

District Report October 2020

I would like to start my report with the most recent of events. The way our communities have responded to the Covid-19 pandemic has been outstanding. Everyone has their part to play and I am prouder than ever to be a representative of your communities at this time and my thanks to all Council staff members, Councillors, volunteers, individuals and everyone involved in supporting their fellow residents at this time.

I represent the residents of Cambourne at South Cambs District Council and will continue to do so either remotely or in person when restrictions are lifted. If you or any resident are in need at any time please do get in touch via the details at the end of this report at any time, – if I can't help you personally I will be able to help you get to a person who can.

I can take your questions and concerns to the District Council; it is what I stood for election to do. Town Council is an apolitical institution and with all respect to the apolitical status of Town Council, please ask if you have any question to raise for Cambourne through me which I will submit for the District Council meetings.

I myself ran and organised several weekly and monthly activities specially created for the lockdown situation in pandemic, to do my best to support residents to keep their mental wellness high and that will never change whatever the circumstances we find ourselves in.

New Buses for Cambourne

Stagecoach old X5 renumbered 905 and will run every 30 minutes between Monday and Friday. At weekends, the 905 will also run every half-hour from outside Morrisons in Cambourne to Cambridge Parkside but will not stop at the college or Science Park.

Whippet's X3 service will provide a new hourly link, seven days a week, to Addenbrooke's Hospital from Huntingdon, Godmanchester, Papworth and Cambourne. These buses will also stop at Cambridge Railway Station and extra buses are promised at shift change times for the BioMedical Campus.

Cllr Mark Howell and I have been regularly meeting for more than a year with the Directors of Stagecoach for a revised and regular bus services covering more key destinations and routes.

In our meeting on 25th September, we also asked in for a circular bus service exclusively for Cambourne that will serve from new West Cambourne to the end of the Upper Cambourne connecting Cambourne business park, Cambourne Village College etc. in a cheaper price. We are hopeful for the service to start by June 2021.

I will organise a consultation in November 2020 (virtual Town Hall style meeting)

with the Directors and Managing Directors of Stagecoach with local residents, students, and passengers to interact and ask various questions.

Fly-tipping

There has recently been an increase in fly-tipping throughout the district, some of it witnessed by our Environment Enforcement Officers being described as 'industrial-scale'. Residents can check via the link below that those who are collecting their rubbish are properly licensed.

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>

The environment

I am pleased to say that SCDC have declared a climate emergency with near unanimous support. The Zero-Carbon grants were launched this year and many parishes have benefitted from the free trees planting promotion.

Planning Department

There has been much change in the way planning works at SCDC. The shared service of the Greater Cambridge Planning Service between South Cambs and Cambridge City is now established. However, during the year an external company was brought in to deal with planning procedures normally completed by officers at SCDC. We have been told this is a temporary measure to relieve pressure within the department, an issue many have been raising for some time. Concerns have been raised in relation to this decision mainly due to the lack of information Councillors have been given. There were motions at full council meeting calling for more transparency in the planning process, including a clear audit trail of those contributing comments towards applications and being clear when an external company has been involved in an application – but these were voted down.

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