

Councillors Report – South Cambridgeshire District Council

Clare Delderfield and Brian Milnes

October 2018

Local Plan and related developments

At the full council meeting in September the Local Plan was formally adopted. The council can now authorise delivery of the developments set out in the plan. With some 20,000 new homes, South Cambs will retain our 5 year housing supply requirement, which protects the district from further unplanned, speculative developments.

This local plan includes proposals for around 500 residences on the eastern fringe of the village, both north (H1b) and south (H1c) of Babraham Road. Last week the developer of the site H1b submitted plans for 158 properties to be built to the north side of Babraham Road. You can view the plans at <http://plan.scambs.gov.uk/swift/!g/apas/run/WPHAPPDETAIL.DisplayUrl?theApnID=S/3729/18/FL>
Planning application reference: S/3729/18/FL



Problems with noise from Dales Manor

Residents in Wakelin Avenue and other streets adjacent to Dales Manor have been suffering from late night noise coming from the recently reoccupied Unit E, as well as occasional from the Marley site redevelopment. The landlords of Unit E are disputing the working times in the latest planning permission conditions and the Council are defending those.

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Time Banking

The District Council are offering to consider supporting a time banking project in Sawston. They can offer this type of support to just two new villages this year. This type of scheme is already running very successfully in Cambourne. It allows people to volunteer their time for a whole variety of activities in the village. This time is the 'banked' as a time credit and be 'cashed-in' at a later date for some other help from another volunteer. Cambourne have found huge benefit from the scheme which helps to build even stronger community ties, helps to prevent loneliness and social exclusion, and keeps people able to stay safely in their own homes for a longer period of time. It also brings together people who would otherwise never meet. Sawston is of enough size for this type of scheme to work successfully.

In order to secure the project for Sawston the Parish Council would have to commit to some funding to pay for a coordinator and get the project up and running over the next couple of years. We are very supportive of the benefits this could bring to the village and Clare is offering to work alongside a coordinator and any volunteers to help drive it forward. We hope that the Parish Council will give it their full support.

You can read more about Time Banking here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community/community/timebanking/>

Agritech Business Park – Land between Pampisford and Hinxton

As anticipated, the decision to oppose the proposed Agritech Business Park by SmithsonHill has been appealed, and is now open to consultation.

Expansion of Bellbird School

We are very supportive of the need to expand primary school provision within the village. Bellbird School has now received planning permission to expand the site to take more children in the future, which is good news. However, there are some concerns about the way in which the expansion was being planned by the County Council and the affect it could have on neighbouring schools, especially Icknield School. Clare has asked the Local Education Authority at the County Council to properly review the way the expansion will be implemented before work begins, to ensure that any expansion is handled sensitively so that all local schools are able to continue providing a great education to the children in and around Sawston, both now and in the future.

The proposed expansion at Bellbird School has also not taken into account the planned future growth (mentioned above) on the eastern fringe of the village. This is close to Icknield School, and will provide around 600 new residences over the next couple of years. This will create a large rise in the number of school-aged children living in Sawston. Clare has asked both the District and County Council officers to meet with the developers of the site, local councillors and the affected local schools to ensure that a joined-up planning approach to education in Sawston is taken. We want all our local schools to be successful and continue to provide a great education to our local young people.

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Grant funding pot re-launched

A £400,000 grant pot has been launched to help communities across South Cambs. Voluntary and community groups are being asked to step forward and bid for a share of over £400,000 of grant funding to make sure vital services are delivered in South Cambridgeshire villages. The three-year funding deal by South Cambridgeshire District Council will see money available for groups supporting communities on issues ranging from community transport and homelessness to living independently and support for people for upcoming national changes to benefits.

The areas of work where service support grant funding is available include housing options advice and services, preventing and relieving homelessness, community transport, specialist and general welfare advice, Independent living and fit to learn as well as support for parishes and communities. Full details of the service support grants available along with application forms can be found by visiting <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/community/grants/service-support-grants/>

Sawston Design Statement

We are delighted that Sawston is one of 8 South Cambs villages to have been awarded funding from the Design Quality Fund via South Cambs to undertake a new Village Design Statements. Congratulations to the Parish Council clerks, councillors and residents who worked very hard to achieve this.

The statement will show how buildings, streets, spaces, landscape and materials come together to create areas with distinctive identity and character. New development will have to be responsive to the character of the Parish and enhance it. It will help Sawston residents to express what is important to you about the visual character of the village, provide clarity for developers on design issues, and enable Council planners to push for high quality design. You can get involved by getting in touch with Mike Purdy via the Facebook page 'Sawston Neighbourhood Plan' or via the Parish Office.

Proposed changes to some bin collection arrangements

Changes to some aspects of the shared service bin collections in Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire are being proposed to streamline the service. The one proposed change for South Cambs residents is the introduction of a charge for those who want more than one green bin, which Cambridge City residents already pay. The first green bin will remain free. 95% of Councils that offer a garden waste service already charge for additional green bins, including Cambridge City Council. It will be £35 pa but reduced to £20 for the first year. The scheme would officially begin in April 2019 with residents able to sign-up from early next year.

Bad Weather and your Electric Supply

Autumn is now upon us and no doubt we shall see some winter storms before too long. In case of bad weather, you will be able to find regular updates on www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk and social media @UKPowerNetworks. UK Power Networks provide extra help to customers on their Priority Service Register during a power cut. Households with older or disabled people, those with children under five, or where someone uses medical or mobility equipment that requires electricity as well as other reasons can join the register. You can find out more information about the Priority Service on: ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority

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The Combined Authority and Mayor

Over the past few weeks there have been a growing number of concerns voiced about the Combined Authority (CA). Concerns have been raised about the way the Mayor and CA are working and have come from a number of Chief Executives of Cambridgeshire Local Authorities, the Cambridgeshire Police and Fire Service Chiefs, the Chancellors of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin Universities, and a large number of senior business community representatives from across the County. The Mayor has also received public criticism from a number of local councillors from within his own party, as well as the Leaders of the District and City Councils, including questions about why the Chief Executive of the Combined Authority left at speed. The Mayor has failed to adequately answer any of these questions. Criticisms have focussed on a lack of transparency in decisions made by the Mayor, and failure to operate properly within the CA constitution. It is extremely concerning that questions over competency and governance are so rife given how much money they are spending. Sadly, we are currently stuck with this poor model of multi-layer local government in this part of the country, enforced upon us by Central Government.

Sawston Sheltered Housing Communal Rooms

South Cambs District Council will be meeting with local residents of the sheltered housing areas in Chapelfield Way, The Green Road and Uffen Way this month to discuss how they currently use and would like to use their communal rooms. Brian and Clare will also be attending the sessions to make sure that local residents views are properly represented. It would be good to get these facilities working to provide real benefits for those who live near them.

Got a problem? Issue? Something you'd like to discuss? Your Councillors are here to help you. Please do feel free to contact us with comments, questions, problems or complaints. We hope we can help but if we can't we are likely to know someone who can!

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You can follow your councillors on Facebook: [brianandclare4sawston](#)
