

Draft until signed
Minutes of Dry Drayton Parish Council (DDPC) Meeting
Friday 12th November (rescheduled from Tuesday 9th November 2021) at 7.30pm, at
Dry Drayton Village Hall, High Street

Present: Cllr S Aldersley (SCA) (Chairman), Cllr S Lander (SL) (Vice-Chair), Cllr T Houlihane (TSH) (Councillor), Cllr S Vale (SV) (Councillor), Cllr E Pyle (EP) (Councillor), Cllr K Cullen (KC) (Councillor)

Attending: S Etherington-Meech (SEM) (Clerk/RFO), Cllr C Garvie (CG) (District Councillor), Cllr T Bygott (TB) (District Councillor), 2 members of the public

1. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies accepted from Cllr E Wickham (absent due to another commitment). Cllr E Murphy (County Councillor) sent her apologies.

2. To Accept Parish Councillors Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda

No declarations of interest were declared.

3. To Agree to hold a Public Forum

A member of the public raised the following in relation to the Swifts Close development:

- There has been ongoing maintenance of the site by the developers since October 2021 and although 7 units have been sold subject to contract all 10 units still remain unoccupied.
- Charlotte Peet from Greater Cambridge Planning (GCP) has sent an email that appears to acknowledge that the developer has or cannot make conditions that have been applied to the development. A non-material amendment and Section 73 application to request approval for variations to the conditions are likely to be submitted.
- The observed as build dimensions for all units appear to be marginally larger than in a previous application which was refused because it failed to make the GIA threshold. The resident stated that they were therefore surprised that Charlotte Peet appears to be satisfied with the GIA following some sort of survey carried out.
- The resident and TB have been to the site to measure the properties and it was questioned as to why planning enforcement have not visited the site to do the same and check dimensions.
- TB stated that his view is that this is not a Non-Material Amendment but must be a material amendment as it takes across the threshold that's in the local plan. TB believes the correct remedy and only sensible outcome is to either provide some of these houses as affordable housing, provide affordable housing elsewhere in the parish or grant money towards affordable housing. One option open to the parish is to make a judicial review, however, this can be very expensive and a similar process to going through court.
- The resident requested questions were answered by the Planning Department. Firstly, that someone comes out from the Planning Department to measure the houses. Secondly, to see what paperwork was put forward by the developer to substantiate Charlotte Peet's view that she is now satisfied. The resident believes that an opportunity to provide four affordable housing homes at the site has been missed by SCDC.
- SL highlighted an action point from the previous parish council meeting '*It was requested by SL that CG obtains an update from Planning and escalates these issues higher. CG advised she has tried to ring GCP on numerous occasions and it always goes to answerphone. EM advised that she would be happy to join in the escalation process and assist CG in producing a joint letter (taken from minutes of 12th October 2021)*'. CG advised that apparently Lorraine Casey (Charlotte Peet's Manager) has been discussing this matter with Charlotte Peet. SL advised CG that there is the larger question of disrespect to DDPC and that this matter needs to go beyond case manager level to a more senior level.
- DDPC wrote to senior members of Planning back in 2019 and have still not received a response which is critical to the current situation. SCA requested that CG raises the point with senior members of Planning as to the general manner that DDPC have been treated by Planning and that ignoring letters is unacceptable. It was highlighted that in May 2020, DDPC

were assured by Cllr DeLacey (Former District Councillor) of compliance of conditions, however, no measures were carried out. SL suggested making representation to the enforcement department, SCA advised that he was under the impression when he met with Charlotte Peet that she would do that, but it has not happened. KC believes that conditions have not been met since the day the site was cleared. **ACTION** – SCA & SL to draft a letter to Planning and also enforcement to push this issue forward.

