

Report for West Wickham Parish Council Meeting **Monday 27th July 2015**

Local Plan

A letter was received on 20th May from the Inspectors raising concerns on the Local Plan

- Evidence of housing numbers (Inspectors considered the number of new houses at 33,000 in Cambridge and South Cambs, too low)
- Development strategy (edge of Cambridge versus new settlement with consideration to infrastructure and how it can be delivered)
- Green Belt development vs Cambridge City Edge development (what method was used to determine Green Belt work).
- Alignment with National Planning Policy (various Written Ministerial Statements had been made since submission of Local Plan eg affordable housing, space standards, car parking provision)

Cambridge City and South Cambs District Council, working together, have individual Local Plans and both plans were suspended not rejected (as happened for Uttlesford District Council). Together there is a 5 year land supply but individually there is not.

An extraordinary council meeting was held 4th June, which I attended (youtube clip of the whole debate). The portfolio holder then proposed a timetable

- June - October; scope to undertake further work to identify further modifications
- November - December; Public consultation
- January- February; Consider the results of consultation
- 16th February 2016; submission of main modifications with supporting documentation.

There is no date currently known when the modified plan will be approved or not however there is optimism that the Local Plan with amendments will be approved.

At the local level, we want the Local Plan to be approved quickly so as to stop anxiety in the villages from speculative applications.

At the moment, current householders can continue with applications for buildings and alterations that will be judged using the Local Development Framework (LDF) and National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Further details can be found on the South Cambs District Council website. Parish councils are also kept informed by email with a Planning Policy Monthly Update (July 2015).

Parish Planning Forum - SCDC 15th July

As a new member to the Balsham Ward, I attended the recent Parish Planning Forum along with parish councillors from around the district.

Parish Consultations and Notifications

Aims

- 1) SCDC are very aware of the shortage of planners and are currently recruiting
- 2) To work with parishes and others to improve development management
- 3) Provide training & workshops to members and parish councils - February to April 2016
- 4) To increase and fully utilise modern IT technologies - no current desire to remove paper plans

Timeline and implementation

- Consultation and notification letters will be clarified as to the range of responses or none
- Aim to provide more time for parishes to speak with planning officers

From Autumn 2015

- Upgrading planning systems - all plans and documents will be web based (redacted & sensitive) with faster processing and greater consistency
- Moving to a Paperless Planning Office - improved online access to records; reduced requirement to printing; charged referencing of applications; smaller plans
- Mobile and Web Based - access from anywhere; automated notifications of applications & new documents; more responses and comments online
- More creative planning and responses - plans & photos will be more interactive
- Platform for future use of social media

Broadband

A West Wickham resident recently asked for an update on the implementation of fast broadband in the village. Cllr Fraser contacted Noelle Godfrey (Head of Digital Infrastructure at CCC) and her response was sent to both the resident and parish council. I have contacted Cllr Peter Topping, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Customer Services, requesting to know if the parishes and BT are represented on his committee.

Bus Services

A West Wickham resident recently asked our MP, Lucy Fraser about the bus services in the village as it impacted her child's ability to attend school in Cambridge. I was subsequently contacted by Lucy's Senior Caseworker, Rachel Jeffery, and sought advice from Cllr Fraser. Cllr Fraser then informed the resident that the District Councillors of the Ward had worked hard not to lose services in the Balsham Ward, as had happened elsewhere, as Stagecoach was only going to run profitable routes. This provision of bus services is unlikely to improve in the Ward unless unprofitable routes

are subsidised. There is soon to be a Partnership Review Committee at which Stagecoach, the sole bus service provider, is to attend.