
SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

CLARE DELDERFIELD AND BRIAN MILNES

JANUARY 2020

YOU CAN FOLLOW YOUR COUNCILLORS ON FACEBOOK: [BRIANANDCLARE4SAWSTON](#)

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these - or indeed any other - matters, please do not hesitate to contact Clare Delderfield cllr.delderfield@scambs.gov.uk or Brian Milnes cllr.milnes@scambs.gov.uk

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wishing all members of the parish council and the residents of Sawston a very Happy New Year. 2020 will undoubtedly bring its own set of challenges for Sawston and the District and we look forward to ensuring the village is well represented on matters affecting the lives of local people.

GREATER CAMBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN ISSUES AND OPTIONS – OUR CONSULTATION

It is a very exciting time jointly for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, with work underway on a new joint Local Plan that will affect the future of Greater Cambridge over the next 20 years.

The Councils are preparing to carry out a public consultation called: **Greater Cambridge Local Plan – The First Conversation**. The consultation will start the conversation about the kind of place we want Greater Cambridge to be in the future. It will explore the 'big themes' – climate change, biodiversity, social inclusion and great places - that will influence how homes, jobs and infrastructure are planned, and where growth might go.

The consultation will run between **this Monday 13 January** and **5pm Monday 24 February 2020**. Lots of information and the opportunity to provide views at www.greatercambridgeplanning.org People can also post online using #GCLocalPlan.

During the consultation there will be pop-up 'roadshows' to places around the area including shopping centres, schools, community centres and other places, to reach out to as many people as possible.

There will also be a '**Big Debate**' on the evening of 18 February, where we are inviting local groups to share their ideas about what should be in the Local Plan, in a fun, provocative and lively public event. If you are interested in being one of the groups to present, please contact Hana Loftus at localplan@greatercambridgeplanning.org. Also look out for details about how to book your seat in the audience on the night.

HUAWEI TO BRING FORWARD REVISED PLANS

As you will remember, last year Huawei brought forward plans for an R&D facility to be built on the old Spicers site. After discussion they decided to withdraw their application to work on some modifications. They have made some changes to proposals to incorporate some of the feedback from the consultation and from the planning officer and will shortly be re-submitting their application. Following their submission there will be a full public consultation period, so please do give your views.

NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT COUNCIL HOMES

Nine new energy-efficient Council homes have been occupied by new residents in Balsham. The new properties are part of the District Council's ambitions to double the number of Council homes built every year in South Cambridgeshire.

These are a mixture of one-bedroom apartments and two-bedroom apartments. Each property has been allocated to someone with a local connection. The apartments also benefit from having solar panels and extensive insulation, keeping them warm and reducing energy bills.

There are also four homes being made available for shared ownership, where they are partly owned by both the Council and local resident. The affordable rent and shared ownership properties form part of a new development called Farriers Yard that has a total of 33 homes and includes open space and bicycle parking.

South Cambridgeshire District Council owns and maintains around 5,500 Council homes. More than 75 other new Council homes were built last year or remain under construction in Caldecote, Foxton, Great Abington, Hardwick and Waterbeach. On top of this, a further 199 Council homes are planned to be built in a number of villages including here in Sawston by 2023, helping to provide affordable living for local people.

LOCAL RESIDENTS REDUCE BLACK BIN USE AND SEND LESS TO LANDFILL

Well done everyone! Figures for our shared waste service with [Cambridge City Council](#) show residents are putting less in their black bins - thank you! Local people put almost 10% less in your black bins in 2018/19 compared to the year before. It means less waste ends up in landfill, and increased recycling brings in additional income we can spend on services for local people. Let's work towards making 2020 an even better year!

Reminder - if you are regularly running out space in your recycling bins you can request a free additional blue bin at www.scambs.gov.uk/bins/report-or-request/request-a-bin

THREE FREE TREES TO ENCOURAGE MORE TREE PLANTING

Sawston Parish Council, along with every parish council in South Cambridgeshire is being offered three free trees by the District Council as part of ambitions to “double nature”.