- 4. To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 12th October 2021**
RESOLVED ^(Prop SCA, 2nd SL, unanimous) that the minutes of the meeting be approved and signed by the chairman as a true and accurate record.
- 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes, Report of any actions and Resolutions from last meeting – See Appendix 1**
- 6. Chairman’s Report**
SCA advised this item is not required for future meetings.
- 7. To Accept a Report from County and District Councillors**
Cllr Garvie for report see Appendix 3
Cllr Bygott for report see Appendix 4
Cllr Murphy for report see Appendix 5 (although not in attendance report still provided)
- 8. To Discuss Planning Matters**
 - a. Applications received for consideration**
 - i. 21/02173/FUL - Land to The North-East Of Childerley Farm Childerley Estate Childerley - Installation of a renewable energy led generating station comprising of ground-mounted solar arrays, associated electricity generation infrastructure and other ancillary infrastructure comprising of storage containers, access tracks, fencing, gates and CCTV together with the creation of a woodland, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements – extension for deadline for comments 10th November (further extension requested on 8th November 2021)**
RESOLVED ^(Prop SL, 2nd TSH, unanimous) for no comment to be made on this application.
 - ii. S/3939/18/CONDA - Land at Church Farm Buildings Park Street - Submission of details required by condition 2 (Part (d) (Contamination) of prior approval S/3939/18/PA – For information only**
 - iii. 21/04689/CL2PD - Orchard Barn House Park Lane - Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for a proposed single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory – For information only – Lawful Use Certificate (S192)**
 - b. Decisions received from South Cambs District Council**
 - i. 21/03441/OUT - Land Lying to The North Of 3 Old Rectory Drive -Outline planning for the erection of 1 No. dwelling house with all matters reserved - withdrawn**
- 9. Matters for discussion/correspondence received**
 - 9.1 To discuss Social Media training session attended and actions required ^(SCA)**
SCA advised that he attended the training session which was interesting and has circulated documents received to councillors for their information. SCA did highlight one point, that it can be very difficult to identify as an individual or councillor when using social media and there must be no blurring.
 - 9.2 To discuss planting locations and a maintenance rota for the Six Free Trees (volunteer required for planting)**
RESOLVED ^(Prop SL, 2nd KC, unanimous) for KC to plant the trees on Butcher’s Lane as soon as they are delivered in December 2021.
 - 9.3 To discuss ownership of the noticeboard outside Dry Drayton Primary School**
Ownership of the noticeboard still remains unknown; SEM checked the asset register, and it is not listed as being owned by DDPC.
 - 9.4 To discuss grass cutting contract and obtaining tenders for 2022**
ACTION – SL to liaise with previous councillors to obtain the grass cutting maps in order to move this item forward.
 - 9.5 To discuss email received from Mr R Stamford re: loss of trees on the roundabout and future planting**

