

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Notes of the Cabinet and Parish Councils Liaison Meeting held on:
Wednesday 20th June at 6:30pm

Cabinet:	Neil Gough Philippa Hart Tumi Hawkins	Hazel Smith Aidan Van de Weyer John Williams
Officers:	Gemma Barron Jane Green Mike Hill Stephen Kelly Cecilia Murphy-Roads Liz Pinchen	Head of Sustainable Communities & Wellbeing Head of New Communities Director Health & Environmental Services Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development for Cambridge & South Cambridgeshire Development Officer South West Democratic Services Officer (Temporary)

Parish Reps:	Frances Amrani (Teversham) Geoff Barnes (Foxton) Anna Bradnam (Milton) Barbara Cooper (Longstowe) Peter Deer (Elsworth) Graham Fagg (Hinxton) Neil Harris (Willingham) Pauline Joslin (Hardwick) Jayne Merrick (Sawston) Frank Morris (Cottenham) Roger Pinner (Eltisley) Ruth Poulton (Cambourne) Val Tookey (Barrington) Peter Tye (Foxton) Ruth White (Shepreth) Kim Wilde (Hatley) Michael Williamson (Waterbeach)	Enid Bald (Linton) Stephen Bartlett (Great Wilbraham) Maggie Challis (Grantchester) Peter Dee (Duxford) Mary Drage (Fulbourn) Elaine Farrell (Histon) Doug Hunt (Swavesey) Merrie Mannassi (Linton) Lorraine Mooney (Barton) Denis Payne (Histon & Impington) Sarah Pitchford (Barton) Derek Thorn (Fulbourn) Sean Traverse-Healy (Steeple Morden) John Vickery (Cambourne) Beckie Whitehouse (Teversham) Don Wildman (Milton) Will Wright (Swavesey)
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District Councillor Peter McDonald (Duxford)

1. INTRODUCTION

Councillor Aidan Van de Weyer, Deputy Leader of the Council, welcomed the parish representatives to the meeting and extended Councillor Bridget Smith's apologies for being unable to attend. Councillor Van de Weyer explained the main changes that have taken place and the aims for the coming term of office.

- The number of councillors has been reduced to 45 from 57 with over 50% being new councillors.
- Move towards pre-scrutiny with more business conducted through Cabinet, with meetings held monthly.
- Encouraging more public engagement at meetings.
- Two new committees; Grants Advisory Committee and Climate & Environment Advisory Committee.
- A Brexit Working Group to support small businesses and residents.
- A Cabinet member to visit each Parish over the next few months.

Three main aims are to:

1. Working to improve relations with Parishes, businesses and residents.
2. Focus on environment and housing issues.
3. Supporting business growth.

2. CABINET INTRODUCTIONS

The Cabinet Members present introduced themselves:

Councillor Philippa Hart – Portfolio Holder for Customer Service and Business Improvement

Councillor Hart explained that it had been recognised that it can be difficult for residents to contact the Council and the Council were working to improve this through online engagement. Shared Services would be more accountable via a process of scrutiny. Ways to try and increase youth engagement were to be explored.

Councillor Hazel Smith – Portfolio Holder for Housing

Councillor Smith explained that affordable housing was a number one priority for the Council. The purpose of Ermine Street Housing Ltd and Shire Homes was explained. There were concerns that the introduction of Universal Credit would cause a rise in homelessness; tenants were encouraged to approach the Council if they had concerns regarding debt.

Councillor Tumi Hawkins – Portfolio Holder for Planning

Councillor Hawkins explained that the priority was to make the Planning Service more user-friendly and ensure it met the needs of the residents. The Council was working to improve engagement with Parish Councils to ensure their views were heard. The Planning Service was now a shared service that serves South Cambs and Cambridge City together. Questions were raised and answered on the following:

- The Local Plan.
- Improvements to planning systems.
- Staffing levels in the new Shared Planning Service.
- Viability assessments.
- Parish comments on planning applications.

Councillor Neil Gough – Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

Councillor Gough explained that the Council was working to identify systematic problems and to increase clarity for residents in how to report issues. More engagement was needed with residents to assist with waste management, in particular with reducing contamination. Parish Council's could help with communication and education of residents and with the promotion of information on recycling.

Questions were raised and answered on the following:

- Contamination.
- Recycling of small electrical items.
- The effect of the removal of the paper caddy on contamination rates.
- Discounts for trade recycling bins.

Councillor John Williams – Portfolio Holder for Finance

Councillor Williams explained the need for the Council to find other sources of income and the need to gain best value for money in expenditure. Councillor Williams explained the review of the Community Chest programme. There were concerns that the introduction of Universal Credit could cause a shortfall in housing rental income as it would be paid in arrears rather than in advance.

Questions were raised and answered on the following:

- Potential conflicts of interest between generating income through housing and approval of planning applications.

- Passing down of Local Council Tax Support to Parishes
- Council Tax discounts for the Severely Mentally Impaired

3. GREATER CAMBRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Van de Weyer presented an overview of the background to and work of the Greater Cambridge Partnership. Following the publication of the Combined Authority Mayor's Interim Transport Statement it was agreed to defer the decisions on two items; the A428 Cambourne to Cambridge project and on route alignments as part of the Cambridge South East Transport Study (A1307).

4. LOCAL PLAN

Councillor Van de Weyer presented an overview of the background to and current status of the Local Plan. As a consequence of the lack of a five year land supply sites on the outside of villages had been given planning permission. The Council now had a five year land supply. The report from the Inspector was anticipated sometime in August. The next Local Plan would be a joint plan with Cambridge City and was due to commence in 2019.

5. OPEN FORUM

Questions were raised and answered on the following issues:

- The influence of design consultants on planning officers.
- Parish Forum meetings with District Councillors.
- Inconsistencies in planning design.
- Neighbourhood Plans.
- North Uttlesford Garden Village.
- The robustness and defensibility of the five year land supply.
- Alignment of Village Design Guides with Neighbourhood Plans.

6. CLOSE

Councillor Van de Weyer thanked everyone for their attendance. Next meeting to be held on Tuesday 27th November 2018 at 6.30pm.

The Meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.
