

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

Councillor's Monthly Report – December 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

The maxim **Hands – Face – Space** still very much the rule.

Lockdown 2 has now ended and the country has entered into a state with three Tiers of restrictions as from 2nd December 2020. Most of the country is in Tier 2 High Alert, including South Cambs. This is defined as areas with a higher or rapidly rising level of infections where additional. Tiers set out guidance on what we can or cannot do and can be found on the government website at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know?>

The guidelines include the Rule of 6, not social with anyone not in support bubble indoors, businesses and venues can operate but in a Covid-secure way. Pubs, bars and nightclubs must close unless they operate as restaurants. And then they must provide table service only, stop taking orders after 10pm, and close between 11pm and 5am. Places of leisure activities such as cinemas, theatres, bowling alleys, fun fairs also close by 11pm, organised outdoor sport and activity can continue, but indoor sport only if there is no mixing with people outside your support bubble. There's a whole raft of guidelines summarised in **posters** that are on the government website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tier-posters-medium-high-and-very-high>

Support for Businesses

We have created a local business directory <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/local-business-directory> to help residents find out more about what local businesses are offering. The listings include details of Covid-secure measures that businesses have put in place, and information about current opening arrangements/online ordering/click and collect facilities.

Businesses are able to add their details to the directory via the link above, and are promoting the directory from to help residents support local business in the run up to the festive period and beyond. During December we will also be inviting businesses to tag us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in their own posts with information about any festive offers or seasonal specials, so that we can help to share these promotions with our followers.

Businesses that were forced to close their doors during the last national lockdown can now apply for new Government grants that are being distributed by South Cambridgeshire District Council. The new grants are designed to help them keep going till they can begin trading again.

The grants are (1) Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB) and the Additional Restrictions Support Grant (ARSB). Businesses can find information on how to apply, along with eligibility criteria, via the Council's website <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/businessgrant> .

South Cambridgeshire District Council aims to support as many businesses as possible, and so is also making available a third scheme, the Local Restrictions Discretionary Hardship Scheme (LRDHS). This is to support those facing extreme hardship but are not eligible to claim under the first two schemes and/or have received limited state aid or financial assistance to date. It is awarded at the discretion of the Council, and application is via a written statement and supporting evidence. Further guidance on eligibility is also available via the above link.

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/>

Support for Local Community Groups

The District's Communities Team continues to provide support for the community support groups by providing information, signposting for help, online meetings etc.

Christmas holidays bubble

From 23 December to 27 December, you may choose to form a Christmas bubble. A Christmas bubble will be able to spend time together in private homes, to attend places of worship, or meet in a public outdoor place. The general rule is that up to three households can form a Christmas bubble.

There is additional guidance for the Christmas period including how to meet friends and family, visit pubs and restaurants, and attend places of worship which you will find at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period>. Please take the time to read it as each family situation will be different on how the bubble is formed.

GOVERNANCE

Congratulations to the Council Leader, Cllr Bridget Smith, who received commendations for #CllrAwards Leader of the Year at the LGiU (Local Government Information Unit) awards 2020. Judges admired her leadership and guidance of the council. Glad that the hard work she has put in leading the council is being recognised.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

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

Luton Airport Flight Path Consultation.