- ACTION – SCA to discuss and investigate this item with Cllr E Murphy
- 9.6 To discuss marking of the Queens Platinum Jubilee further to email from school**
SL advised that the S&VA met last night and discussed this item and have decided to do something for the children of the village. It was therefore suggested that DDPC could consider providing a commemorative bench for the parish. **ACTION** - SL is to investigate costs and obtain quotations.
- 9.7 For info - Northwest and West Cambridge Community Forum – circulated to residents – Weds 17th November 6.00-7.30pm virtually**
- 9.8 For info – email received from Dry Drayton Primary School re: wigwags not working**
- 10. Consultations**
- 10.1 Greater Cambridge Local Plan – Consultation – deadline 13th December 2021. Completion of First Proposals Response Form**
RESOLVED ^(Prop SL, 2nd SCA, unanimous) that the formulated responses that had been circulated by TSH and SV are to be combined and submitted by the clerk.
- 10.2 Gamlingay Neighbourhood Plan – deadline 23rd November 2021**
TSH advised that he had reviewed this plan, and nothing is relevant to Dry Drayton. All councillors agreed no comment is to be made.
- 10.3 ‘Vision for Route Strategies – Planning for the future of our roads’ – deadline 30th November**
Unanimous decision for no comment to be made for this consultation.
- 10.4 2022/23 precept consultation – deadline 22nd November 2021**
Unanimous decision for no comment to be made for this consultation.
- 10.5 Local Transport & Connectivity Plan – deadline 28th November 2021**
ACTION - It was agreed for SCA to formulate a response on behalf of DDPC for this plan.
- 11. Finance and Policy**
- a) To accept account review to date and bank reconciliation**
Bank reconciliation (see Appendix 2) and finance spreadsheet were circulated to all councillors before the meeting, RESOLVED ^(Prop SL, 2nd SCA, unanimous) to accept and approve the accounts and bank reconciliation.
- b) To advise of payments received – No payments received**
- c) Direct debits and standing orders paid between 1st October 2021 and 31st October 2021**
- i. **Salary/Pensions/Overtime/Expenses (Period 6) - £679.18** ^(LGA, 1972, s.112)
 - ii. **Drax Energy Solutions – Streetlighting Energy for 01/09/21 to 30/09/21 - £4.15**
^(Parish Councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301)
- d) Online payments made between 1st October 2021 – 31st October 2021**
- i. **DDVH – Hall Hire for 9th November 2021 - £14.00** ^(Local Government Act 1972, s.133)
 - ii. **Arthur J. Gallagher – Annual Insurance Premium - £563.55** ^{(LGA 2000, s.101 & Local Authorities (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order 2004)}
 - iii. **Brookfield Groundcare – Cut 7 of 10 - £360.00** ^(Public Health Act 1875, s.164)
 - iv. **CAPALC – Councillor Training (Cllr Vale) - £75.00** ^(LGA 1972, s.175)
- e) Payments to hand**
- i. **Brookfield Groundcare – Cut 8 of 10 - £360.00 - RESOLVED** ^(Prop SCA, 2nd SL, unanimous) for payment to be made, to be approved online. ^(Public Health Act 1875, s.164)
 - ii. **CAPALC – Social Media Training for Cllr Aldersley (Inv No 2876) - £45.00 - RESOLVED** ^(Prop SCA, 2nd SL, unanimous) for payment to be made, to be approved online. ^(LGA 1972, s.175)
 - iii. **CAPALC – Allotment Training for Cllr Aldersley & Clerk (Inv No 2938) – £120.00 - RESOLVED** ^(Prop SCA, 2nd SL, unanimous) for payment to be made, to be approved online ^(LGA 1972, s.175 & s.112)
 - iv. **CAPALC – Chairmanship Training for Cllr Aldersley (Inv No 2928) - £50.00 - RESOLVED** ^(Prop SCA, 2nd SL, unanimous) for payment to be made, to be approved online ^(LGA 1972, s.175)

- f) **To discuss and consider payment of clerks' re-registration fee for her CILCA studies of £287.00**
RESOLVED (Prop SL, 2nd SCA, unanimous) for payment of £287.00 to be paid to SLCC for clerk's re-registration for her CILCA studies.
- g) **To consider and complete bursary application for CAPALC bursary scheme for clerk's re-registration fee or allotment training sessions**
RESOLVED (Prop EP, 2nd TSH, unanimous) for application to be made for the bursary scheme for 50% of clerk's re-registration fee for CILCA (£143.50 to be applied for).
- h) **To consider draft budget and precept for 2022/23 (deadline for precept requirement submission 24th January 2021)**
The draft budget was formulated by SCA and SEM and circulated to all councillors for review prior to the meeting. Councillors are to review the budget further and it is to be finalised at the next parish council meeting on 11th January 2022.
- i) **Annual review of parish council policies – Complaints Procedure/Data Audit Report/Press & Media Policy/Publication Scheme 2019/Social Media Policy**
RESOLVED (Prop SCA, 2nd SL, unanimous) for approval of the Complaints Procedure/Data Audit Report/Press & Media Policy/Publication Scheme 2019. However, it was agreed for the Social Media Policy to be reviewed by SCA before it is resolved to approve the policy.
- j) **To discuss reviewing laws, procedures, processes, training, insurance, and a committee in relation to the allotments** (SCA/SEM)
SCA deferred this item to the January meeting as SCA and SEM attend their final allotment training session on Monday 15th November 2021.
- k) **To discuss email from Scribe accounts in relation to accounts packages**
SEM circulated information on Scribe accounts to councillors prior to the meeting and it was agreed that the current accounting spreadsheet that the clerk uses is sufficient, and it is believed that there is no need for DDPC to currently use an accounts package.
- l) **To discuss membership to the National Allotment Society (NAS) – £55 plus VAT - 10% discount offer at present**
RESOLVED (Prop SCA, 2nd KC, unanimous) for DDPC to apply to become a member of NAS and pay the subscription fee of £55 plus VAT minus a 10% discount.
- m) **For info - VAT reclaim for 2020/21 for £734.87 submitted by post**
SEM advised that these monies have now been received directly into the bank.

