

District and County Councillor's Report – September 2021

Call for Sites

The District Council have now released their much awaited 'short-list' of parcels of land in South Cambridgeshire that they believe have planning merit and will be taken forward to the next stage of the process. This short-list was derived from a much longer list of sites put forward by potential developers and landowners earlier this year.

The outcome is that **NONE** of the parcels of land in our area are being taken forward by South Cambs, as their policy, which has been stuck to, is to PROTECT OUR VILLAGES and concentrate the major development into existing and forthcoming settlements, such as Cambourne, Northstowe, Waterbeach, Bourn Airfield etc.

We anticipate that this news will largely be taken positively by those living here but appreciate that some housing needs to be permitted to allow for growth in the District, however the overwhelming feedback that we have received is that this should be, as it has, concentrated into the towns in our area, that have the infrastructure to better cope with the increase and keep our villages as villages.

A thank you to all those that had an input into the process so far but there will be further public consultation on these short-listed sites, should anyone wish to make further comment.

Full site listings can be seen at - <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan>

New Business Growth Fund

The District Council has launched a new fund that businesses looking to grow and expand can now apply for. It's aptly called the 'Growth Fund' and between £1,000 and £50,000 can be applied for at one time. Full eligibility criteria can be found here - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/business-support-and-advice/growth-fund-grant-scheme> or by email openforbusiness@scambs.gov.uk

Flooding

We reported last month that the issues surrounding the aftermath of the extensive flooding back in July were being investigated by the various bodies involved – the District Council, County Council, Anglian Water and the housing developers of the Horseheath Road site. Discussions between all of these parties are still ongoing with a viable solution, both in the short and long terms, sought. There is clearly varying levels of responsibility for flooding between these various parties and that is what is being discussed. The local residents who have been terribly affected have been hugely helpful in this process, at a time that is of great difficulty to them personally.

Visit South Cambs - Business Listings

South Cambs have launched a new business directory of businesses in the District. This is to try to boost local commerce now that we are coming out of Covid restrictions. Any viable, independent, business in South Cambridgeshire can apply to be listed on the website. It is essentially free advertising! - <https://www.visitsouthcambs.co.uk/>

Chief Executive

Councillors Henry and John Batchelor

The County Council is going through the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive, as the current one is retiring. The process has begun but if anyone know any suitable candidates, just let Henry know!

Civil Parking Enforcement

There is an item on the September meeting of the Highways Committee at the County Council relating to parking enforcement. Currently the parking enforcement (ticketing) is the responsibility of the Police. The County Council are looking to write to the Secretary of State to request that they are allowed to explore carrying this out themselves and actually put some money and momentum behind it. Currently the Police, understandably, can't prioritise parking enforcement over other Policing.

6 Free Trees

You may remember a few years ago the District Council ran a scheme whereby they offered vouchers to parish councils for the value of 3 free trees that could be redeemed from local garden centres and planted on parish council land. This scheme has been rebooted but with the offering doubled at 6, rather than 3 trees. Please do take advantage of this, if your parish council has the land to plant them.

Horseheath Parish Clerk

Horseheath Parish Council are looking to recruit a clerk. Should you be interested and need any further detail, please contact the Chairman, John Howard – johnhhpc@gmail.com

Contact Information

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