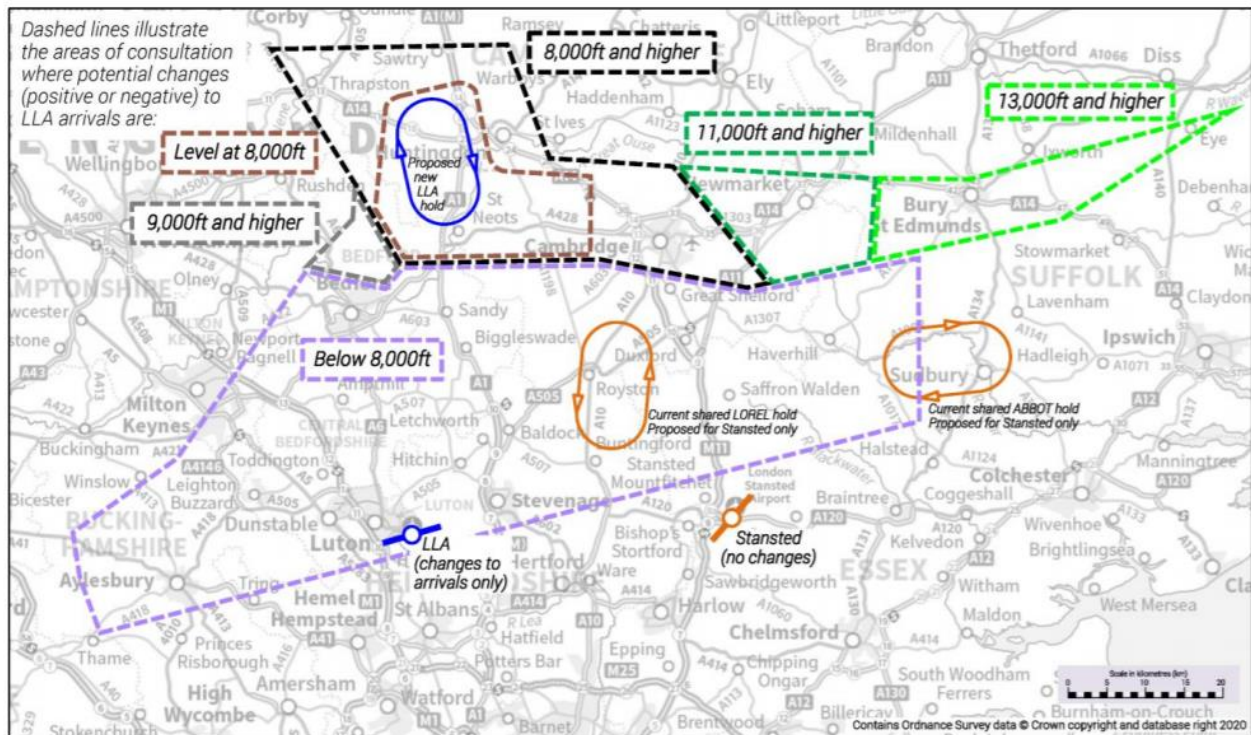
There is an ongoing consultation by London Luton Airport (LLA) on proposals to change its flight path and holding area for flights arriving at the airport. Essentially it is looking to stack flights at or above approximately 8,000ft. The consultation closes on 5th February 2021.

I am encouraging all our parishes to go on the consultation website at https://consultations.airspacechange.co.uk/london-luton-airport/ad6_luton_arrivals/. This shows the

plans in full and a virtual exhibition and other tools to help you view how it will affect your village. Most of the southern part of South Cambs is within the 8000ft zone as shown in the diagram below. So please take the time to check this consultation and give your response.

There is also another website here but on the same topic.

<https://www.london-luton.co.uk/corporate/community/noise/current-airspace-changes/ad6>



PLANNING

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS)

Pre-Application Service

The GCSPS has launched an improved pre-application planning advice service for Greater Cambridge. The new pre-application service offers a wide range of advice from a 15 minute free consultation with a planner about minor household applications, through to paid-for specialist advice on a number of aspects of planning, including listed building expertise, ecology and housing. The aim of the service is to help potential applicants develop the best quality proposals that will meet with planning requirements in the area, which should lead to applications being validated and decided more quickly.

The revised scheme has been devised based on feedback we received from consulting those who have used the service or use it frequently like local home-owners, agents, architects etc.

Parish councils and small charities will have their fees waived, as will applications specifically required for the needs of disabled people. Read more about it on our website.

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/improved-planning-advice-service-for-greater-cambridge-launched/>

Local Plan Update

The GCSPS commissioned some works with experts to provide us with data and evidence base that we can use in creating the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan. The initial reports for these studies were published and discussed by the JLPAG (Joint Local Plan Advisory Group) meeting on 24th November.

We are now in the next stage of the plan making process. This is an additional step that was not in the previous plan making. We are meeting with stakeholders including parish councils, residents associations, infrastructure providers, businesses, landowners, developers and agents etc. to talk about some of the findings and ask their views on the potential housing numbers to deliver, the spatial options available, and the implications of some of the findings for example on water on what we can build and where.

Under the standard method set by national government, the minimum number of new homes that would need to be built in the area is around 1,900 per year. This is about 180 more homes per year than we currently have in our development pipeline. The government also expects us to build homes to take account of economic growth in the area, and this means we could be planning for between 2,200-3,000 homes per year, to help reduce pressure on house prices and commuting into the area. This would mean finding sites for up to 1,250 extra homes per year.

Evidence so far suggests we could have real challenges in achieving very high levels of house-building due to market forces, but that the minimum level set by the government's standard method will not support the current forecast growth in jobs in the area, potentially leading to higher house prices and more commuting in.