12. To accept notices and matter for the next agenda

- To investigate works being carried out at 50 & 52 High Street

13. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 7.30pm at Dry Drayton Village Hall

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw, Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

There were no items to discuss that required exclusion of the public and press

Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

Action Report/Ongoing Issues

5.1	Investigation into removal of gate in disrepair on way to A14 – SCA advised to remove this item	EM
5.2	Update on response from Charlotte Peet following meeting at Swifts Close re: complaints for planning and procedures – ACTION – SCA & SL to draft a letter to Charlotte Peet & Enforcement requesting a satisfactory response	SCA
5.3	Update on the Pegasus consultation for a new development- no update	DDPC
5.4	Village Hall Management Committee Meeting Update – meeting is next week	EP
5.5	To chase response to road surface & repairs for Pettitts Close – ongoing/no update	EM
5.6	Update on 2022/23 LHI application – SCA advised that the application has been submitted	SCA
5.7	Update on follow up with Highways further to the meeting to discuss transport issues- ongoing issue. SCA advised of liaison with speed watch and concerns raised of the impact for Dry Drayton from a weight restriction application submitted by Madingley Parish Council – ACTION – Zoom meeting to discuss this matter to be arranged with SCA, members of the speed watch team and Cllr E Murphy	EM
5.8	Detailed info on Section 106 projects from DDVH & Townlands Trust – EP to discuss with DDVH at their meeting next week and SCA to chase the Townlands Trust	SCA/SEM
5.9	Update on removal of dead oak tree and SCDC survey of trees – CG to chase up and provide SCA with contact details	CG
5.10	Update on dangerous footpath between Hill View & Trinity Stables - Ongoing	EM
5.11	Update on registration of MVAS locations, lamppost attachment applications, purchase of mounting equipment (Chris Turner at Speed watch). Update on quotation and application for erection of poles (SEM/James Broder). - Ongoing	SCA/SEM
5.12	Councillor photos and bios for website – Cllrs to send information to clerk before January	DDPC

Appendix 2

DRY DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL
October 2021 Bank Reconciliation

	£
Lloyds current account on 30 th September 2021	£34,039.20
<u>Less</u> payments presented from 1 st October 2021 to 31 st October 2021 <i>4 online payments, 2 direct debits and 2 standing orders</i>	£1,695.88
<u>Plus,</u> receipts presented from 1 st October 2021 to 31 st October 2021 <i>No receipts</i>	£0.00
Closing bank account on 31 st October 2021	£32,343.32
<u>Less outstanding payments not yet subtracted</u>	£0.00
Balance carried forward at 31st October 2021	£ 32,343.32

Notes:

Sarah Etherington-Meech

RFO

4th November 2021

Appendix 3

Dry Drayton District Councillor Report November 2021

Councillor Corinne Garvie
Cllr.garvie@scams.gov.uk
07780 932267

General

Please contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc

1. Covid

The Covid situation in Cambridgeshire is currently very concerning. Rates are now approaching the highest levels that we saw in the January peak. They are continuing to rise quite sharply in parts of the county driven largely by transmission in the school aged population and this is causing serious disruption in schools as well as putting vulnerable children and parents at risk. Rates are now also starting to rise in the parental age ranges as well as in the over 60s and we are once again seeing outbreaks in care homes.

This is particularly concerning when our vaccination rates in Cambridge remain lower than the rest of the country.

Just to remind you, people can book online at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19 or by phoning 119. They can also get their vaccine from one of the many walk-in centres and pop-up clinics in the area - find out where by visiting: www.thevaccinators.co.uk.

