

District Council Update July 2017

New Chief Executive:

We were delighted, in April, to appoint Beverly Agass as the new Chief Executive of South Cambridgeshire District Council. She comes to us from South Kesteven (Lincolnshire) where she served as Chief Executive since June, 2009. She took up her new appointment on Monday, 3rd July. She replaces Jean Hunter who had been our Chief Executive since October, 2010. We wish Jean every success in her future career.

Beverly is very keen to get to know the District and will be visiting all the wards, including Sawston, during the summer.

Future Developments

Outline permission was issued on 8th March, 2017 for 48 houses on land behind Nos. 35-43 Mill Lane (App. No. S/2286/16/OL). We are awaiting the reserved matters application. An application (S/2454/15/OL) for 46 houses on a further site, at '58 Mill Lane' (the site is actually at the rear of 87-91 Mill Lane) was refused in February, 2016 by South Cambridgeshire due to drainage, highways, lack of affordable housing and environmental issues. The developers (Moatside Properties) are attempting to get the site included in the Local Plan. Their proposal was heard by the Local Plan Inspector on 7th June, but it is possible that a further application may be submitted before . A further proposal for 12 dwellings on land between 66 & 68, Common Lane (S/2286/16/OL) has recently been reduced to 10 dwellings. This application has yet to be determined.

Following the Court of Appeal Decision of 15th February effectively quashing the decision to approve the construction of a football stadium for Cambridge City FC at the rear of Dales Manor Business Park, Cambridge City FC have re-submitted the application with updated technical reports. It is likely that this re-application will be determined by South Cambridgeshire in the early autumn.

A major new settlement at Gt. Chesterford

In late June, Uttlesford District Council, published its new draft Local Plan as part of the agenda for the Uttlesford Local Plan Working Group meeting on 22nd June. We were very concerned to see that the plan includes a new 'garden community' at Great Chesterford. This would comprise up to 5,000 dwellings located on a 256 Ha site, South East of the A11 and West of the A1301, just South of Stump Cross. 1,900 of these dwellings would be delivered by 2033. The site boundary is immediately adjacent to the boundary between Uttlesford and South Cambridgeshire and the proposal would have very significant effects on traffic on the A1301 and A505 creating even greater pressure on the A1301/A505 'McDonald's' roundabout and on M11 Junction 10. An accompanying traffic report suggests some improvements at these junctions It assumes that there would be a 'modal shift' from

car to public transport, cycling or walking of 15% (currently 71.8% of journeys to work in Uttlesford are by private car or van; Source; 2011 census statistics at <http://bit.ly/2t0GYRu>). Disappointingly, there are no proposals in the Uttlesford Local Plan to upgrade M11, Junction 9 to enable traffic travelling North to Cambridge to join at that point. So the main access to the M11 travelling North would be via the A1301 and A505 to Junction 10 at Duxford and the preferred route to Cambridge would be via the A11 and A1307.

The Local Plan is to be put out for consultation from 12th July to 4th September. A number of respondents including South Cambridgeshire and Sawston Parish Council have pointed out to Uttlesford that four weeks of this coincide with the August Summer holiday period and asked for an extension of four weeks into September (South Cambridgeshire gave a four week extension when its Local Plan consultation fell during August). Uttlesford responded by extending the consultation period from 29th August to 4th September.

The Local Plan can, be accessed and representations made online at <http://bit.ly/2td5n1A> The relevant policy is SP7. The background documents including the transport assessment are included in the agenda papers for the Planning Policy Working Group meeting of 22nd June <http://bit.ly/2ualukE> .

Bin Rounds

We are still experiencing problems with missed collections and damaged caddies. Cllr. Cuffley and I raised both these issues as an emergency item at the South Cambridgeshire Scrutiny Committee meeting on 6th July. Since the start of the combined service in February, Sawston has been one of the villages collected by former Cambridge City crews. The former Cambridge City vehicles are unable to cope with the paper caddies and there have been instances of caddies being emptied into the vehicles and crushed.

The vehicles are due to be renewed in early autumn (September or October) and until that happens, residents are asked to put all paper into the blue bins. A letter was sent out in early March pointing this out, and it will be followed up by another when it is possible to use the caddies again. The caddy is still shown on the online collection diary for Sawston. We have asked again for the website to be updated to include a note about this. We have also asked for the crews to check for caddies before putting the bins in the lifting mechanism.

A follow up report will be brought to the Scrutiny Committee in autumn, by which time I hope that the current problems will have been fully addressed.

David Bard

[886 words]