
COUNCILLORS REPORT – SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLARE DELDERFIELD AND BRIAN MILNES

DECEMBER 2018

YOU CAN FOLLOW YOUR COUNCILLORS ON FACEBOOK: [BRIANANDCLARE4SAWSTON](https://www.facebook.com/brianandclare4sawston)

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

May we wish you and yours an extremely Happy Christmas and a prosperous and fulfilled New Year 2019.

CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT (CPE)

Yesterday, at a Combined Authority Strategy meeting, the possibility of them funding the set up costs for a civil parking enforcement across the county was discussed. A formal paper will be brought forward with this in mind.

South Cambs District Council already has a working group examining this issue which Brian is on, and is due to report very shortly. He notes that Hunts DC had a CPE proposal rejected on cost-and-return grounds, and they already have paid parking infrastructure (S. Cambs has none).

DERNFORD QUARRY ROAD

Clare has written to the Planning Committee to express support for the application to keep the temporary road entrance to Dernford Quarry which seemingly has unanimous support from local residents, schools and our local Parish Councils. It is a much safer option for those using the cycle path, especially young people travelling to and from SVC. Let's hope the planning committee come to the same conclusion when they meet on the 17th and support the application, against the recommendations of officers.

MOBILE WARDEN GRANT SCHEME

Community groups in South Cambridgeshire can now bid for a share of £20,000 as part of a scheme that helps keep older residents in their own homes, and tackles loneliness. The funding is available from the District Council's Mobile Wardens grants scheme. Local groups that run these initiatives can bid for the money to help pay for them. It would be great to see Sawston benefitting from this grant.

Mobile Wardens regularly visit elderly people, helping to keep them living in the community they know, and which knows them. They receive training to understand the needs of the people they visit and can help point out what other services they may be eligible for that could help keep them living at home. The Wardens may also help with practical tasks like light shopping, booking appointments, form-filling and the collection of prescriptions. For more details click here:

http://www.scambs.gov.uk/communities-invited-to-bid-for-grants-to-help-tackle-loneliness/?fbclid=IwAR16N3lv7yDQp1guMvrEFmMeElRj6gmZxG42Z23Cy8-6hblDSw_zRzKdqLs

DEMANDING BETTER FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Brian and Clare are calling for ambitious plans to rebuild Icknield school. We have great schools in Sawston, all providing excellent educational opportunities for our young people. Bellbird school, is being expanded, which is excellent news. but even their expansion plans will not meet the future needs of our children. Sadly Icknield School buildings are not up to the standards of its neighbours and appear not to be suitable for the expansion that will be likely be required as the village grows. Brian and Clare, working alongside local resident Stephen Drew who has a strong background in the world of education, will work with the local schools, other councillors, the local community and our local authorities to work towards this aim. We should be demanding excellent facilities for all our local children.

COMBINED AUTHORITY

Where to start? Mayor Palmer has now spent £7.5million to run the Combined Authority which is a huge increase over the £850,000 he predicted it would cost in his election leaflets. He now says "I can only apologise. I underestimated the cost of running such an important authority. I think, realistically, we were never going to be able to function on £850,000 a year".

Last week, the Interim Chief Financial Officer of the Combined Authority was officially dismissed, making him the fourth chief financial officer to leave since it was set up in 2017. He was dismissed after making "misleading" statements about the funding of major projects, casting doubt over whether all the major projects could be achieved within the budget. However audit and scrutiny committee members have said they found the level of detail and professionalism of the CFO the best they had yet. Council leaders and Combined Authority board members Cll Bridget Smith (South Cambs) and Cllr Lewis Herbert (Cambridge City) have called for an independent enquiry to review the governance of the organisation.

CAMBRIDGE ICE RINK

Councillors have approved additional loan funding of up to £550,000 to enable the completion of a permanent ice rink in South Cambridgeshire. The District Council had already agreed in September 2016 to provide a £1.85 million loan to Cambridge Leisure and Ice Centre (CLIC) for the new venue, which is being built off Newmarket Road on the edge of Cambridge. The opening date has not been confirmed but they are hoping for it to be open as early as April next year. The decision to support the additional loan was driven by the objective of delivering a high-quality community sporting venue that will benefit the health and wellbeing of residents. We're sure many people from Sawston will enjoy it.

Up to 25 new jobs are expected to be created by the rink. The 56 metre by 26 metre ice pad will meet the requirements of the International Ice Hockey Federation, allowing visiting teams from around the world to play ice hockey.

Building work on the site, which is being leased by Marshall of Cambridge to CLIC, began in November 2017. However, progress was halted following the discovery of 194 small grenades dating back to World War Two. Specialist contractors had to be brought in to assess the entire site and ensure it was safe for

construction to continue. Building work re-commenced in late January, but the delay resulted in further costs.

DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN

The council has released its draft business plan for next year and are inviting the public to have a say here: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/businessplansocialmedia

DIGITAL THERMAL IMAGE CAMERA

Our easy to use thermal imaging cameras are available to borrow now, for free

They can help you work out where heat is escaping from your home so you can take action and save on energy bills. For more details see here:

http://www.scambs.gov.uk/community/community/the-sustainable-parish-energy-partnership/thermal-imaging-camera/?fbclid=IwARogwkptHBT1SoQA5ZKVPn4k5gev5_OlpTFMmY1sdz5DMxfrdXWSJsi_H1A

REPAIR CAFES

The District Council helps volunteers to set up new Repair Cafes. If you are interested in setting up a Repair Cafe and would like support, or if you would like to volunteer as a repairer, please email spep@scambs.gov.uk or call 01954 713070. For more details see here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community/community/the-sustainable-parish-energy-partnership/repair-cafes/>

HEIDI ALLEN BREXIT BRIEFING

Our MP Heidi Allen held another Brexit briefing at Sawston Village College last week which Brian attended. She has now confirmed she will be voting against the Prime Minister's Deal and is calling for a People's Vote on the deal. Heidi said 'Norway' and 'People's Vote' were the two most viable options at this stage. She then said that she was interested in what constituents thought she should be promoting as amendments and gave four options (including Mrs May's deal) to the vote. The results were:

5% Leave with no deal

3% The May Deal

7% Norway Plus

85% People's Vote including an option to remain

The support for no Brexit was overwhelming in the audience.

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