Also new and innovative modelling suggests that the carbon emissions associated with each new home in Greater Cambridge would be between 6-13 tonnes of CO₂ per year, depending on the type and location of the home. If ambitious zero carbon policies are brought in, this could reduce emissions to around 2-9 tonnes per home.

Water supply analysis shows that the minimum required level of growth could be plausibly achieved through adjustments to current water resource management plans, such as greater water efficiency, reducing leakages and shifting to more sustainable water sources. Medium or high growth levels would need new regional scale infrastructure, such as reservoirs and transfer schemes, and this will inform plans currently being developed by the water industry. Under normal means of provision, these will take time to implement, and this could be a 'deal breaker' that means high growth levels cannot be achieved within the period of the new Plan.

About 19% of Greater Cambridge's land area is green or blue infrastructure, which means the network of natural and semi-natural spaces, including water bodies. This compares to farmland, which accounts for 74% of the land in Greater Cambridge.

Initial viability testing suggests that market-led development in Greater Cambridge should be able to pay for 40% affordable housing as part of the mix in each major development, but there is further work being developed to look at the costs of infrastructure and potential policies such as zero carbon measures.

For further details and the documentation linked to this stage of developing the plan, see <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/where-to-build-and-how-much/>

We are working on how communities that wish to send in comments on the sites suggested and listed in the call for sites can do so and send out communications on how to do this later.

BROADBAND

Covid19 has shown up the need for good broadband connectivity. Caldecote and Bourn had the good fortune to have had fibre broadband installed back in 2013/14 after their respective exchanges were two of the six winners in the BT Race to Infinity. Unfortunately, Openreach did not fulfil its promise to connect 99% of the communities on the exchanges, and left parts of Bourn untouched.

Old Caldecote and Kingston have been upgraded through the Connecting Cambridgeshire project. But there are still parts of the Ward like Longstowe and Little Gransden that are suffering slow broadband speeds. These villages are part of the “hard to reach” (apparently) areas.

Those that are suffering from low broadband speeds (less than 30 Mbps) can still take advantage of the Government’s Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme

<https://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/funding-schemes/rural-gigabit-voucher-scheme/>.

Voucher is worth up to £3500 for small businesses and £1500 for residential premises. It remains open till 31 March 2021 or until the funds run out. The funds can then be used to commission service from suppliers such as BT or others.

Connecting Cambridgeshire has secured £500,000 extra [“top-up” funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority](#) to provide an additional “top-up” of £1,500 per residential premise and SME in order to help connect groups of rural properties getting less than 30Mbps to more than double their speeds.

Check out the website links for information or email contact@connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk.

HOUSING

Consultation on Allocation of Social Housing

Reminder that 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.

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

TRANSPORT

Greater Cambridge Partnership and Combined Authority - Transport

As you know, 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 that could fit into his plans for the CAM metro.

Unfortunately, he was unable to get his proposals through his own Transport committee back in November, and that meant it could not be considered by the GCP board in its next meeting. This means the current GCP proposed route is still on the table. This route has raised concerns about the impacts on local communities and the environment.

However, in the meantime, we have proposed and the GCP has agreed to have an Independent audit to be done on the current GCP proposal, especially since it was one of options first presented some

years ago. It will look at the assumptions and constraints which underpin the selection of this route. It is sensible to review the reasons for the rejection of other route options, including a route to the north of the current M11 bridge.

This is the best chance of re-opening up the question of route options so I am encouraging parish councils who want to see other options on the table to engage fully with the audit review.

LOCAL ISSUES

Bourn Quarter 20/02568/FUL

The application for redeveloping the former TKA Tallent site is going to planning committee on Wednesday 9th December 2020. It will mainly be circa 288,000 sqft/26,757 sqm of commercial space – research and development, warehouse and distribution, light industry-with café/restaurant, creche and gym for those working on site. The recommendation from planners is to approve it,

Bourn Airfield New Village S/3440/18/OL

The journey of this proposed new village is taking another step forward as it is now going to go before the South Cambridgeshire District Council planning committee on Friday 18th December 2020. The villages of Bourn, Caldecote, Hardwick and Knapwell have all expressed their concerns about this development over the years since 2012/13 when the then Conservative administration at the Council put it as an option in the current adopted Local Plan.

The delivery of Bourn Airfield hinged on the provision of what the County Council called a "High Quality Public Transport" route. This is now commonly known as the Cambourne to Cambridge C2C busway. That has its own ongoing saga in terms of its delivery.

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.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Here is wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and a Happy New year. See you all in 2021. Please stay safe and well.



Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
3 December 2020

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