

Report for Great Shelford Parish Council:

South Cambridgeshire District Council – July 2020

1. Funding the District Council

A number of Councils in England are reported to be considering Section 114 notices, to the effect that they are no longer able to balance their budgets (councils are not allowed to operate a deficit). South Cambs DC is not as badly affected as many councils by the reduced income and increased operating costs during the lockdown period, and there is no immediate prospect of this council being unable to operate a balanced budget.

The Council relies heavily on income from investments. At the meeting on 14th July, approval was given to the agreement reached in principle on two new investment partnerships, with Hill Investment Partnerships and Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Investment Partnerships.

The purpose of these investment partnerships is to provide a framework for the acquisition of commercial property investments (and redevelopment / regeneration opportunities) within the District which can deliver positive financial returns to the council, offsetting the reduction in other sources of income over the next few years. This will also include investment in the delivery of new homes, primarily for council housing.

2. Changes to cabinet responsibilities:

Cllr Bill Handley has taken up the new post of Lead Cabinet Member for Community Resilience, Health and Wellbeing, tasked with learning lessons from the past few months which has seen the Council help coordinate thousands of volunteers across the district, and ensuring any future response should it be needed is even more effective.

Cllr Brian Milnes who represents Sawston, is the new Lead Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Licensing, which will include working with Cambridge City Council to oversee the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service.

Duxford member Cllr Peter McDonald takes up the new position of Lead Cabinet Member for Business Recovery and Skills. Supporting local businesses to recover will be a main priority for the Council in the years ahead, and a new Business Support team has been established.

3. Planning and affordable housing:

Great Shelford Parochial Charities plans to start work on 21 almshouses on More' s Meadow at the end of the year after the District Council' s Planning Committee approved its scheme in June.

The Parochial Charities will charge rents of no more than half the market rate for 21 one, two or three-bedroom homes for people who would otherwise be unable to afford a home in the village.

The District Council supported Great Shelford Parochial Charities with a grant through its community-led development initiative to help fund pre-development surveys and sharing planning expertise. Similar grants have been provided to three Community Land Trusts (CLTs) at Cottenham,

Waterbeach, and Histon and Impington now working on plans to address affordable housing needs in their areas.

Brian Connellan, Parochial Charities Deputy Chair, said that with a proven need for almost 100 affordable homes in Gt Shelford “We are determined to help those who have strong links to the village to live here. The More’ s Meadow development will be a high-quality build, one that will last for generations to come and will benefit many in our community over many years.”

Planning approval to new hotel at IWM Duxford:



A 168-bedroom hotel at the Imperial War Museum (IWM), Duxford has been given planning approval by the District Council Planning Committee in June.

The Hampton by Hilton hotel is intended to support the existing on-site conference centre and ensure the viability of the site as a national tourist attraction.

Planning consent to Huawei research and development centre:



Planning committee on 25th June also gave approval to a new 50,000 square metre research and development centre for Huawei at Sawston. The application was assessed against national planning guidelines and local planning policies, national security issues were not relevant to the application.

4. CSET (South-East transport) busway proposal:

The GCP board approved the busway proposal in principle at their meeting on 25th June. At the Council meeting on 14th July, Peter Fane asked Deputy Leader Aidan Van de Weyer (vice-chair of the GCP board) whether the environmental impact assessment (EIA) will take full account of damage from carving the proposed busway through the edge of Magog Down? Whether the proposed Transport and Works Act (TWA) Order will look at the alternatives, including on the old railway line which would serve the villages by-passed by the proposed route? He also asked him to comment on the Mayor's subsequent statement that he had not been consulted, and that papers relating to the CSETS had not been shared with his office.

Aidan van de Weyer in reply recognised the huge impact on Magog Down which would be addressed more thoroughly in the EIA, and confirmed that the TWA Order would be required to assess alternatives including the route on the former railway line through the village. He said the Mayor had been kept informed and saw all the papers, and would be "welcome to raise any concerns" .

At the GCP board meeting in June, Roger Hickford was elected as chair in place of Aidan Van de Weyer.

5. Zero Carbon Communities Grant

Round 2 of the SCDC Zero Carbon Communities Grant is now open. This year the grant is focussing on three main themes – cycling, community buildings & tree planting and other nature-based initiatives. Applications are invited from parish councils and community groups. The total available is £100,000 with individual grants of £1,000 - £15,000. The scheme opened on Wednesday 1st July and the application deadline is 5pm Wednesday 30th September.

6. Annual voter registration canvass.

SCDC will be writing to all houses in the district to check that we have the correct people registered to vote.

7. Covid -19 Shielding data:

The national shielding programme is being paused at the end of August. SCDC is working with partners to make sure those with continuing support needs are still helped.

The District Council has been able to share data with local data controllers to support the Covid-19 responses in our communities. After 27th July all data controllers will be contacted to confirm that they have destroyed the data provided, which can only be used to support the Covid-19 response.

8. Community Safety Partnership Survey

South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is made up of representatives from the District Council, County Council, Police, Fire and Rescue Service and the NHS, working together to deal with local crime and anti-social behaviour issues.

A survey is being held to collate information from the public on perceptions of safety within their communities, which is particularly important because the Covid-19 lockdown has prevented face to face community engagement. The results affect the way in which community safety in certain geographical locations is prioritised.

SCDC would appreciate help to share this survey as widely as possible so that we can collate as many responses from our residents and ultimately help our communities feel safer . The survey will close on 26th July. See <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SouthCamsCSPSurvey2020>

Please contact District Councillors Nick Sample or Peter Fane if we can help with local council matters.

Cllr.sample@scambs.gov.uk
Cllr.fane@scambs.gov.uk

Mob. 07706 990833
Mob. 07802 256861