A lot of the Covid advice remains the same – **getting double vaccinated and accepting the booster, mask wearing, ventilation, social distancing, washing hands**. The rates are so high that Addenbrookes is critically busy and the Government has said that Cambridgeshire is an Enhanced Response Area.

2. Climate Change and the Council

We have put #ClimateChange at the heart of this new Local Plan. We are ahead of government on this issue and even ahead of #COP26. We are #GreeningSouthCambridgeshire. The Local plan has been written to prevent indiscriminate development. The Council would like your comments on the plans.

2.a Local Plan First Proposals. This is the second consultation.

From 2020 to 2041, 58,500 jobs and 44,400 homes, are aimed to be delivered across the area. 3720 houses are already planned and will meet the majority of the Councils' objectively assessed needs.

There are 19 new sites that have been proposed across the Greater Cambridge area for housing and business space, alongside the sites already adopted in the 2018 Local Plans.

The Council wants Greater Cambridge to be a place where a big decrease in our climate impacts comes with a big increase in the quality of everyday life for all our communities.

New development must minimise carbon emissions and reliance on the private car; create thriving neighbourhoods with the variety of jobs and homes we need; increase nature, wildlife and green spaces; and safeguard our unique heritage and landscapes.

All new buildings to be net zero carbon (only using as much energy as it generates) but to find out more about the climate change mitigations and the greening initiatives contact the addresses below.

Local Plan homepage - www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan

which is also where the event listings are for in-person and online events · Interactive map is at <https://bit.ly/GCLP-InteractiveMap>

- Full version Digital plan – <https://bit.ly/GCP-DigitalPlan>
- Document library - <https://bit.ly/GCLP-DocumentLibrary>
- Quick questionnaire - <https://bit.ly/GCLP-QuickQuestionnaire>
- All Events - <https://bit.ly/GCLP-Events>

The Local plan depends on there being enough water to supply the new developments. The Government with the water companies need to come up with a plan to supply water.

The water treatment works are moving to a green field site. This is a decision by the water companies and the Government and so it does not feature in the Local Plan. This has been controversial but at its present site, residents nearby object to the smell and the new works will be larger and more up to date with no sewage entering the waterways.

2.b Electric bin lorries

South Cambs is moving forward with its commitment to be Zero Carbon with the purchase of 2 more electric bin lorries. These vehicles are expensive but the savings that are made on fuel together with the environmental benefits means that they pay for themselves in a relatively short time. For longer journeys, biomass lorries will be used.

2.c Council Buildings have been retro-fitted with heat pumps and insulation, to reduce energy use by 90%

This work is almost complete. The Depot in Waterbeach runs off solar energy.

Street lights are being fitted with LED lights to reduce the amount of energy used

2.d Transport Consultation

The Greater Cambridge Partnership has published its latest proposals on the future of transport for the area. It has gathered the wishes of people from focus groups and previous consultations. Amongst the proposals is a doubling of public transport with the revision of the bus network which has not changed in 30 years. To find out more contact www.greatercambridge.org.uk/making-connections-2021. It needs you to give them feedback on the proposals.

2.e Zero Carbon Communities – Green Connect networking event

Our Zero Carbon Communities team is launching a series of monthly networking events - Zero Carbon Communities Green Connect - to bring South Cambridgeshire's residents and community groups together to discuss a different theme each month. To tie in with COP26, the theme of the first event is COP26: what it means for South Cambridgeshire. The first event takes place on 9 November from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Further information about the events taking place over COP26 is available on our COP26 webpage at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/nature-and-climate-change/cop26/>

3. "On Your Doorstep" - Promoting Local Businesses

South Cambridgeshire District Council have launched a 'On your Doorstep' social media campaign to help showcase local shops, hospitality, businesses, attractions and outdoor spaces- providing residents with inspiration for different activities and treats that can also help to support the local economy. We would appreciate Parish Councils sharing this campaign on their own social media platforms to help promote our wonderful district.

