

**Report of District Councillors John Williams and Claire Daunton to the
September meeting of Quy Parish Council**

1. Local Plan

The Local Plan should be adopted at the September Full Council meeting. Generally speaking the Planning Inspector has approved the draft plan and confirmed its Green Belt policies.

A key consideration is that until very recently there was no 5-year housing land supply which together with no Local Plan has meant a free for all for developers to build houses just about anywhere. In fact, there are now 5000 houses with planning permission that are not in any local plan.

Key housing sites in the two Local Plans (for Cambridge and South Cambs) that have been found sound by the inspectors are below. Only a proportion of the homes 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 – since the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan was submitted planning permission has been granted for 2,350 homes***
- ***Homes on land north of Cherry Hinton and west of Teversham – 1,200 homes***
- ***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)***
- ***Worts Causeway – 430 homes***
- ***Extension to Cambridge Biomedical Campus to support the growth of this cluster***
- ***Extension to the Peterhouse Technology Park on Fulbourn Road***

Other key policies in the plan and findings of the Inspectors include a commitment to an early review of the Local Plans. This was already a commitment of both Councils as part of signing up to the City Deal agreement. The review would commence in 2019 with submission for examination in 2022. The Inspectors confirmed that the Councils' Green Belt evidence is robust and that no additional sites, beyond the limited sites proposed by the Councils, need to be allocated for development in the Green Belt

It is important to ensure that new homes and communities go hand-in-hand with the necessary transport improvements and facilities, such as GP surgeries. We will be working with the Mayor, Greater Cambridge Partnership and County Council to make sure transport improvements happen.

2. Village Design Statements and Neighbourhood Plans

Councillor Daunton attended the inaugural meeting of the VDS project, along with the Chairman of the Parish Council and others from the Fen Ditton and Fulbourn Ward. Discussions and advice has followed from the competition for all 18 villages who took part in the process, not only the 8 villages chosen for initial funding. One of the important points that has come from these discussions and those concerning Neighbourhood Plans is that, given the development pressures, on the whole of South Cambs, it is important that villages themselves are consulting and thinking ahead about their futures. As a District Council we are very mindful of this.

2. Affordable Housing

Since the last meeting of the Parish Council, SCDC has celebrated the delivery of 20 new homes in Great Abington, 40 per cent of which are affordable. These were the result of collaboration between the developer Hill and the District Council.

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/council-and-hill-celebrate-the-delivery-of-20-new-homes-in-great-abington/>

This was a community-led scheme. The chair of the Parish Council is willing to share his experiences and to show other parish councils round the development.

3. A new deal for social housing

The government has published a green paper on social housing. Details;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/social-housing-green-paper-a-new-deal-for-social-housing>.

4. Assets of Community Value

A building or other land is an asset of community value if its main use has recently been or is presently used to further the social well being or social interests of the local community and could do so in future. Examples could include: nurseries and schools, health centres, surgeries and hospitals, day care centres; parks and open green spaces; community centres and youth centres; public toilets; village shops and pubs.

SCDC has produced a protocol detailing the Council's approach to the Community Right to Bid- Assets of Community Value. The Community Right to Bid allows communities and parish councils to nominate buildings or land for listing by the local authority as an Asset of Community Value. An asset can be listed if its principal use furthers (or has recently furthered) their community's social well-being or social interests (which include social, sporting or recreational interests) and is likely to do so in future. Full details of the protocol can be found at

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/community/community/community-rights/assets-of-community-value/>

5. Universal Credit

Members of the SCDC Scrutiny Committee (includes Cllr Cone and Cllr Daunton) heard a report from the SCDC officer leading the implementation team. The Committee also heard from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) officer seconded to this area for the period of implementation. Initiatives are in place to support those who will transfer from previous benefits schemes to Universal Credit in the coming months. Officers are also ready and briefed to make early supportive interventions if they feel that SCDC tenants or others are going to run into difficulties. In-person and on-line support is available, and the Council and DWP is working closely with the CAB. Lessons have been learnt from earlier roll-out problems.

