

## **Cambourne Town Council**

### **South Cambridgeshire District Council report: Tuesday 5th July 2022**

Councillor Stephen Drew  
Councillor Helene Leeming

#### **Contact details for Cllrs Drew and Leeming:**

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This is our second report to the town council since being elected as district councillors in May 2022. We have continued to work on various matters raised to us either by residents or by local groups, and have reported any new information that we have to the council in this report.

#### **1) Tour of Cambourne with Liz Watts (CEO of South Cambridgeshire District Council)**

We have arranged to spend three hours with Liz Watts, Chief Executive Officer of South Cambridgeshire District Council, to show her our town. We believe that it is essential that officers at SCDC have a greater understanding of the realities of Cambourne for our residents. We will be starting from the council offices and will walk as much of the town as possible during our time together. We will be flagging issues such as the new housing development opposite the council offices, the road access to the village college, the need for development of the High Street, transport and traffic matters, provision of services such as the chemist, dentists and doctors, road safety, the need for more community and business space, and many other matters. If there are specific things that the town council would like us to reference during our time with Ms Watts we would be happy to include those during our walk. The more that officers at SCDC can have their understanding of the needs, aspirations and problems that our town faces the better their provision of support to Cambourne will be going forwards.

#### **2) Meeting with Anne Ainsworth (COO of South Cambridgeshire District Council)**

Councillor Leeming has met with Anne Ainsworth, the Chief Operating Officer at South Cambridgeshire District Council. Ms Ainsworth is Ms Watts' deputy in leading the officers of the council. Cllr Leeming used the opportunity to discuss a range of matters including the development of the High Street, specific needs around Post Office provision and the provision of community space for groups such as Cambourne Crescent and faith communities. The meetings were positive in terms of discussing the potential for district council engagement with these issues and how we as councillors can work with SCDC, CTC and other stakeholders to improve our town. We will be continuing these discussions in September and hope to see progress as the year progresses.

#### **3) South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP)**

Cllr Leeming has joined the South Cambridgeshire CSP, which is a group bringing together SCDC, police and various stakeholder groups related to tackling issues around anti-social behaviour, community safety and provision of youth services for example. Cllr Leeming has

met with one of the two officers involved in SCCSP, Kathryn Hawkes in order to develop her understanding of the group and consider how she can use her membership to promote the needs of Cambourne as the largest settlement in South Cambridgeshire. Cllr Leeming will also be meeting with another of the officers, Beth Watson, during July to discuss how the CSP can provide support for work on road safety, traffic hotspots and tackling speeding in the town. These issues are regular areas of concern for residents in the town both on social media and in their communication with us as councillors. Therefore we will be seeking to maximise the possibilities for intervention from all relevant agencies as well as supporting community members to be involved in taking whatever actions they can such as community speedwatch that some residents have requested support with.

#### **4) Youth services**

Cllr Drew has met with representatives of Romsey Mill to discuss how to increase the provision of services to young people in Cambourne through their link with Cambourne Youth Partnership. We have discussed the need for more volunteers for the crucial Friday and Saturday night sessions. Cllr Leeming has provided CYP with information about two possible sources of increased funding through grant programmes from both local councils and a train company which may be able to support youth work in our town. We will work with CYP to prepare grant applications to support their work for our young people.

#### **5) Local and national projects affecting Cambourne**

Cllrs Leeming and Drew have attended a range of presentations and discussions related to the Cambourne to Cambridge Busway, The OxCam Arc and East West Rail in the last month. In each case we have learnt more about the proposals and how they intend to improve the lives of people in our town. Cllr Leeming will be taking part in a visit to the proposed route of the C2C organised by the Greater Cambridge Partnership later in July. GCP officers are taking councillors from affected wards on a minibus tour starting at the Grange Road end of C2C and finishing in Cambourne over a two hour period. This will give a chance to further understand the issues and possibilities of the plans as well as ask questions and promote the needs of Cambourne residents in this important project.

The OxCam Arc and East West Rail proposals are clearly much bigger and more long-term projects at a strategic level run by the national government. The OxCam Arc talk was an update on the changes to the original plans from government for the area from Oxford to Milton Keynes to Cambridge. The plans have been scaled back and are now more focussed on economic strategy than transport and house building. We will keep ourselves informed and engaged with this.

The East West Rail Company provided a seminar with talks and extensive questioning opportunities in the last week. Both Cllrs Drew and Leeming attended and heard about the plans for "First and Last Mile" connectivity, links with local council plans for cycleways etc., inclusivity plans, ticketing plans and an update on the planned location of Cambourne's station. The plans remain very interesting and have enormous potential to improve transport links for Cambourne residents. However, there is no absolute clarity over timescales or station location at this time. But the support for the northern option as expressed by Cambourne residents in the town council's consultation remains clear in the minds of everyone involved.

#### **6) Cambourne High Street development plans**

At the last meeting it was requested by town councillors that this be a standing item on these reports. However, at this point in time there is nothing specific to report regarding timescales.

### 7) Uplands Place road crossing

At the last meeting, Cllr Drew reported that he was seeking to set up a meeting with Stephen Kelly, the planning chief for the Great Cambridge planning service in relation to the decision to allow the developers of Uplands Place to not have to build the originally proposed pedestrian crossing.

The communication between the town council and Stephen Kelly has superseded this and we await the outcome of this communication before progressing with a meeting.

### 8) Cambourne to Cambridge Better Public Transport and Active Travel Environmental Impact Assessment - Public Consultation (this is included again from the June report as it remains current for July).

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has launched the next stage of the work towards bringing the benefits of the Cambourne to Cambridge busway to our community. Support for the C2C scheme in Cambourne is abundantly clear from the over 1500 residents that Cllr Drew and Cllr Leeming have spoken to in the last twelve months. The pressing need for improved transport connections with Cambridge for work, education and leisure will be substantially met by the building of the busway. We strongly support its construction as being what the residents of our town need and deserve to have in place.

The new consultation runs until 11th July, and we would encourage residents and all interested groups in our town to take part. The clearer and louder our collective voices are in relation to this project the more likely it is to be brought to completion by the currently proposed date of 2026.

<https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/c2c-eia-2022>

Proposed route

