

CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

Council Meeting 3rd September 2019

Cllr Gavin Clayton Report

1/ Motion on hate crime and adoption of safe space network membership will be considered at Cabinet on Sept 4.

The motion :

This Council condemns the recent spike in hate crime and in particular that of homophobic hate crime.

This Council notes the need for proactive policy development and recruitment of a specialist officer due to increased levels of hate crime as reported (in Parliamentary Briefing Paper Number 08537, 28 March 2019, Hate Crime Statistics, By Grahame Allen, Yago Zayed). It shows Police Reported hate crimes by monitored strands in England have increased by 123% since 2011. In particular: Race 98% Religion 415% sexual orientation 415% Disability 313% and biggest increase of all for people who identify as transgender 427%

Now is the time to ensure specialist Equality and Diversity Officer responsibilities fall within the remit of a Policy Officer as part of the forthcoming Equality Policy Review. This Council is an Equal Opportunities employer and already [will] works with neighbouring councils to share best practice and raise equality awareness. This Council requests therefore its Employment and Staffing Committee to build upon the existing Equality Pledge by exploring the suitability of the Single Equality Scheme that is being established in Cambridge City which is proactive in providing training across public, private and third sector partners and to join the Encompass Network's Safer Spaces scheme so that there is a visible reassurance for LGBTQ+ residents of South Cambridgeshire.

I please request that Cambourne Town Council adopt a similar commitment in issuing a public statement condemning hate crime and to demonstrate clear support for all residents of Cambourne regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and disability. That the Town Council in addition to ensuring this is clear for all its employees that it will work with retailers to adopt and display the safe space logo and engage with the Encompass Network for our LGBTQ+ community members.

2/ Cambourne High St

I attended the 'consultation' event At the Hub at end of August having expressed my dissatisfaction with organisers about the timing if it during summer holidays. They did write to John apparently about having a display at Cambourne Fete and so delay the end of the consultation event until after that date (originally set for end of August)

The publicity for the consultation was poor including a pretty illegible flimsy leaflet which I presume went to all. Households?

First the positives: I discussed with architect the need to look at dementia friendly design and planning that should include choice of pavings, signage, seating etc (including benches at a proper height suitable for older residents and those with additional needs). Cambourne could publicise itself as a pioneer in dementia friendly design...something that would be a great asset for the Town.

I was pleased to hear that the residential units will be provided by a social housing provider and this will increase overall numbers of affordable social housing units in Cambourne.

Now the negatives : I think the external building design is unimaginative and is once again driven by developers 'bottom line' with SCDC having withdrawn all investment and therefore no longer having any proper say over the look and feel of the development. This means :

There is no linkage into health and wellbeing strategy that could help support a community hub point in one of the 'piazza' units. Likewise with infrastructure that might support a space

used by young people to congregate safely. No public art mentioned in the designs...another well recognised facet to High Street design.

The model of building high st viability around securing one larger retailer and so attracting others is a tried and failed approach and high st thinking has moved on somewhat (see www.vanishinghighstreet.com). We need to ensure that Town Council and community are involved properly in the development thinking...not just a rather tokenisation feeling consultation process to date.

Lastly the 'piazza' I am afraid is not a piazza at all...it is a gap between two building which will be a wind tunnel and should be revisioned to give a dynamic through shape and form and public art to create the gathering point that Grimsby refers to in his report.

I also wondered what has happened to the idea of the bus transit hub that I thought was planned to be adjacent to the Community Hubbuilding? That doesn't feature in the design...I may have missed its inclusion in Bourn Airfield or elsewhere, but thought it worth asking and they new nothing about it.

3/ I would be interested to hear why Cllr Bhattacharya voted against progressing plans for the park and ride site in a formal vote in SCDC? Does this concur with the public transport development needs of Cambourne Town.