At a presentation to councillors on 3rd September, officers of South Cambs indicated the range of measures that are being taken to mitigate the effects of Universal Credit on individuals and on the council. Housing officers are keeping in particularly close contact with any tenants whom they feel need extra assistance in dealing with the transition to Universal Credit. There is no doubt that there will be pressures on all concerned but officers have prepared well and those present at the briefing were reassured. Councillors will be keeping a close watch on developments over the coming months,

6. Grants

New criteria for the Community Chest scheme has been approved by the SCDC Cabinet taking on board the outcome of an all-party workshop to make it more focused on delivering the aims of SCDC and to recognize that parish councils have the ability to fund their projects through their uncapped precepts thereby releasing more SCDC funding for community groups. A cross-party group is now reviewing Community Energy Grants to ensure that this area of grant-support takes advantage of new technologies (electric vehicles and enhanced battery capacity to name but two) and has as wide a remit as possible across the district.

7. Police and Crime Issues

Cllr Daunton, as a member of the Police and Crime Commission Panel (PCCP), has raised with the Commissioner the issue of neighbourhood policing. There were further discussions about this and related matters at a recent meeting of PCCP.

Some points arising from that meeting:

- 1. The Commissioner has indicated that he has been granted resources allowing for the employment of additional officers who will be warranted officers and not PCSOs. It looks as if there will be an additional 30 officers.***
- 2. At a recent meeting of the Panel it was announced that the Commissioner and Chief Constable and senior officers intend to hold annual conference for parish councillors; these will be planned and***

notified well ahead of time. There will no longer be Neighbourhood policing meetings, as in the past.

- 3. The South Cambs Crime and Disorder Partnership and Community Safety Partnership (of which Cllr Daunton is also a member) are seen by the Commissioner and his team as ways in which local councillors can report problems to them in person and discuss them. Individual officers might attend Parish Council meetings occasionally if invited, and if they have time.*
- 4. There is to be a presentation by the local Police Inspector to South Cambs District Council on 27th September. The Crime and Disorder and Community Safety Partnership meets in October.*

There is a new Victims and Witnesses website, offering support
<http://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk>

The police are increasingly challenged by the fact that in recent years there has been a 20% increase in their non-criminal work, largely due to an increase in mental health issues. Locally, drug-related criminality has risen sharply (38 arrests in Cambridge city last week alone); and there is also a serious problem with hare-coursing.

Transport

Transport is an area of major concern for all parts of our district. Recent work on the A1303 and continued overnight work on the A14 are just two examples of the impact of long-running road-works on Quy and other villages in.

1. A14

Councillors are monitoring the progress of the major works on the A14, and the disruption these are causing to local communities. A meeting was held recently between Highways England, the contractors, councillors and other local representatives. Councillors will continue to keep the work under review.

2. Bus Services

CABU (the Cambridge Area Bus Users) group continues to be active in support of local bus services for the city and the villages, and to make the voice of bus users heard more loudly. The continuing loss of services has added significantly to congestion in the city and has had significant deleterious effects on the lives of the most vulnerable

CABU's elected officers have met with the Mayor and local bus companies, as well as with transport consultants working with the Greater Cambridge Partnership. They are watching and waiting for the Mayor's report on bus services and will be scrutinizing this closely, particularly any comments/decisions on franchising. The Cambridge and Peterborough Interim Economic Report (CPIER)

<http://www.cpier.org.uk/final-report/> has indicated support for franchising.

3. Congestion Charging

Discussions concerning congestion charging have been going on for some time, within and without the City. They have come to the fore again in relation to discussions by the Greater Cambridge Partnership. It is important at this stage not to take anything off the table when considering the best way to manage travel and traffic across the City and our District. None of us wants the present chaos of congestion to go unsolved. Clearly any possibility of introducing congestion charging would have to go along with major improvements to public transport in and around the city – rail, buses, roads – and we must ensure that the Mayor’s long-awaited report on buses addresses this issue.

4. Rail Stations

It is intended that Cambridge South, on the Addenbrooke’s site, will join Cambridge North and Cambridge Central as three rail stations for Greater Cambridge. However the date for delivery of the third station keeps slipping from the initial delivery date of 2021. We will be watching this very closely.

5. East West Rail Link

There have been various press reports recently concerning the East West Rail Link, the proposed rail link between Oxford and Cambridge linking up with the line to Ipswich. This should not be confused with the East West Expressway, the proposed road link between Oxford and Cambridge, part of which is already complete. Press reports on the rail link have tended to concentrate on the different proposed routes. It is important at this stage that all routes be evaluated and that the selection of route options be based on analysis of how they support and unlock housing and employment growth and how they fit with development strategies. Any chosen route will involve major infrastructure and this must take full account of environmental issues (biodiversity, pollution, landscape, flood management, water availability, and other related factors).

**CD/JW
18^h September 2018**