

Joint District Councillors' Report September 2018

District councillors' monthly report for the communities of Histon & Impington, Orchard Park and King's Meadow.

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these - or indeed any other - matters, please do not hesitate to contact us. Councillor Steve Hunt is on 07811945692 or cllr.hunt@scambs.gov.uk, Councillor Martin Cahn is on 07826748407 or cllr.cahn@scambs.gov.uk, Councillor Pippa Heylings is on 07837228416 or cllr.heylings@scambs.gov.uk. You can also follow your councillors on our webpage <https://hiopcouncillors.wordpress.com/> on Twitter @pippa4hiop, and on Facebook @pippaheylings4hiop

We now have a Local Plan for South Cambs

The Local Plan for South Cambridgeshire was adopted in Full Council on Thursday 27th October. The Council submitted the Local Plan in March 2014 for independent examination and Government Inspectors took over four years to assess it. The only option on the table for Full Council on the 27th was "accept in entirety or reject in entirety" now that the Inspector had found it to be "sound". No amendments possible. So, it is better to have a Plan rather than no Plan. No Plan would mean we no longer have a 5 Year Housing Land Supply which, in turn, would mean a return to rampant speculative development.

There are some very important policies within the new Plan as well as some that have caused concern. The Inspector has made the condition that the Council start work almost immediately on a review of the Plan in 2019 with submission for examination in 2022. So, we get to start very soon on doing better with the next one, whilst working now to deliver this Plan in a way which addresses the acute housing need, focusses on place-making for both current and future residents, and make sure that there is a green, low carbon and smart energy approach to all development where possible.

The Plan is ambitious and aims to deliver 22,000 jobs and 19,500 new homes by 2031. It contains the key housing sites the Council will be expecting to see developed over the coming years. Only a proportion of the homes (listed below) at the larger sites would be built by 2031:

- A new town north of Waterbeach – approximately 8,000-9,000 homes
- A new village at Bourn Airfield – approximately 3,500 homes
- An expansion to Cambourne to the west – planning permission has already been granted for 2,350 homes
- Homes on land north of Cherry Hinton and west of Teversham – 1,200 homes (420 in South Cambridgeshire. The remaining homes are in Cambridge City)
- Around 900 homes in the better served South Cambridgeshire villages
- Continue to develop Northstowe – around 10,000 homes
- Continue to build homes in existing growth sites on the edge of Cambridge (Southern Fringe, Cambridge East, Darwin Green and Eddington)

The plans also allow for the extension of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus at Addenbrooke's Hospital and the Peterhouse Technology Park on Fulbourn Road.

The adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 and Adopted Policies Map 2018, along with the relevant adoption statements, are now available to view on our website: www.scambs.gov.uk/localplan2018 and www.scambs.gov.uk/adopted-policies-map.

If there are any queries on the new Local Plan please contact the Planning Policy team by email ldf@scams.gov.uk or 01954 713183.

Full Council Meeting, September 27th.

Many South Cambridgeshire councillors, including ourselves, have received letters asking for the Council to pass a motion supporting a People's vote. The problems raised by Brexit were a major issue raised in our local campaign in May 2018 and the issue was raised by many constituents on the doorstep. It was decided to put the issue to Full Council on 27th September and the motion was proposed by Cllr. Martin Cahn and seconded by Labour Councillor Nigel Cathcart from Bassingbourn. This is a topic that is dear to our heart. The District voted 60.2% in favour of Remain, and anecdotal evidence from observations of the referendum count put local support for Remain higher at around 70%. There is a major impact on local knowledge industries and also upon the large number of EU citizens and their British families who live in our community.

The full motion can be seen on the South Cambridgeshire website on:
<http://scams.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=74837>.

The key resolution is: The Council believes that the interests of its residents would be best protected by a referendum on the terms of leaving the European Union with the possibility of rescinding Article 50 and remaining in the EU.

The Council calls on the Government to abandon plans for a hard Brexit and to give the electorate, in particular the South Cambridgeshire electorate, the opportunity to assess the original promises of a seamless Brexit with minimal impact made by the Leave campaign by giving the electorate (including resident European citizens) a vote on whether to accept the proposed withdrawal arrangements or to retain the many benefits local residents currently enjoy with the option of staying in the European Union.

