

Report for Great Shelford Parish Council:

South Cambridgeshire District Council – October 2020

1. Planning

South Cambridgeshire is maintaining a 5-year housing land supply when about a third of District Councils cannot. Regrettably a PINs Planning Inspector recently made a mistake when reviewing a planning appeal and wrote that we did not have a 5-year supply. Thanks to very quick action by council officers this was withdrawn within a matter of hours.

You may recall some years ago in the previous administration, over 4,000 homes were given permission in villages where they had not been planned because housing delivery was not meeting the government set targets. We do not want that to happen again.

2. Covid 19

Patch update

As the Parish Council will be aware, the situation is fast-changing in Cambridgeshire. Preparations in South Cambs include re-establishing the Communities Covid response teams, which offer support to local volunteer coordinators in getting help to residents who need it. The officer looking after the patch that includes Great Shelford is Becky Gane.

Covid Community Grant

South Cambs have released details of a new grant of between £100 and £400 available for community groups supporting people with Covid-related issues. The Council has written to Parish Councils, community groups and lead volunteers inviting them to apply for the grants.

Self-isolation payments

All the information you need to apply for a government grant should you officially be required to self-isolate and consequently experience a loss of income is on the South Cambridgeshire District Council website. There are a number of eligibility checks such as what benefits you are in receipt of but, once you have made your application, the process should be quick and you should receive your payment within 3 days. More than one person per household may apply and you can apply again if you are required to self-isolate again.
<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus/self-isolation-payment/>

3. Business support

South Cambridgeshire District Council is offering a series of workshops that will provide a chance for local businesses to engage with Council services. The first of these was an opportunity to learn more about the Business Support Team, the next workshop will be on November 12th 14:00- 16:00. Details are available here:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/latest-business-news-and-events/>

4. Investment partnerships

South Cambridgeshire District Council has appointed Hill Group and Balfour Beatty Investments as Investment partners following an extensive tender process. The two partnerships will acquire land for new homes, including Council and social rented properties, along with commercial developments and supporting services.

This forms part of the District Council's plans to manage the impact of reduced national funding by investing money to generate income. This income then supports the delivery of frontline Council services and is one element of the Council's Investment Strategy which was approved in February 2019 in which up to £340 million will be invested to support local recovery through regeneration and development.

5. Street lighting

1,800 streetlights across South Cambridgeshire are being replaced with low energy LEDs by the District Council at a cost of £1.38 million. This is intended to cut energy bills and reduce light pollution as well as improving lighting.

Most streetlights across Cambridgeshire are the responsibility of the County Council. However, South Cambridgeshire District Council is responsible for maintaining around 1,800 lamps within 84 villages, while parish councils pay their electricity bills. These bills will come down because of the investment, saving parish councils money

Greater Cambridge local plan consultation:

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service in September published the 8,500 responses it received on how the new Local Plan should take shape. These responses include suggestions of sites for development and for green spaces across Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, sent in by landowners, developers, communities and others.

The Councils will now be developing the spatial strategy for the Plan, taking into account the comments received in the consultation about the big themes. Sites will only be selected if they fit with the wider aims of the Plan and are shown to be sustainable. Far more land has been suggested by landowners than will be needed for new development. The Councils' suggested spatial approach and preferred sites will be put forward for full public consultation next year.

Comments were received from over 5,000 visitors to the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service website and over 6,000 people having conversations at pop-up events and The Big Debate in February. There were over 28,000 viewers on YouTube; and over 55,000 people engaged on social media.

Cllr Tumi Hawkins, Lead Cabinet Member for Planning at South Cambridgeshire District Council said: "some residents may worry about sites in their villages that have been put forward through the Call for Sites process but no suggested sites have any planning status at this point in time. There is far, far more land submitted than will possibly be needed to meet

the numbers of new homes we may need to plan for, and we won't be choosing any sites that don't meet strict tests for their suitability and sustainability."

"The whole purpose of creating a Local Plan is so that the homes that we do need can be built in a planned, balanced way, according to the policies and guidance we establish through the Local Plan process."

The responses and a summary report are available on the [Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service website](#)

6. South Cambridgeshire Hall

Having just re-opened South Cambs Hall it has now been closed again as part of our efforts to do all we can to minimise the spread of Coronavirus locally. We feel this is the right and responsible thing to do following the latest Government announcements. Residents and businesses have been able to carry out the vast majority of transactions without visiting and for the small number of tasks that have required people to visit in-person, such as pension verification, we have made arrangements to continue delivering them in a safe way. Please check the website for further details.

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

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