

## **Report for Great Shelford Parish Council – January 2019**

Full version

### **Housing strategy**

South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council are working on a joint housing strategy. The plans are out for consultation, so this is your opportunity to have your say. Closing date is 25<sup>th</sup> January.

You can find the consultation documents at: [www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/housing-strategy-consultation/](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/housing-strategy-consultation/)

The draft strategy “Homes for our Future” sets out 7 priorities, based on accelerated delivery of new homes, including affordable homes, to high standards of design.

South Cambs DC proposes to “work with local communities to help them secure the development they want to see through Neighbourhood Plans, Village Design Statements, community-led housing and the promotion of affordable and entry-level housing through exception sites policies”

South Cambridgeshire currently has a programme to build at least 200 new council homes over the next 5 years. It is planned to double this total following the lifting of the HRA (housing revenue account) borrowing cap and the potential to apply for Combined Authority funding.

As Hazel Smith, lead member for Housing at SCDC puts it, “this strategy is about our people and communities. We want to ensure that our villages remain vibrant places that are sustainable in the future, by building the new homes that are needed, that are well designed and bring benefits to the existing community.

Our focus is on ‘affordable living’ rather than just affordable housing and we want homes to be close to jobs and as energy efficient as possible so that running costs are cheaper and we are doing our bit for the environment.”

### **Business plan**

SCDC has just closed the consultation on priorities for the period from 2019-2024. The priorities set out in the draft are

- Building homes that are affordable to live in
- Helping business to grow, and
- Being “green to our core”.

The business plan is due to be approved at the full council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February - see <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/the-council/performance-and-plans/council-plans-and-reports/our-business-plan/>

District councillors Nick Sample and Peter Fane,  
Shelford ward, South Cambridgeshire District Council  
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### **Local Government Financial Settlement**

The draft settlement leaves a funding gap nationally on local government expenditure of £3.1 bn in 2019/20, according to the LGA. The final settlement is due to be laid before Parliament for approval in early February.

The provisional settlement includes an extra £16m for rural authorities and £20m to maintain the current New Homes Bonus, both of which are important to South Cambs.

The limit by which council tax can be increased without a referendum remains at 3%.

### **Mobile Wardens Grants Scheme**

There is still some time for applications from new or existing community schemes that provide a Mobile Warden service are welcomed until 5pm on 25 January 2019. Application criteria and forms are available at - <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/community/grants/mobile-warden-scheme-grants/>

Here is some background on the grants 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.

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.

### **Repair cafes**

The District Council helps volunteers to set up new Repair Cafes. For example, 2G3S has organised repair cafes in the past and has more planned. 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](mailto: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/>

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### **Parking enforcement**

As discussed in the last Parish Council meeting, South Cambs is in the process of preparing a paper on parking. A short brief on the report is set out below, along with timings for when a draft will be available for comment by Great Shelford parish council.

At a Combined Authority Strategy meeting in December, the possibility of the Combined Authority funding the set up costs for a civil parking enforcement (CPE) across the county was discussed, which would have a significant impact on the feasibility of such a scheme.

#### **1. Aims**

To outline options available to the South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire Constabulary to control on-street parking, together with considerations of these options, in order to inform Cabinet as to action(s), if any, for the District Council.

#### **2. Rationale**

Cambridgeshire Constabulary has responsibility for policing parking in South Cambridgeshire. However, because parking is not a priority for the police, almost no budget or resource is allocated to it. Therefore, there is effectively no parking enforcement in the district.

For some villages this has very little impact. However, for larger villages such as Great Shelford, Sawston and Cottenham which have growing populations and increasing numbers of visitors attracted by their shopping, recreational and leisure facilities, the lack of enforcement is adversely affecting quality of life and public safety for both residents and visitors (see Parking issues in Gt Shelford and Sawston, Appendix 1).

The first step in trying to address the problem must be to consider and record in detail the possible parking models: their respective costs, advantages and disadvantages. This will then provide the basis for a rational decision about which model is likely to be most feasible and sustainable for our residents.

Earlier this year the Police undertook to begin writing such a report for Cambridgeshire. However, it now appears it is no longer being prepared. Cllrs Sample and Milnes sought clarification on this point from the police commissioner in an email dated 22 November. A reply confirming this was received on 17 December (see Appendix 2).

Consequently, South Cambs District Council has undertaken to draft this Discussion Paper. Note that the paper is an exercise in evidence-gathering and interpretation, and as such will lack the conclusiveness of reports drawn up by organisations with expertise in these matters. Nevertheless, our hope is the Paper will be sufficient to inform Cabinet discussions about the appropriate next steps to helping residents in our busier villages solve this growing problem.

The authority that is ultimately responsible for leading on a solution to this problem will depend on which parking control model is most feasible and sustainable for our residents, whether that is the current model or an alternative.

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### **Stakeholders**

We will ask the Parish councils of Great Shelford and Sawston to comment on the discussion paper before it is finalized, as well as Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Cambridgeshire County Council.

### **Evidence sources**

[Traffic Management Act 2004: The Secretary of State's Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions \(2016\)](#)

Civil Parking Enforcement: What is it and what does it entail? Presentation delivered by Peter Lowe of RTA Associates Ltd to Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) on 16 January 2018 (*for internal use only*)

Parking issues in Great Shelford and Sawston – comments provided by respective parish councils

[Policing and Crime Act 2017 Chapter 3 paras 38-45 on Powers of police civilian staff and volunteers](#)

Parking enforcement by externally funded Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) – comments from parish councils which provide funding for PCSOs Glastonbury and Stockton Heath in Warrington borough

Annual reports from North Hertfordshire District Council Civil Parking Enforcement scheme

Data on South Cambridgeshire villages, eg population size, indicating where parking problems likely to be pronounced.

Other sources as identified.

### **Schedule**

Work on the report began on December 6<sup>th</sup>. A second draft is in preparation, which will go to the Lead Cabinet member on parking, Neil Gough, by January 18<sup>th</sup>. Mike Hill, Director of Housing, Health and Environment, is also aware of the schedule and being included in communications.

It's intended that by early February a draft should be circulated to Great Shelford and Sawston parish councils for comment. The aim is to finalise the report by the end of February.

### **Contacting your District Councillors:**

Your Councillors are always ready to help. If you have any questions about these or other matters, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Nick Sample [cll.sample@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cll.sample@scambs.gov.uk) or

Peter Fane [cll.fane@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cll.fane@scambs.gov.uk)

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