Follow SCDC social media accounts on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to find out what's on in our local high streets and green spaces throughout the autumn, and in the run up to Christmas. Or search our hashtag #OnYourDoorstepSCDC. For more information, please visit <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/reopening-the-high-street/on-your-doorstep/>

4. Platinum Jubilee celebrations – organising a street party

Earlier this month, the government published guidance including tips, advice and support on organising a street party. Councils are encouraged to share the guidance with local residents who may be planning to hold a small, private street party to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in 2022. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has recently launched the government's new Platinum Jubilee website, including an interactive map which will display all the events and activities that will be taking place right across the UK. The map is open for anyone to add their events and everyone is encouraged to upload any events and activities they may be planning to mark the Jubilee.

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party>

5. **Cambourne Community Food Project**

HopeCIC (Community Interest Company) is an organisation offering support to those in need, HopeCIC is now opening a new weekly foodbank in Cambourne Supported by SCDC and Cambourne Parish Council.

The foodbank will be open from 11am – 2pm every Wednesday at the Hub in Cambourne.

Any South Cambridgeshire resident is welcome to pick up food. Donations are optional, and further support and signposting will be available to help with things like a finance. The scheme will run for a trial period of 4 months, we encourage residents in the area to use the service if they are in need

6. CHRISTMAS

I know it is early to be thinking about Christmas but I just wanted to give you advance notice that South Cambs will be running a Christmas Market in Cambourne High Street on Sunday 5th December from 12-6pm

Corinne Garvie

District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott

12th November 2021

Hot Tub Superstore

Observant motorists will have noticed that signs marked "Hot Tub Superstore" have appeared on the access roads to the A14 at the Swavesey, Bar Hill and Dry Drayton junctions. These have been left unchallenged for several months; I first noticed them in early June. The signs are coloured brown in the same format as signs for national parks and tourist attractions, with a pictogram of a couple relaxing in their hot tub, and are of a similar quality and design to official signs.

The Hot Tub Superstore in question is located next to Herbie's Diner on the A1307 near the Swavesey junction. There is some local sympathy for these businesses, as they have suffered a loss of passing trade during the A14 works and then during coronavirus. However, a distinction has to be made between business advertisements and road signs, which are essential for highway safety. If every business that has struggled during coronavirus put up unauthorised advertising signs, our roads would be so festooned with signs that we couldn't see where we were going.

Cambridgeshire County Council, which is responsible for maintaining road signs and owns the poles to which these signs are attached, has ignored my correspondence on the subject. It is a great shame that local government in our area, once the envy of the country, seems to have fallen into a sad state of decline.

District Council unable to provide audited accounts

Councillors were called in for an Extraordinary Meeting on Monday 18th October to discuss problems with preparing South Cambridgeshire District Council's audited accounts. The Council has been unable to provide audited accounts for the 2018/19 year within the required time. It is unable to start the audit on the 2019/20 or 2020/21 accounts and is building up a long backlog of unaudited accounts.

The auditor, Ernst and Young, has issued a report saying that they are considering "issuing recommendations to Council under Section 24, Schedule 7 of the Local Accountability and Audit Act 2014". This would put the Council into something analogous to "special measures".

Since the ruling group on the council started a "business transformation" project following their election win in 2018 there has been a considerable amount of churn in senior staff, including numerous interim staff passing through the accounting department. The Lead Member for Finance was unable to say at the meeting how many interim staff there had been, and has promised to find out. One of the contributing factors in the auditing problems was the introduction of a new accounting system part way through the accounting year, which turns out to have been quite a foolish decision.

Hotel Felix update

The planning application to demolish the Hotel Felix tinyurl.com/vshotelfelix, one of Girton's most historic and best loved heritage buildings was submitted in February and validated on March 1st. I wrote to request that the application be called in to the Planning Committee and submitted my planning reasons for preserving the building on May 2nd. Since then I have had no reply to any of my correspondence. It appears that the matter has been put into the "too hard basket" and just left.