The scheme to encourage more planting was officially launched last week in Fulbourn, where representatives from the village’s parish council joined local schoolchildren to put the young trees into the ground.

We encourage the Parish Council to apply for a voucher which can be exchanged for three trees, or one large one, at a local garden centre. The voucher will also pay for stakes and tree protection guards. Parish Councils in South Cambridgeshire can apply for their tree voucher at www.scambs.gov.uk/three-free-trees

With trees absorbing CO₂ from the atmosphere, they play a key role in helping to combat climate change. The District Council has already declared a climate emergency and, in November 2018, pledged to work towards making the District zero carbon by 2050. Some parish councils are also working towards making their own local climate pledge.

South Cambridgeshire District Council is a member of Natural Cambridgeshire. This is a partnership between local Councils, businesses, health, farming, wildlife and environmental organisations all working towards doubling the area of rich wildlife habitats and natural green space across the county.

BETTER CARE FUND HELPS LOW INCOME FAMILIES TO IMPROVE THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF THEIR HOMES

Through the Better Care Fund South Cambs council is able to offer assistance to help low income households living in their own property to boost the energy efficiency of their homes and to help with repairs. For example, if people are struggling to heat their homes due to an old, faulty or inefficient boiler, we may be able to help pay for a new one through our Discretionary Grants scheme.

To qualify for a grant, householders will need to have owned and lived in their home for at least two years and be in receipt of one of the following means tested benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance or Income Based Employment Support Alliance
- Working Tax Credit with gross income less than £18,000
- Council Tax Support
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Child tax credit with a relevant income less than £18,000

The council may also be able to help with improving insulation, replacing draughty windows and doors and carrying out a range of other essential repairs. Work is carried out by the Cambridgeshire Home

Improvement Agency who also carry out works for disabled adaptations, such as ramps, level access showers, stair lifts, etc.

If you know of someone who may benefit from this support ask them to contact the Home Improvement Agency on 01954 713330 or email: HIA@CambsHIA.org

SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESS SUPPORT IN SOUTH CAMBS

We are pleased to report that a new team will be set up to increase support for local businesses – particularly small and medium-sized companies – in South Cambridgeshire.

At a meeting of the District Council's Cabinet last week members agreed to a proposal for a new Business Support Service. It will deliver activities offering practical advice and targeted support to existing and growing businesses in the District and those looking to move into South Cambridgeshire.

Councillors want to build thriving village economies where people can work locally, buy what they need and access the services they require while keeping their impact on the environment to a minimum. The new team will be tasked with retaining existing employers, improving the survival rates of new enterprises and securing new investment in communities across the district.

When fully established, the new team of four officers will:

- Offer bespoke packages of support to small and medium-sized enterprises
- Help further develop the three Enterprise Zones in South Cambridgeshire, to encourage more businesses to locate to them
- Guide companies wishing to relocate to the district or move within it
- Deliver a programme of activities to support local village economies
- Develop new and environmentally friendly tourism initiatives such as cycling and walking routes to encourage visitors into South Cambridgeshire communities
- Provide guidance to companies on their response to the climate emergency, including advice on generating their own electricity, improving energy efficiency and recycling more waste and water
- Make the entire Council more 'business friendly', such as by creating one point of contact for local companies and becoming a vital link between the Council and other business support organisations

Growing local businesses and economies is one of the four priority areas in the Council's Business Plan and this new team, working closely with colleagues at the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, will lead the authority's work in this area.

The new roles and Business Support Service will now be finalised before recruitment takes place within the coming months. When up and running, the service will work closely with neighbouring councils, and organisations such as the Chambers of Commerce, FSB, NFU and Visit Cambridge and Beyond to help complement the services that each provides.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these, or any other matters.

BRIAN MILNES AND CLARE DELDERFIELD, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS FOR SAWSTON