The Council should write to our two local MPs calling on them to defend the interests of the District's citizens by supporting this campaign.

You can read Martin's speech proposing the motion on:

https://www.facebook.com/martin.cahn?_tn=%2CdC-R-R&eid=ARD2PBpZTmMxn_jmN50xIRikU7AGqfwW58QxnpeHFQmiPJdvRVXbxIhEiomQyUFjW-BDT59HJVrmvaYr&hc_ref=ARTrFbgz-jWQq6UMM49SHvQOkGN5vZIRpsurpIWLKpzQJgFe1KT4Ct2I3tc9eFqHpf8&fref=nf

Letters are currently in post to our MPs and Dominic Raab, the Minister for Brexit. Two days after the motion was passed Heidi Allen, MP for South Cambridgeshire, came out in favour of a People's Vote in the case of a stalemate. Lucy Frazer has yet to indicate her view in response to the motion.

The impact of the A14 improvement works and Landscaping ambition for the Green Gateway to HI&OP.

Following a summer of little progress, much frustration and further distress due to noise levels and shocking levels of vibration at night-time, we arranged a meeting of the Engagement Steering Group involving the A14 Project Director, South Cambs Senior Planning Officers, County Councillor, District Councillor, HISIMP Parish Councillor, Chair of Orchard Park Community Council, and members of the core working group of the HI&OP A14 Action Group. Trust has definitely been lost once again as a result of "all talk no action"

on the agreements reached or the establishment of the working groups on noise, air quality, landscaping and nightworks. It was important, therefore, to come together once more and hold everyone to account. It was extremely disturbing to find that the air quality monitors have still not been installed and become operational, which continues to be a direct breach in the planning conditions. The A14 Project Director promised to report daily on progress with this. Some other things have happened albeit slowly. South Cambs is recruiting expertise on noise, vibrations and air quality in order to be better equipped to monitor compliance by Highways England and safeguard residents. This happens at the same time as the senior Environmental Health Officer is retiring, so this will result in a certain lag of time but Pippa is chasing. Following repeated calls for residents to be able to know what is about to hit them at nights and so plan their lives, and be a little more empowered, it was agreed that there would be a weekly call between Highways England and the A14 Action Group to look back at the experiences of the week before and to understand the plans for the week ahead (and so, it is to be hoped, improve communications and mitigation measures.). Please do join the A14 Action Group Facebook page to raise any questions or experiences that you would like to be communicated at these weekly meetings.

We also signed off on the Landscaping working group which has an ambitious agenda that goes beyond the minimum which HE are required to do. The aim is to create and nurture natural habitat on the land on the northern side of the A14 near Histon and Impington, both east and west of the roundabout, and at Orchard Park, to mitigate the highway's impacts and benefit the health and well-being of everyone in the area. The collaboration will involve Highways England's landscape specialists, SCDC, the Parish Council, landowners adjacent to the A14 (e.g. the Holiday Inn as well as Highways England itself) and people of Histon & Impington and Orchard Park. Such a project will require commitment by all parties and is not a done deal, but the Working Group gives us a good mechanism for collaboration and we also have some leads to pursue regarding the additional funds that would be needed. If all goes well then in a few months' time – and for years to come - many residents of HIOP will, we hope, participate in the implementation of this project. However, in this initial, planning stage the focus is on landscape design, which may be quite complex given the multiple objectives (reduction of air pollution and perceived noise, visual screening, biodiversity etc), not to mention various landowners and the specific land use requirements of the A14 itself. So at this stage the A14 Action Group would like to enlist the help of residents who would have time to participate in the Landscape Working Group. People with specialist expertise in landscaping or air pollution are especially welcome. If you would be interested, please write to rbenstedsmith@gmail.com and cllr.heyling@scambs.gov.uk

Sign up for the A14 Action Group newsletter for news about such meetings and the working groups at: <https://a14actiongroup.wordpress.com/meetings-and-events/>

Community Chest Grants re-opening in October:

