

## March 2018 District Councillor Report – Balsham Ward

### Balsham Ward Combined Parishes District and County Councillors Meeting

The next Combined Parishes meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at Castle Camps Village Hall. We are expecting Julie Ayre, SCDC planning officer and hopefully Nicola Burdon, Local Highway Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council, to attend.

### Planning

#### Local Plan

At least 1000 responses were received from the consultation process and they have been checked by the team to see if they are valid. The representations that have been received are available to view on the Council's website along with the Statement of Consultation. The representations have been submitted to the Inspectors undertaking the examination, who may decide whether any further hearings are required or if any issues need to be revisited. The Inspectors will present their final conclusions in their Reports for each Local Plan. If the reports conclude that the local plans are sound, the Councils can make arrangements for the Local Plans to be adopted, subject to making the Modifications that have been identified by the Inspectors.

#### Determination of planning applications

Legal advice was sought to determine what weight, in planning terms, can be given to the un-adopted Local Plan. The advice received gives the un-adopted Local Plan some "prematurity" which may, in principal, arise as a material consideration, consistent with national planning practice guidance (NPPG).

The argument for using "Prematurity" to refuse planning permission could potentially be successful under two circumstances;

1. Applications for relatively substantial housing or housing-led development on land outside a proposed settlement framework in the Local Plan, and at a **scale** which is above the threshold of new development which the Local Plan sets for that settlement.
2. Where there are several smaller applications at an individual settlement that are each in conflict with the Local Plan, but which individually may not be so substantial as to justify refusal of planning permission on grounds of prematurity. When considered "**cumulatively**" the development may, as a matter of judgement, be considered to be significant enough to undermine the plan-making process.

The Council has two relevant speculative housing proposals where the prematurity argument can be made. Records show that Melbourn has already had 222 homes permitted on 5 year housing land supply sites, and Swavesey has 200 homes with 90 homes at appeal.

It is not expected that a prematurity case can reasonably be made for all 5-year supply applications currently before the Council.

All details can be found on the web page <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/mainmods>

## **Planning Delivery Fund**

A £11M fund was made available to encourage more innovation in the design quality of new housing developments, especially Garden Towns and Garden Villages, as well as to provide design advice and support to local authorities.

On Tuesday 27 February 2018, the district council announced that it had been successful in its bid to the Planning Delivery Fund for £130,000. The funding will provide additional support to Parish Councils that are carrying out building character assessments that are required as part of developing and planning Neighbourhood Plans. Building character assessments are designed to help ensure new developments reflect the distinctiveness of their communities.

## **Greater Cambridge Partnership**

### **Cambridge South East Transport Study Consultation 2018 (A1307 and A1301)**

The Greater Cambridge Partnership is consulting on all three strategies identified and developed during Local Liaison Forums and workshops. The consultation closes 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018.

The link to the consultation is

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TEKOY/>

There are a number of communications being provided by the GCP including a series of road shows. The Babraham Park and Ride road show is being rescheduled due to bad weather.

Stapleford Pavilion	Wednesday 7 March	16.00 – 19.00
Haverhill Tesco Superstore	Saturday, 10 March	9.30 - 12.00
The Abington Institute	Tuesday, 13 March	16.00 - 19.00
Sawston Village College	Wednesday, 14 March	16.00 - 19.00
St John the Evangelist, Hills Rd, Cambridge	Thursday, 15 March	16.00 – 19.00
Haverhill Arts Centre	Thursday 22 March	17.00 – 20.00

Further details and updates can be found [events](#) page and [Twitter](#) account.

The comments will be used to develop the strategies further to allow the Executive Board to identify a preferred strategy that will be progressed.

## **Update by MP on A1307**

Chairs of Parish Councils (including Lt and Gt Abington, Hadstock, Shudy Camps, Bartlow, Hildersham etc) have been invited to attend a meeting with Lucy Fraser at 3pm on 9th March at Horseheath Village Hall. W.Wickham, Linton and Horseheath have so far said they would be able to attend. The meeting will be at Horseheath Village Hall.

## **Haverhill Area Forum**

I have been invited by Haverhill Town Council to attend the Haverhill Area Forum scheduled for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March. An update on the A1307 transport options is to be provided by the Mayor James Palmer where he will set out his vision for transport along the A1307 corridor. Representatives from Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership, Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, Rail Haverhill and Cambridge Connect will attend.

## **Community Energy Grant Fund now launched March 2018**

A Community Energy Grant Fund of £55,000, is available annually to bid for, from organisations including parish councils, charities, voluntary groups, sports and social clubs and not-for-profit organisations, to fund energy efficiency and power reduction initiatives. Bids will be welcomed for projects including the fitting of insulation, fixing of lighting and heating controls in community buildings, and to the installation of electric vehicle charging points.

The maximum yearly grant will be £3,000 per organisation to make sure that the fund is distributed across a wide range of projects throughout the district.

The scheme will be funded from the business rates it retains from new renewable energy generation sites within the district.

Further details and a link to the online application can be found using the link;

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/news/switch-on-for-community-energy-grant-fund>

Additionally, a separate loan fund for residents, businesses and community groups to borrow funds to spend on green energy measures is also being established by South Cambridgeshire District Council. This is due for launch in mid-July.

The authority is also investigating ways it can be greener itself, such as by looking at the potential for installing solar canopies in the car park of its Cambourne HQ and renewable energy generation schemes at the planned new Sports Pavilion and Community Centre sites at Northstowe.

## **SCDC Corporate Plan**

After last summer's listening and engagement exercise, and adoption at the last Full Council, a Corporate Plan for 2018-2019: South Cambridgeshire: Your Place, Our Plan has been agreed and is available to view on the Council's webpages.

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/council-aims-and-objectives>

- Living Well. We will support our communities to remain in good health whilst continuing to protect the natural and built environment
- Homes for Our Future. Secure the delivery of a wide range of housing to meet the needs of existing and future communities
- Connected Communities Work with partners to ensure new transport and digital infrastructure supports and strengthens communities and that our approach to growth sustains prosperity

- An Innovative and Dynamic Organisation Adopt a more commercial and business-like approach to ensure we can continue to deliver the best possible services at the lowest possible cost