Meanwhile the applicant, owned by a venture capital firm, has paid an application fee of £25,067 and been left with a luxury hotel with a one-time £8.5M valuation left empty and gathering cobwebs. So far they have been very patient, but it is obvious that this situation can't go on forever. An applicant left waiting for more than eight weeks can appeal to the Secretary of State for non-determination.

Over the last few months there has been a steady increase in the number of people contacting me to say that they have lodged a planning application but have heard nothing in the following weeks and months and have been unable to get any kind of update on what is happening.

Under Section 62B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Secretary of State has the power to decide that South Cambridgeshire District Council is not adequately performing its function of determining planning applications and take over its planning powers, with most decisions made by planning inspectors in other parts of the country.

Local Plan consultation to start in November

Another consultation will start for the new Local Plan for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire covering the period up to 2041. Comments can be made by visiting www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan.

The two councils have decided to build more than the Government has asked them to. They propose building 48,840 new flats and houses across 'Greater Cambridge' between 2020 and 2041, around 12,000 more dwellings than the Government requires. Overdevelopment and the urbanisation of the countryside have become major issues in our area.

Since I raised the issue last month about whether the district has enough water to supply to all these new houses, the press release to announce the new consultation has been released containing the sentence: "However, the strategy is entirely dependent on water supply, and the number of new homes would need to be reduced without urgent action on new sources of water supply, such as new reservoirs, by the water industry and central government." There is only so much water that can be abstracted from underground aquifers before major problems result, such as the recent cracking reported in Longstanton All Saints Church after the drying up of Kingfisher Pond in Northstowe.

Cllr Tom Bygott
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Appendix 5

County Council report to Dry Drayton Parish Council

November 2021

Recent decisions made by the County Council

- 20mph rethink – the Highways Committee has agreed to revisit the Council’s policy and will bring forward more detailed policy proposals in their December Committee meeting. The intention is to make it easier to reduce speed, including 20mph. This has potential to support Dry Drayton’s aspirations to manage speed reduction in a more holistic way.
- Fund for disadvantaged children – the Full Council passed a motion to create a fund to support children of families who have been particularly affected by the recent Budget which made changes to Universal Credit which would see a real reduction in income for the poorest families. The fund will help with access to education and sport and other ways to enhance their life chances
- The election results in May 2021 returned many new non-Conservative members – Lib Dems, Labour and Independents – who have formed an administration, following the conclusion of a formal agreement.
- Enhanced Response Area – the County Council has been successful in applying for ERA status, which provides additional funding for the area to help deliver more vaccinations and boosters. And encourage local employers to adopt measures such as mask-wearing to help tackle the high levels of infection.

Matters of local concern

Trees are dying – we need action to save them

Many residents have noticed the poor state of trees which were planted in numbers adjacent to the A14. Newly-planted trees are failing to grow or have died and so many of the plastic tubes are just filled with weeds. It is not clear that replacements will have a better fate, and it is getting late for replanting this year.

National Highways (formerly Highways England) have an obligation to replant for a period of 5 years. They say they are addressing the backlog of dead saplings and replanting them, but they are moving far too slowly. Right now they’re trying to work out how many have died, and making a list of how many to replant.

It could be National Highways is just inefficient, or they could be wasting time until the obligation to replant times out. They need to grip of the problem and address the fundamental issues so tree planting happens now, and can be successful.

I am working with colleagues who are similarly concerned – Cllr Ros Hathorn (Histon and Impington) and Cllr Firouz Thompson (Longstanton, Northstowe & Over). The climate emergency means we must have the powers to hold Government bodies like National Highways to account and make sure all trees planted are healthy and thrive for future generations. We are calling upon National Highways to publish their data on progress with tree planting and explain when replanting will happen and how they will ensure these saplings will thrive.



Cllrs Murphy, Hathorn and Thompson

Late breaking news...

Cllr Michael Atkins (Hardwick Division) has been notified that the A428 exit slip road to Hardwick will be closed overnight **TONIGHT 12 November 2021** for urgent road works and potentially for 5 days. Neither of us have had notice of this but please see attached the official notice. We are trying to find out more information and will share it when we know more.

Contact details:

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