

Sawston Parish Council

District Councillors' Report: Monday 9 September 2024

1. General Election

On Thursday 4th July, Pippa Heyling was elected as the MP for the re-defined South Cambridgeshire constituency. Pippa has accordingly stood down as a District Councillor for Histon and Impington. Her two ward colleagues Cllr Martin Cahn and Cllr Sunita Hansraj will continue as District Councillors and a by-election to fill the vacancy is anticipated to take place in mid-October.

Pippa has been instrumental in many of the transformations seen at SCDC, acting as the driving force behind many of the Council's environmental projects. Joining the Council in 2018, Pippa led the way establishing the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee, putting the climate and environment at the heart of everything at South Cambs.

2. National Planning Policy Framework

The new government has launched a consultation on its proposals for the National Planning Policy Framework running from Tuesday 30th July to Tuesday 24th September. Although the formal implementation of the new government's plans remains in its early stages, a number of things are clearly relevant for Greater Cambridge and Sawston:

- Mandatory minimum housing targets
- Requirements of the 5 Year Housing Land Supply are more rigorous and reviewed annually
- Presumption in favour of sustainable development
- Widening Brownfield Land definition to include hardstanding and glasshouses
- Grey Belt land is defined as land in the Green Belt that is not performing against any Green Belt purpose
- Golden Rules for Green Belt release: 50% affordable housing, infrastructure and green spaces
- Where a local authority does not have a local plan then Green Belt can be released where there is a proven need for increased housing development
- Increased density of housing in urban areas
- The building of lab space and high tech factory space will be a required planning consideration for local plans
- The proposed Infrastructure Levy scheme will not be introduced

3. Five Year Land Supply

SCDC has published the most recent Greater Cambridge housing trajectory with housing land supply calculations. This is important as without it a lot of protective planning policies fall away as happened in the years to 2018. In any event, the trajectory - which shows anticipated delivery of new homes across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire up to 2041 - demonstrates that jointly for Greater Cambridge there are 6.5 years of housing land supply for the 2024-2029 period.

4. Cambridge 2050

There has been understandable speculation and concern in relation to the previous government's Cambridge 2050 proposals for up to 150000 new homes in the Greater Cambridge region, directed by central government. Whilst the new Labour government has not formally stated a position in relation to this, it is clear that the economic growth which the Greater Cambridge region is expected to continue to deliver means that the new government is not abandoning the principles of the Cambridge 2050 proposals.

Local government leaders and MPs are in ongoing and intense dialogue with the new government to understand what the plans are and what changes, if any, they plan to make to the plans of the previous Conservative government.

5. New Towns Taskforce announced

The Deputy Prime Minister, Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP, has asked Sir Michael Lyons to be the Chair of an independent New Towns Taskforce, supported by housing economist Dame Kate Barker as Deputy Chair. The group will present a final shortlist of recommendations on appropriate locations for new towns to ministers within 12 months. The programme of new towns will create communities of at least 10,000 new homes each and will be governed by a 'New Towns Code' – a set of rules that developers will have to meet to make sure new towns are well-connected, well-designed, sustainable and attractive places where people want to live.

6. Civil Parking Enforcement

Two Civil (parking) Enforcement Officers now work across the District to address illegal and inconsiderate parking, which continues to impact Sawston, and in particular Mill Lane. This is not only on yellow lines, but also parking across car park entrance barriers, road junctions and other inappropriate locations. The officers cannot be everywhere all at once, however a total of 1757 town patrols covering 6687 street visits in South Cambridgeshire have been completed by the Officers) since 1st February 2024 through to the end of June. Patrols have predominantly focussed on areas where parking is in the greatest demand, such as commuting and shopping areas. Penalty Charge Notices are being issued and appear to be having an impact on drivers' behaviour.

As a reminder, requests for parking enforcement can be made by emailing parkingcontrol@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or online at

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/parking-services/south-cambridgeshire-civil-parking-enforcement>

7. Bus Services Consultation

Members of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Board met on 24th July where they discussed a report about bus reform. Following the discussion, they approved the Bus Reform Assessment (also known as the Business Case) and agreed to hold a formal franchising consultation which will enable residents, businesses, stakeholders and statutory consultees to share their views. This consultation is running from 14th August until 20th November. Everyone is being invited to have their say on the potential pathways for improving bus services for local communities.

The consultation will compare a franchising solution with an Enhanced Partnership approach. Under a franchised network, the Combined Authority would contract bus operators to run services on its behalf but have control over the routes, frequency, fares and overall standards of the region's buses. An alternative Enhanced Partnership solution, while

producing benefits over the current bus service, provides less control over the routes, frequency and overall delivery of the services.

The Combined Authority will publicise the consultation widely to engage with people during the 14 weeks this is open. This will include letters, briefings, newsletters, face-to-face events, focus groups, research (online surveys), media, social media, and posters and leaflets at bus stations.

Please see the following link for the consultation.

<https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-franchising-consultation/>

8. Tiger Bus Pass

The Combined Authority has launched the Tiger bus pass, offering bus fares for just £1 for people under 25 travelling on buses in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The new Tiger bus pass is free of charge and designed to make public transport more affordable for young people, helping them travel to school, college, training, work, shopping, and social activities. This initiative is part of a broader effort by the Combined Authority to revamp public transport in the region. Please see the following link to the CPCA to apply for a Tiger pass.

<https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/onepoundbusfare/>

9. Small Business Support

Small businesses in South Cambridgeshire are being invited to apply for funding of up to £5,000 each in a new grant programme launched this week. The funding is available to those already trading with ambitions to grow and will provide grants, advice and support for existing businesses with up to nine employees. The new support grants are available as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) is the lead authority for delivery of the Fund, while the District Council is responsible for grant scheme delivery and allocation.

For those looking to start a business and get their foot on the ladder, there is free advice on offer, including how to create a viable business plan. The startup advice will be delivered by the [Business and Intellectual Property Centre](#) and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority [Growth Hub](#).

Applications are open until 31 October 2024. Businesses may only make one application. The District Council reserves the right to close the application window earlier should the level of demand exceed the maximum funding available. More information can be found [online](#) .

10. Check before you chuck – fly tipping

A resident has been hit with a £600 fine for failing to make sure their rubbish was removed by a licensed waste carrier. Environmental Crime Officers from South Cambridgeshire District Council found the resident had failed in their Duty of Care after their waste was discovered dumped in Orchard Park, Cambridgeshire. Evidence was tucked amongst the waste that led to their home in South Cambridgeshire.

Following an investigation, officers from South Cambridgeshire District Council issued a Fixed Penalty Notice of £600 for the offence of failing to ensure that all reasonable measures were not taken by the household to prevent anyone else committing a fly tipping offence with it. The fine of £600 can be reduced to £360 if paid within 10 days.

Key Takeaways for Residents:

- **Verify Waste Carriers:** Always check that anyone hired to remove waste is properly registered with the Environment Agency. Verification can be done through the [public register](#).
- **Document Transfer:** Ensure that written documentation is provided, detailing the type of waste and its intended disposal method.
- **Secure Your Waste:** It is legally required to take all reasonable measures to secure household waste until it is collected by an authorised waste carrier. Failing to do so can result in a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £600.

Report fly-tipping to SCDC's [online reporting page](#).

Libby Earle
Brian Milne
Sep 2024