

**Ruth Betson, District Councillor**  
**Report to Cambourne Town Council**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019**

**A428 – Bourn Airfield**

Parishes in this area continue to be concerned at the lack of access directly onto the A428 from the proposed development at Bourn Airfield. At a recent Scrutiny Committee meeting, we had a presentation from Des O'Brien from Bourn Parish Council and Stop BAD. The councillors present questioned officers closely on this subject. I expressed my concerns that additional traffic along St Neots Road to the Cambourne double-roundabouts will create havoc, jams and unnecessary stress for morning commuters and indicated my support for the need to have direct access at Bourn Airfield. ***Should this not be the Town Council's view, please let me know as soon as possible as I am attending another meeting to discuss this shortly.***

**Next CEO for SCDC**

There is an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 4<sup>th</sup> July to appoint the next Chief Executive of the Council. I am not a member of the Employment Committee so have no further information to share with you at the moment. I expect an announcement will be made as soon as possible after the meeting.

**Considerations for Cambourne in the next Local Plan**

*Marshalls announce they will be looking to relocate Cambridge airport*

Marshalls has announced their desire to re-locate their operations and airport from its current location to another site within SCDC potentially unlocking the large brownfield site for development of housing and commercial use. This isn't the first time Marshalls have proposed this as a potential development plan. It was looked at in the previous Local Plan. The plans have not previously been taken forward due to the difficulty in finding a new location for Cambridge Airport within the district that meets the necessary criteria for an airstrip and an area that is sensitive to its surroundings. Also the Local Plan that has been adopted tried to focus on new settlements that would not engulf existing villages. Selfishly for South Cambridgeshire residents it is beneficial for the Council to keep Marshalls in South Cambridgeshire due to the large amounts of employment it generates locally and business rates.

SCDC are starting works on the next Local Plan as we found from the last Local Plan they can take an awfully long time, not only to put together, but to get adopted by whoever the National Government is at the time. The administration has gone out to call for potential new sites for development in a new Local Plan hence Marshalls and a whole range of other developers / land owners coming forward to put potential sites on the table. The Council are not currently making these sites public due to potential commercial sensitivity, however Marshalls decided to go public themselves. It will now be up to the administration over the coming years to decide where they want housing to be situated in the next Local Plan. It is worth remembering that our current plan delivers the required housing over the next decade with this Local Plan looking at housing development into the 2030s.

There are advantages and disadvantages to including the Marshalls site in a future Local Plan. This is a large brownfield site that could deliver a large amount of housing and commercial space for the next Local Plan. The last Local Plan required 20,000 houses and a site of this size could deliver around half of the Local Plan allocation if the numbers are similar meaning around half the plan's allocated housing would be outside of greenbelt and meaning less pressure on the Council to find alternative sites for large scale development. A site of this size, you would hope could provide a lot of affordable housing, new commercial and employment sites and community buildings put in place ready for the new development. Its location is close to the city meaning many of the occupants of the site who work for big employers (Addenbrookes, Papworth, Astrazeneca,

Arm, on Science Parks, in the city) would be well served by existing and future transport links and should be an area that would be close enough to employment sites for people to cycle. The disadvantages to this site are its proximity to existing villages and the pressures that this will have on existing communities.

In summary, developments closer to Cambourne will have a higher likelihood of using Cambourne's facilities, shopping in the High Street, using the swimming pool, etc and a larger site, as opposed to smaller, will have the same transport and links needs as Cambourne – so possibly an opportunity for joint approaches to road, train, bus decision makers. However any development here is a long way into the future and like any other site the merits of the development will have to be weighed against the impacts of that development through the Local Plan process.

### **Grants and funding**

A quick reminder of the link to explore options that aim to support local businesses:

<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/business-support-and-advice/grants-and-funding/>

Best wishes,  
Ruth Betson

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