The Community Chest grants will be re-opening at the beginning of October. The Grants Advisory Committee is particularly keen to receive applications that help to build a sense of community, and those that work to reach people who are lonely or socially isolated. There have been a few changes to the eligibility criteria, including regarding parish council eligibility; only parish councils with fewer than 160 registered electors will be able to apply. All non-profit community and voluntary groups can still apply and the amount of funding in the pot remains the same. Further details will be available soon at www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest

A new £400,000 grant pot launched to help communities

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 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/>

Histon and Impington Village Design Statement

Pippa attended the launch of the South Cambs Design Quality Fund, a ground-breaking planning initiative which gives villages more of a say in the look and feel of new development in their communities. She encouraged Histon and Impington Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan core working group to apply. We are delighted that Histon and Impington has been selected as one of 8 South Cambs villages to have been awarded funding to undertake a new Village Design Statement. In total 18 villages applied for the funding. Congratulations to Sue Lee, Neighbourhood Plan core working group member, who put so much time into writing the winning proposal and who is now coordinating the project itself on behalf of the community. The Village Design Statement is a useful supplement to the Neighbourhood Plan process and will carry significant weight in the planning process; they will become Supplementary Planning Documents. The future H&I Statement will show how buildings, streets, spaces, landscape and materials come together to create areas with distinctive identity and character in and around the village. New development will need to be responsive to the character of the Parish and enhance it. It will help H&I residents to express what is important to about the visual character of the village, provide clarity for developers on design issues, and enable Council planners to push for high quality design. Community members will guide the process in each village, working with expert consultants. They will take part in workshops and activities to map the characteristics that make a village unique and draw up guidelines for new development. Drawings and written guidelines will then be created that capture the results of the workshops, before planning consultants write-up the final document. The scheme is being paid for after South Cambridgeshire District Council successfully bid for funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Design Quality Fund.

Climate Change and Environment Committee endorses a new approach to Air Quality in the district

On Thursday 20th September, at the first meeting of the brand-new Climate Change and Environment Committee at South Cambs, we endorsed the recommendation that South Cambs take seriously the threat of worsening air quality across the district, and its impacts on physical and mental health, especially regarding housing in roadside developments and around schools. We endorsed the drafting of a new strategy that will include monitoring of deadly particulates (such as pm2.5) - together with increased vigilance around the A14 and will look to introduce standards in design of infrastructure and housing. We want to ensure

that air quality, where it is good, is maintained and, where it is worsening, is improved. This is to be one of our key priorities and the new Committee will help drive this forward by making recommendations to Cabinet and Planning. And to achieve that we will look to invest in better monitoring to really know what the state of our air quality is, and undertake action to ensure we are safeguarding residents - especially our children and the elderly who are the most vulnerable.

The Committee also heard about progress on the phasing-out of Single Use Plastics at South Cambs Hall, as a result of the motion passed at Full Council in July. We expect to be able to announce that we are Single-Use Plastic Free by November – and all at little to no cost. Officers and staff are keen for these changes to take place. It's all about just making it happen – and doing our bit.

Planning

The planning application for the land North of Impington Lane had a new consultation period opened on the amended plans submitted by the developer. This was due to the ecological reports not being available on the webpage during the earlier consultation period. Residents had complained and we supported them in our follow-up with the case-worker. (The application has now been further deferred to November Planning Committee)

There is a HISIMP Parish Council sub-committee for the proposed Community Park that has been working for many months. We met with members of the sub-committee and then did substantive research of all relevant policies and material conditions for planning that could both support and challenge the proposed site and arrangements. We fed this back to the group in order to assist them in decision-making about ways forward.

Food Bank Collection Points

We would like to thank the One Stop and Histon Co-Op staff for continuing with the food bank collection at the Histon store. Even though the summer holidays have finished and kids are now getting school lunches, some families are finding it hard to make ends meet whilst paying off additional costs they incurred during that time. The Trussell Trust has reported the largest ever rise in demand for emergency food for children for the last two years over this period. We picked up a large car-full of goods from the Co-Op last week thanks to kind donations made to the Histon Baptist Church Harvest Festival collection which was then given to the Co-Op. Please donate something if you can.

