

# **South Cambridgeshire District Council – Harston & Comberton Ward**

## **Report to Haslingfield Parish Council December 2019**

### **Greater Cambridge Local Plan – Issues and Options Consultation**

We are doing things differently with this new local plan. For a start, there are four key themes that have already emerged: (1) Climate change, (2) Biodiversity and green spaces, (3) Wellbeing and social inclusion and (4) Creation of great places. These will help us shape the local plan in a way that creates a better outcome of where homes and jobs and supporting infrastructure should be built.

A new website is being created to help people get involved more easily. This will also mean people can find and comment more easily on the issues that they are more concerned about. The consultation will start on 13 January 2020 and run until 24 February 2020.

This will be an opportunity for everyone who is interested in the Greater Cambridge area to have their say in shaping the future of this area. Please remember to watch and share this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9p3BZ8oS3M&t=161s>

### **Call for Sites**

In February and March 2019, GCPS we carried out a ‘call for sites’, allowing people to suggest potential sites or broad locations for development. This is an early step in the process of the development of the new Greater Cambridge Joint Local Plan.

We received a wide range of housing and employment site suggestions ranging from small sites in villages to new communities. Some are on brownfield (previously built on) land, some on greenfield (countryside but not built on before) land, and some in the greenbelt (30% of South Cambs is green belt land). The service received over 500 sites suggestions (not planning applications) and has now almost completed the registration of these sites. Then the sites will be located or ‘mapped’ onto the map of the district making it easy to see where they are at a glance.

Please note that none of these sites have been selected for anything. There is no status to them whatsoever, other than that the owners hope that their sites will be selected. All of these sites will need to be assessed for their planning merit in 2020, and none of them have any planning status in respect of the new Local Plan.

There are site owners going to Parish Councils with their proposals for how they hope to develop these sites if selected for the plan. That does not in any way confer any validity to those proposals, nor does it mean it has the backing of the Council. Whilst we cannot monitor what developers say, parishes that receive such proposals are encouraged to check any claims with the Planning service director.

Despite unfounded claims in certain quarters, the planning authority is not encouraging developers to submit planning applications for sites in the greenbelt. The forthcoming issues and options consultation in January 2020 will also ask for any further sites as part of the call for sites process. We expect that all the sites will be publicly available to view in early 2020 following the issues and options consultation.

### **Keeping Warm at Home**

We recognise that the cost of keeping warm in winter months can be quite high, especially for those that use oil for heating. SCDC could provide funding towards making homes more energy efficient.

You can use the funds to replace or repair an existing system, improve home insulation, replace draughty doors and windows, and so on.

To qualify for a grant, householders will need to have owned and lived in their home for at least two years and be in receipt of one of the following means tested benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance or Income Based Employment Support Alliance
- Working Tax Credit with gross income less than £18,000
- Council Tax support
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Child tax credit with a relevant income less than £18,000

The improvement work is carried out by the Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency. Please see home improvement grants for more information, email at [HIA@CambsHIA.org](mailto:HIA@CambsHIA.org) or phone them on 01954 713 330.

### **Fly Tipping campaign**

You might remember that the council has been running a campaign to tackle fly-tipping since the summer. This started with a mock fly-tip at Milton Park&Ride, followed by targeted social media advertising, Facebook Lives at the site of fly-tips, coverage in the media and campaign artwork/leaflets.

We also introduced the SCRAP code and you can read more about that at the recap website <http://www.recap.co.uk/fly-tipping/>. The offer of 'Let's S.C.R.A.P fly-tipping' leaflets is still open for parishes to have a stock that can be given to residents. Contact [Vicky.Lacy@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:Vicky.Lacy@scambs.gov.uk) or [rebecca.weymouth-wood@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:rebecca.weymouth-wood@cambridge.gov.uk) if you need more.

Our next activity is to erect some anti fly-tipping signs in selected identified hotspots. The parishes affected have been informed. It is important however that the rest of the district are aware and to let everyone know to look out for these signs from 13th December and into the following week.

### **Mobile Warden Grant scheme**

The Mobile Warden Grant scheme opened for applications on Friday 29 November and closes at 5pm on Friday 24 January 2020. The schemes support older people to live independently in their homes and the community they know.

They are complementary to statutory care services and can help to combat loneliness and social isolation. The council supported 14 schemes in 2019/20, covering over 25 villages and supporting approximately 314 residents. For more details on how to apply and download the application form, visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-development/grants/mobile-warden-scheme-grants/> or email [ellen.bridges@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:ellen.bridges@scambs.gov.uk).

### **Parish Council Liaison Meeting**

The next parish council liaison meeting will take place on Tuesday 28 January 2020 in the Council Chamber at South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne from 6:30pm to 8pm. This time, prior to the meeting from 5.30 to 6.30pm, there will be the opportunity to talk to the Communications Team about best practice around online accessibility. It is to help you going forward to ensure any documents that you write to the council that is subsequently published online are fully accessible in line with Government legislation.

To confirm your attendance please contact: Email Linda Gallagher or call 01954 712 928.

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