



LOCALITY WORKING

PRESENTATION TO DRY DRAYTON
PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2016

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LOCALITY WORKING

Supporting parishes through Locality working

- Parish councils are key to helping communities influence district-wide and countywide priorities and to achieving an excellent quality of life in local communities.
- Locality working is intended to help us build closer relationships with parish councils and to help you more easily navigate the District Council.
- In order to deliver Locality working in South Cambs, we have divided the district into three localities, or 'patches'. These mirror the police neighbourhoods and broadly align with the County Council's children's localities.
- The South Cambs localities are North, South West and South East. Each of these areas has a 'Locality Lead Officer' from the Sustainable Communities and Partnerships Team, who is there to facilitate working between parishes and partner organisations.



Why the Change?

- Prior to the introduction of Locality Working, officers were previously working around themed specialisms – eg. Transport, Children and Young People, etc.
- The move to geographical specialisms gives officers the opportunity to adopt a holistic approach to community engagement.
- It is hoped that this will strengthen relationships with and between parishes and partner organisations, enabling us to work on and prioritise local issues.
- It will also deliver flexibility and resilience to the Sustainable Communities and Partnerships team, allowing us to provide cover for each other more easily so that parish issues are always dealt with as effectively and efficiently as possible.



Your Locality Lead

The Role:

As the Development Officer supporting the communities in our North Locality, I can be the first point of contact at SCDC for parish representatives – eg. District Councillors, County Councillors, Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, etc.

By all means, if you already know who you would like to contact at the District Council please do so; my function is not to be a gatekeeper, simply to streamline the communication process where necessary.





Who do I speak to about...

Sometimes it isn't immediately apparent who you should contact at the District Council: that's where I come in.

A couple of examples of questions that I have resolved for parishes through the Locality Role:

- Streetlights – who owns them? Who pays for them? And who's responsible for the maintenance?
- Land required for access – who owns it, and what restrictions are placed on it?
- Council and HA properties in a village – what are the levels of provision?





Community Services

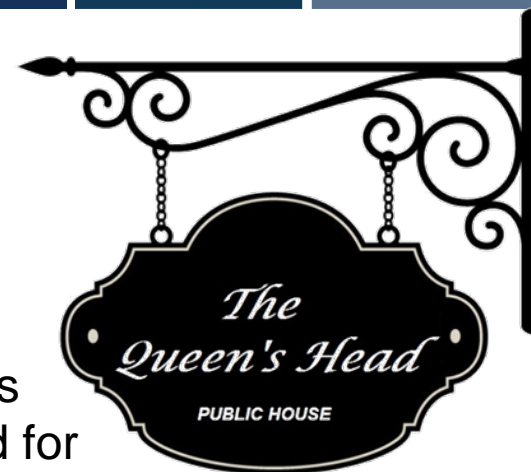
Further to acting as a point of contact at the District Council, I can also help parishes with a wide range of services delivered by the Sustainable Communities and Partnerships Team.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Parish Plans (Community-Led Plans)
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value – ACVs)
- Community Right to Challenge
- Setting up local projects and initiatives
- Facilitating joint working between parishes
- Promoting and advising on SCDC initiatives that recognise and benefit local communities (eg. Community Chest Grants, Community Awards, etc.)



Assets of Community Value (ACVs)



This legislation (also known as Community Right to Bid) allows communities and parish councils to nominate buildings or land for listing by the local authority as an official Asset of Community Value.

An asset can be listed if its principal use furthers (or has recently furthered) their community's social well-being or social interests (which include cultural, sporting or recreational interests) and is likely to do so in the future.

When a listed asset comes to be sold, a moratorium on the sale (of up to six months) may be invoked, providing local community groups with a better chance to raise finance, develop a business plan and to make a bid to buy the asset on the open market.



Assets of Community Value

What is an Asset of Community Value?

A building or other land is an asset of community value if its main use has recently been or is presently used to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community and could do so in the future. Examples could include:

- Nurseries and schools, health centres, surgeries and hospitals, day care centres, residential care homes
- Parks and open green spaces, sports and leisure centres, libraries/theatres/museums or heritage sites
- Community centres, youth centres, public toilets
- Village shops and pubs - which also provide an important local social benefit which would no longer be easily available if that service should cease



Assets of Community Value

If the Parish Council or another community organisation choose to nominate a local asset, the District Council have produced a protocol detailing the SCDC approach to the process. This includes sections on:

- Who can nominate
- What qualifies as an ACV
- The asset register
- Relevant disposal
- Moratorium ("window of opportunity")
- Receiving and assessing a nomination for an ACV
- Listing review
- Compensation
- Enforcement

As your Locality officer, I can give you details and examples of best practice for making nominations – from who to include in the process to how to complete forms.



Parish Plans

Parish Plans set out a local vision for a village / local area by describing how residents would like to develop as a community and identifying how they can achieve that vision.

A Parish Plan is a way of communicating to others what makes an area unique and what is important to those living within it. Parish Plans help local people to influence how their communities are run now and in the future.

Parish Plans are also about the practical day to day needs of a community. For example: providing better youth facilities, tackling climate change and improving transport services.



