

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

Councillor's Monthly Report – November 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

Lockdown 2 as announced by the Prime Minister is happening from Thursday 5th November to Tuesday 2nd December 2020 (we hope). The guidelines require everyone to stay at home with exceptions, avoid meeting people other than family, and many businesses will again have to close. The full set of new guidelines is available on the government website at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>. This new rule is underpinned by law and Councils have been mandated to enforce them. Please keep the guidelines as we really would not like to have to impose fines on people with already stretched finances. Thank you.

The number of people testing positive in South Cambs is still low compared to other parts of the country, but the numbers in Cambridge City is rising. So, remember Hand – Face – Space. Wear your face mask/covering and keep hands clean.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

Shielding is not being reinstated in the same way during Lockdown2. The group of people is now referred to as clinically extremely vulnerable, and are being advised not to go to out, and to only travel for essential purposes and exercise. These folks should expect their letters from the Government soon, as it will have more details in it. More details available at <http://bit.ly/ClinicallyExtremelyVulnerable>

Self-Isolation Support

Anyone contacted through track & Trace and instructed to self-isolate resulting in loss of income could be entitled to £500 support from the Council. Apply online at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/self-isolation-support-payment-launches-in-cambridgeshire/>

Local SCDC Support

South Cambs Communities Team is mobilising the support groups that operated during Lockdown1. Those who find themselves in need of support should contact their support group coordinators in the village.

The South Cambs Coronavirus page <https://www.scams.gov.uk/coronavirus/> will be updated as we get more information. Where possible please continue to buy from your local shops to support South Cambridgeshire economy.

Remembrance Sunday preparations

The Government has updated the guidance on preparations for Remembrance Sunday with

information for councils in England on how to ensure those hosting local Remembrance events can do so safely. You will find the Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-preparations-for-remembrance-sunday>

Support for Businesses

The Council provides advice and some support to businesses during this time. Contact the Business team via scams.gov.uk/business, email openforbusiness@scams.gov.uk or call 01954 713 465.

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 HEALTH

Electric bin lorry

The Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service has now taken delivery of its first 100% electric-powered e-collect bin lorry. It is the first in Cambridgeshire and in the planned replacement programme for the entire fleet of 55 waste vehicles over eight years.

Green Homes Grant scheme

Government funding is now available to make homes more energy efficient, helping home owners do their bit to move to net zero carbon by 2050 while saving money on household bills.

The grant could help the cost from two thirds to full cost of improvements, from £5000 to £10,000 depending on your circumstances. Find out more if you are eligible at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme>. The scheme closes on 31 March 2021.

Streetlight Upgrade

South Cambs is responsible for maintaining around 1,800 lamps within 84 villages, while parish councils pay the electricity bills. The council plans to invest up to £1.38million on replacing all the streetlights, including columns and brackets, with low energy LED versions to cut energy bills, reduce light pollution, and improve lighting. The work has started in Linton this month, and is being carried out by Bouygues Energies and Services who will be stripping out and recycling the old lanterns as they take them down.

PLANNING

Government Planning White Paper

The Council has now submitted its response to the government Planning White paper proposing radical changes to the planning system. You can read it in full here

<https://scams.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=11457>

You can find some of my thoughts on it at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/stop-the-government-power-grab-on-planning/>

Development Management processes Updates

Pre-application Service

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service has launched a new Pre-application service with revised charges. This is a single, aligned pre-application charging scheme across the Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Council areas. Applicants are encouraged to use this

optional service to help get advice at the outset of a project which can help simplify and speed up the progress of getting planning permission. The service will offer a pick and mix menu of the level of details and advice an applicant wants, and that will reflect the charge that is applied.

More information on this is available at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/aligned-planning-service-pre-application-charges-take-effect-across-greater-cambridge/>

Greater Cambridge Local Plan Update

Work on the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan continues. The reports for the studies we commissioned will be presented to and discussed at the JLPAG (Joint Local Plan Advisory Group) meeting on 24th November.

HOUSING

The Handyperson Service

The Handyperson Service exists to assist older people and adults with a disability living in Cambridgeshire. Their service is for small jobs such as putting up shelves, curtain poles, building flat pack furniture, replacing toilet seats, changing light bulbs etc. they charge £30 per hour plus materials and can be contacted on 01480 700205 or emailed: chp@ageukcap.org.uk

Consultation on Allocation of Social Housing

South Cambs District Council owns and maintains around 5,500 Council homes, and many other housing associations own homes in the district. The council has proposed making some changes to how these houses are allocated with the aim of making sure allocations are to those most in need, and done in a transparent and fair way. One of the proposed changes is to how the “local connection” is defined.

To find out more and take part, go to <https://www.scams.gov.uk/comment-on-proposed-changes-to-social-housing-allocation-policy/>. The consultation ends on 18 December 2020.

New Council Homes

We continue to expand the pool of council houses available to people in the district. We have acquired nine (9) new energy efficient council houses in Foxton, being a mix of 1-bd, 2-bed and 3-bed houses. The new tenants are expected to move in by Christmas 2020. We are hoping to have more houses added over the coming months.

TRANSPORT

Greater Cambridge Partnership and Combined Authority - Transport

The Cambourne to Cambridge busway plans by the Greater Cambridge Partnership was paused following the intervention of the Mayor who claimed some to have an alternative route. He wants the busway route to be able to be converted into his proposed CAM metro.

The Mayor has now unveiled his preferred indicative route. This route has two options, one runs north of the A428 past Madingley Cemetery turning south to enter the City. The second option involves the use of a tunnel from Madingley Mulch area into West Cambridge.

There are challenges with this route and still needs more work done on this suggested route to develop the finer details including environmental impact and additional costs. We expect the cost of the tunnelling section to be quite high, and it remains to be seen if the cost benefit ratio works.

WELLBEING

Free School Meals

Following the vote in Parliament not to extend free school meals during the holidays, South Cambs Council Leader Cllr Bridget Smith, wrote to Cambridgeshire County Council offering £25,000 towards extending free school meal vouchers for children in our District this Christmas. If the scheme is to be in place on time, the plans must start now.

Black History Month (October)

The BHM programme went very well, with officers and councillors engaging with and attending the online events. You can still catch up with it at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/bhm>. One of the Waste lorries was decked out in the BHM artwork – looked really good.

LOCAL ISSUES

Caldecote Community Liaison Forum

The first meeting of the forum took place on Thursday 8th October 2020. It was attended by representatives from Balfour Beatty, developers of Land West of Grafton Drive, and Linden Homes, Parish Council, South Cambs Planning & Enforcement, and me (as Chair).

It was a good meeting, discussing the expectations of build out timescales, concerns of residents generally, and specifically on breaches that have already occurred. Linden expect to have a show home ready from March 2021 and first occupations from June/July 2021. Balfour expect best case scenario for first occupations in April/May 2021.

If residents observe breaches or encounter difficulties with work on the site, it should be reported either to me directly cllr.hawkins@Scambs.gov.uk or the Parish council chair Cllr Cartwright on cllr.cartwright@caldecote.gov.uk. We have direct contact with the two site managers and can raise matters with them for immediate resolution.

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
4 November 2020

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| Email me @: | tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk |
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