meet business owners and find out how best to help you. Register for free at <https://openforbusinesswebinar.eventbrite.co.uk>

Be a Supplier

Are you interested in bidding for contracts to supply services or products to the Council? Then register for the webinar on 12 November 2020 that the Council is holding to help small businesses understand how to prepare and present tenders <https://councilcontractswebinar.eventbrite.co.uk>

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE-

LoveFood HateWaste campaign

The council is encouraging residents to be careful with food shopping and not buy more than is needed. A lot of waste food ends up in black bins, which then means sending the waste to landfill, costing taxpayers. Good news is that during lockdown, a third less food than normal was wasted. This is good news and so Council is encouraging us all to keep it up and do better.

More tips on how to help reduce food waste is at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/love-food-hate-waste/>

Electric bin lorry

The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service we hope will be taking delivery of its first new electric-powered e-collect bin lorry soon. We had gone through a trial of one earlier in the year and this one will be the first in the planned replacement programme for the entire fleet of 55 waste vehicles over eight years.

PLANNING

Officers continue to work under the new challenging lockdown regime to get planning decisions made in a timely manner. Please do read the update newsletter that the planning service sends out each month to Parish Councils as it contains lots of useful information.

Planning Committee PAS Review

Thank you to all those that attended the Parish PAS review sessions. The results are now being collated, along with those from other stakeholders, and we hope the final report will be out in November. In the meantime, we are continuing to improve the service as best we can.

Development Management processes Updates

We continue to improve on our processes. Following the IT issue we had last month that caused new consultation notifications to be sent out in error, we have now put in place a new process of notifying parish councils about new applications and applications going to committee and sent letter to all parishes.

When the agenda for a planning committee meeting is finalised, we will automatically generate a list of ALL the applications that are on the agenda, and email this to ALL Parish Councils. The email will also give instructions on how to register to speak. We hope to extend the improvement to providing a “Parish specific” weekly list of planning applications – but we will update you on that.

Please look out for invitations to additional training sessions on the new planning software.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan Update – Release of Information

On 16 September 2020, the Council published the results of the First Conversation-Issues and Options consultation that took place Jan/Feb this year and the Call for sites that took place last year,

and this year. For the first time in the history of the Council, we put out a call for green sites - specifically to use for green infrastructure such as parks etc.

The full details are on this website <https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/first-conversation-consultation-and-call-for-sites/>

There has been a lot of misunderstanding and speculation about the sites that have come forward. I will re-iterate what I said before. These sites have NO planning merit whatsoever.

It is a wish list of potential sites that may be used in the plan making process. Landowners and promoters have literally thrown in everything they have and the kitchen sink, in the hope that something will pass the test. It is akin to throwing a pot of spaghetti at the wall and hoping something will stick.

Caldecote: Three (3) sites for residential

Bourn: Eight (8) sites for residential (inc Bourn Airfield top of Caldecote)

Northstowe: Two (2) sites one residential, one mixed use

Little Gransden: One (1) residential

There will now be a democratic process between the district council and local people of working out and deciding which of the spatial strategies will be selected for providing jobs and homes affordable for people in the district whilst meeting our zero carbon and sustainable living objectives. You can find more comments from me at

<https://tumihawkins.org.uk/greater-cambridge-local-plan-call-for-sites-results/>

Consultations

There are a number of consultations going on at the moment which I would encourage everyone to engage with

North East Cambridge (NEC)

Reminder: The consultation started at 9am Monday 27 July and **finishes 5pm Monday 5 October 2020**. The Planning service held a series of webinars which were well attended by the public and we got some good feedback on issues of concern to many regarding the planned low carbon, low car use district of about 8,000 homes. The website is still at

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/north-east-cambridge-area-action-plan/>.

Government Planning White Paper

The government white paper outlining their radical plans to change the planning system is causing a lot of stir and drawing lots of criticisms. Reminder that the public consultation closes on 29 October 2020. You can still check out full details and respond to the consultation on the website at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>. We are still working on the Council's response, which we will make available to the parishes. You can find some of my thoughts on it at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/stop-the-government-power-grab-on-planning/>

TRANSPORT

Greater Cambridge Partnership and Combined Authority - Transport

The Mayor has today taken his seat on the GCP on the invitation of the board. This should hopefully mean that he and the GCP board are working in a more cooperative manner.

The Mayor claimed some weeks ago that he had an alternative route for the Cambourne to Cambridge busway – we are hoping he will present that to the GCP soon.

East West Rail

Glad that consultation with communities have resumed and encourage participation when asked to.

WELLBEING – Black History Month

The Council agreed as part of the Black Lives Matter motion adopted in July 2020, to make Black History Month (October) an annual event. I introduced BHM to the Council in 2019 and it was celebrated for the first time with an African themed lunch for all officers and councillors. This year with covid restrictions, the celebration is going online with a series of events throughout the month.

To find out more about Black British History, heritage and culture as you've never heard it before and join in the events, check out the BMH website at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/black-history-month-at-the-council/>

Also check out my blog at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/black-history-month-2020-celebrations/>

LOCAL ISSUES

Zero Carbon Grant

Glad to have supported two applications from Caldecote for grants – fingers crossed that one or both will be successful

Land West of Grafton Drive (Balfour Beatty) and Linden Homes in Caldecote

I will be chairing the meeting of the first Caldecote Community Forum taking place on Thursday 8th October 2020. This is to open up dialogue between the community and the developers, to understand their build out plans, issues that might affect the community or already has, and create a proper channel for communications to prevent problems and report issues so they can be dealt with swiftly and effectively to minimise disruption to the community.

Meeting with Anthony Browne MP

The summary of the meeting discussions in August is on my blog at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/caldecote-ward-parishes-meet-anthony-browne-mp/>

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.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
1 October 2020

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
Twitter:	@CouncillorTumi
Facebook	@itsCouncillorTumi
LinkedIn	TumiHawkins
Call me on:	01954 210840