Parish Plans

If a parish decide to produce a parish plan, locality development officers can provide a range of support:

- Providing advice and examples of good (and bad) practice
- Sharing contacts – putting parishes of a similar size in touch with each other in order to share experience and tips
- Advising on techniques and strategies for effective data collection
- Providing generalised advise and encouragement
- Printing service – SCDC can print material for parishes at competitive rates



Parish Plans

Dry Drayton have already been through the process of producing a Parish Plan, which was signed-off by the Parish Council in May 2009.

At that point, the main themes/concerns for Dry Drayton were:

- 1) Village Green and Multi-sports facility
- 2) Improved choice of transport options
- 3) Environmental issues

While these themes continue to be of importance in the Village, it has been made clear to me that issues around housing and highways have steadily increased in their level of importance to villagers in the past 6 years.

As a result, Dry Drayton has been exploring its options around community empowerment.



West Cambridge Green Wedge (WCGW)

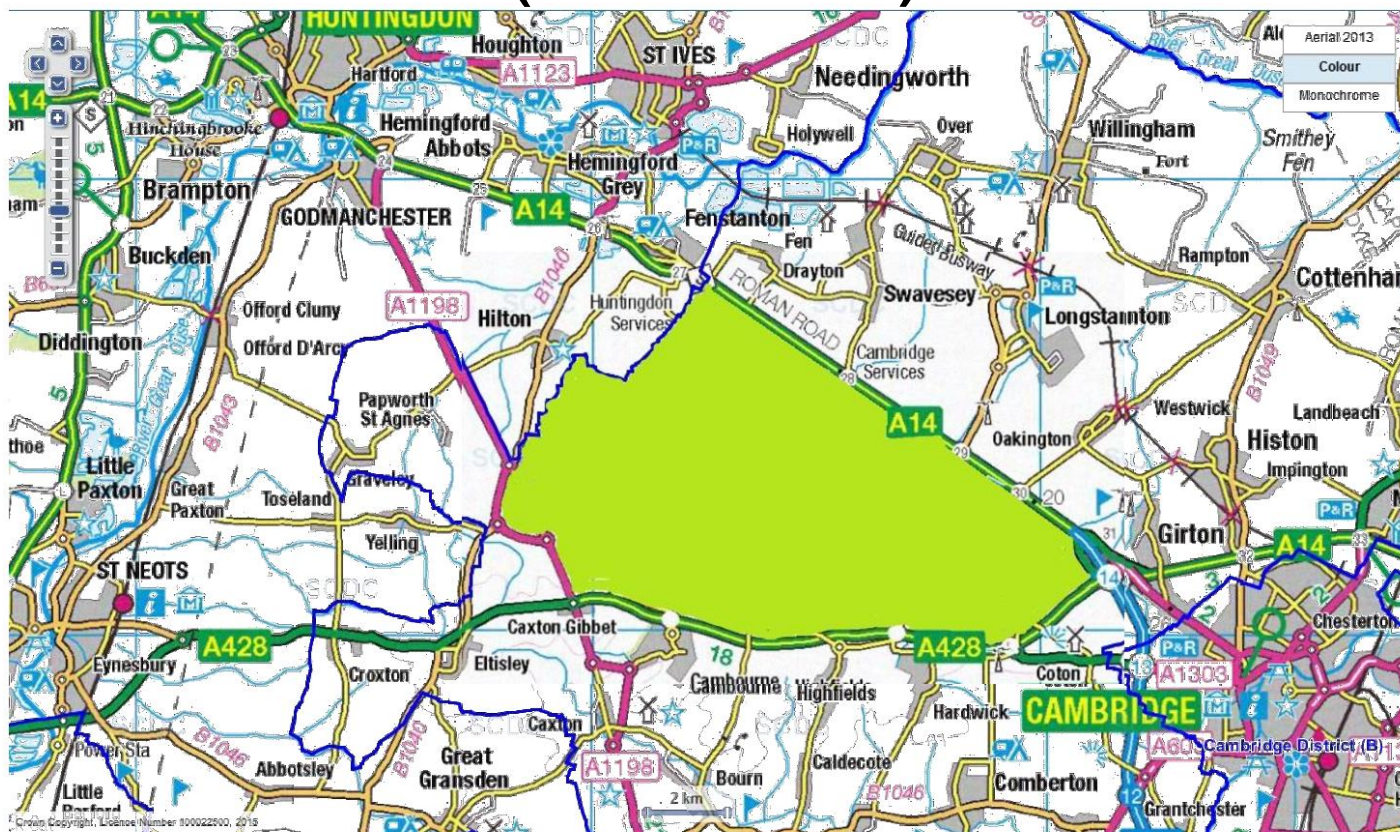
As I understand it, one option that is being explored for Dry Drayton and the surrounding area is the possibility of creating a West Cambridge Green Wedge in the manner of the Quarter to Six Quadrant (QTSQ) that covers Grantchester and the surrounding villages up to and including Madingley.