Universal Credit being rolled out in Cambridge Jobcentre Plus from October 2018

The situation for some families looks to become even more complicated with the introduction this month of Universal Credit in our area. Universal Credit is a benefit for people of working age. It combines support for adults, children, and housing costs into one benefit. Universal Credit is paid monthly in arrears and replaces:

- Housing Benefit
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

If you are Pension age, you will not be affected by Universal Credit and should still claim Housing Benefit.

Universal Credit, the full digital system, will arrive at Cambridge Jobcentre Plus from October 2018. From this date, any new claim will be directed to universal credit. The exception is families with three or more children, who cannot currently claim universal credit so will continue to claim tax credits - the old set of benefits. For anyone already receiving one or more of the benefits universal credit will eventually replace, there won't be any change immediately. However, any claimant's change of circumstances that would otherwise trigger a new claim for any of the six previous benefits will now mean they will have to make a universal credit claim instead. This can include moving into work or a household having their first child, but the rules depend on exactly what the household is already claiming. The exception again is families with three or more children. The government has stated that in future people who get the Severe Disability Premium as part of their employment and support allowance (ESA) will also remain on the old benefit system. This has been announced but the law is not yet in place. Eventually, all existing claimants will be moved onto universal credit even if there has been no change of circumstances. This process is referred to as 'managed migration' and is currently planned to happen between 2019 and 2023.

Read more at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/benefits/universal-credit/>

Meetings held in September 2018

Date	Meeting	Venue
4 th September	Civic Affairs Committee	Cambourne
6 th September	A14 Member Forum	Swavesey
6 th September	Local Plan briefing	Cambourne
11 th – 12 th Sep	Site Visits and Planning Committee meeting	Cambourne
11 th Sep	Weekly Delegation decision meeting of Chair & Vice-Chair Planning and Head of Planning	Cambourne
12 th September	Cambridge Fringes JDCC	Guildhall
12 th Sep	Energy Refit Seminar	Cambourne
13 th Sep	Smart Energy Grid workshop with County, City and District planners and UK Power Network	Eddington
14 th Sep	Local Authorities Sustainable Energy : Opportunities	Southwark
17 th Sep	H&I Parish Council	Histon
18 th Sep	Scrutiny and Overview Committee	Cambourne

18 th Sep	Weekly Delegation decision meeting of Chair & Vice-Chair Planning and Head of Planning	Cambourne
19 th Sep	Mock Planning Committee Training. IT Training	Cambourne
19 th Sep	Meeting on Green Energy Investment with Officers responsible for the SCDC Renewables Reserve Fund	Cambourne
19 th Sep	Brexit Advisory Group	Cambourne
20 th Sep	1 st Meeting of the Climate Change and Environment Committee	Cambourne
20 th Sep	Meeting with HISIMP Parish Council sub-committee for Community Park	HISIMP Parish Council Office
21 st Sep	A14 Engagement Steering Group meeting with HE, SCDC and HI&OP A14 Action Group	Histon
27 th Sep	Orchard Park Community Council	Orchard Park
25 th Sept	Weekly Delegation decision meeting of Chair & Vice-Chair Planning with Head of Planning	Cambourne
27 th Sep	Police Briefing	Cambourne
27 th Sep	Full Council	Cambourne
28 th Sep	Economy and the Environment workshop, chaired by Pippa Heylings in place of Leader Cllr Bridget Smith	Cambridge

Forthcoming meetings

4 Oct	Staff-member Workshop	Cambourne
9-10 Oct	Planning Site visits and Planning Committee	
9 th Oct	Planning Committee visit to site Waterbeach New Town application.	Waterbeach
10 th Oct	Orchard Park Community Council	Orchard Park
10 th Oct	King's Meadow Working Group	King's Meadow
11 th Oct	Greater Cambridge Partnership briefing and Executive meeting.	Cambourne
15 th Oct	H & I Parish Council	Impington
18 th Oct	Climate and Advisory Committee	Cambourne

18 th October	Scrutiny and Overview Committee	Cambourne
24 th October	Brexit Advisory Committee	Cambourne