The QTSQ proposal was developed in much the same way as a Parish Plan:

- in early 2012, the Parish Councils of Barton, Coton, Grantchester and Madingley produced their draft “vision” for the area
- this was put out to extensive public consultation in March & April
- it was updated in the light of comments received
- in May 2012 it was presented to South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council in May 2012
- SCDC confirmed that it now forms a Material Planning Consideration where relevant.



West Cambridge Green Wedge (WCGW)





WCGW

Essentially, QTSQ is a marketing project aimed at promoting the use and conservation of green belt land to the southwest of Cambridge. It hopes to encourage people to visit the area and use its facilities and businesses.

If Dry Drayton and surrounding parishes envision a similar promotional project for the northwest, QTSQ is an excellent example to follow.

Although SCDC has stated that QTSQ will constitute a Material Planning Consideration where relevant, this does not prohibit any future development.

In terms of projects that would give Dry Drayton and partner villages a strong legal position to influence potential future development, you might want to consider the pros/cons of undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan. Again, these do not allow for the prevention of future development, but they do allow for designated 'Neighbourhood Areas' to have greater input as to where development might occur and what it should look like.



Neighbourhood Plans

Neighbourhood Plans are different from Parish Plans. While PPs outline a community vision based on projects, NPs are land-use planning documents.

Unlike a Parish Plan, once agreed the Neighbourhood Plan has the same legal status as the Local Plan so, decisions on planning applications must take the Neighbourhood Plan into consideration.

Communities can put in place planning policies that will help deliver that vision or grant planning permission for the development they want to see.

Resolving to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan is a considerable commitment, though one which I and other SCDC staff can guide you through.



Neighbourhood Plans

As your Locality Officer, I can offer a range of advice and guidance as part of the Neighbourhood Planning process:

- Locality Development Officers support the work of **Senior Planning Policy Officer** Alison Talkington and her team.
- Alison's role covers the **legislative** parts of the NP process
- Locality DOs fulfil more of a community engagement and liaising role
 - Giving advice and direction on consultation
 - Assisting steering group in developing questionnaire
 - Proof-reading and advising on questionnaire/other docs
 - Promoting questionnaire and consultation to local community
 - A visible presence at community engagement events – answering public queries where required

Although the Council has a duty to support and assist parishes producing a Neighbourhood Plan, we must also remain unbiased. The plan must be based on community consultation and must be passed by referendum.

Should you wish to explore the potential of NPs, AT + I can give a full presentation at a future date



Working for Local Communities

The Sustainable Communities and Partnerships Team coordinate a number of services that recognise and benefit local communities.

A comprehensive list of these initiatives can be found on the SCDC webpages, but it is worthwhile to outline a few of them here...



SPEP

SPEP was established in 2009 in order to help parishes to explore carbon-reduction and energy-saving strategies.

The programme was reviewed in 2015 with a view to better meet the needs and interests of local communities in South Cambridgeshire.

Following extensive public consultation, it seems that “sustainability” means more to people than just energy saving.

We are currently exploring how we can best support parishes and local groups to become more sustainable. If you have an idea for a project, please get in touch via spep@scamb.gov.uk or join the Facebook group at

www.facebook.com/goups/SPEPSouthCambs





Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership

As a starter-for-ten the District Council have a couple of projects that they can assist parish or community groups to run.

This includes providing:

- Equipment
- Advertising materials
- Guidance and support

Projects open and available to parishes to run at the moment include:

- Thermal Imaging Camera – Survey your home and neighbourhood and received detailed, tailored advice on how to prevent heat loss.
- Energy Saving Lightbulb Library – Trial a wide range of lightbulbs (cfl and led) to discover the right one for any location.





Community Chest Grants

- The total amount of funding made available in the Community Chest for 2015/16 was a staggering £84, 786!
- Grants are awarded on a first-come first-served basis
- Parishes and Community groups can apply for grants of up to £1500
- Each parish is eligible for THREE awards or up to a value of £4500 per year

What can be funded?

- Improvements to community facilities (village halls/pavilions/play areas)
- Repairs to historic buildings/monuments/memorials
- Tree and Hedge planting schemes
- Community Rights of Way (Parish Paths scheme)
- Equipment/ capital purchases
- Materials





Community Chest Grants

What cannot be funded

- Ongoing revenue costs or overheads (eg. salaries, rent, advertising)
- Projects that replace funding by other public sector bodies (eg. youth services, highways)
- Costs associated with preparing/printing Parish Plans
- Cost associated with Neighbourhood Watch schemes
- Costs associated with Community Speedwatch schemes or other traffic initiatives
- Items that would only benefit individuals and not the group (eg. sports kits)
- Projects that have been awarded Community Chest funding previously in the same financial year

Applications for 2016/17 grants will reopen in April



Community Awards

The Community Awards are the Council's way of saying a massive 'Thank You' to the amazing individuals, groups, and businesses that make South Cambridgeshire one of the best places to live and work in the country.

2016 will see the sixth annual Community Awards, and we expect them to be bigger and better than ever! Having secured sponsorship for next year's awards, we have been able to increase the number of categories from five to six, in order to give the best possible snapshot of local business and community activity.

Nominations are now closed for 2016, but it's never too soon to think about who in your community might be a worthy winner next year!





Thank You!

Any questions...