

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

MAY 2022

CLLR SARAH CHEUNG JOHNSON, CLLR ALEX MALYON – DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

We are extremely pleased and honoured to have been recently re-elected as District Councillors for Longstanton, Oakington and Westwick and Northstowe. The Liberal Democrats retained overall control of South Cambridgeshire District Council, increasing our number of councillors to thirty-seven out of forty-five.

The full results were:

Sarah Cheung Johnson (LibDem) – 1326

Alex Malyon (LibDem) – 1183

Harry Challands (Conservative) – 425

Khadijeh Zargar (Conservative) – 340

Clare Wilson (Labour) - 252

It has been a privilege to serve these communities for the last four years and we are delighted to have another four years to continue with our work as councillors. Our priorities for the next four years include fighting for action to address the issues caused by dewatering in Longstanton, working with Oakington to try and secure flood mitigation for the village and pushing for faster delivery of community facilities in Northstowe that will be of benefit for the whole local community. We will of course continue to work very closely with our County Councillor Firouz Thompson on these and other local issues.

A full set of the District results can be found here: <https://www.scams.gov.uk/our-district-election-results-2022/>

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

At the time of writing, 435 visas for Ukrainians have been issued for South Cambridgeshire as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme. This is the highest number for any District Council area, and the seventh highest figure for any area in England which really demonstrates the generosity and openness of our communities in South Cambs. A huge thank you to all those locally who have opened their homes to Ukrainians guests.

SCDC has mobilised to provide support for this scheme, including arranging payments for guests and hosts, DBS checks and in-person visits to confirm properties are suitable, and guests are settling in well. Our business team has been working with the local Job Centre Plus to coordinate offers of employment for Ukrainians looking for work.

There are further details of the support that is available for both hosts and guests on the council website <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/support-for-ukraine/>

WILD MINDS PROGRAMME

Registrations are now open for South Cambs Wild Minds programme. This eight-week programme for 12–17-year-olds is designed to support mental wellbeing through small group, nature-based activities working with support from a Clinical Psychologist. The sessions are for young people experiencing mild to moderate mental ill health - such as anxiety, low mood, or low confidence.

Courses are starting on 7, 8 and 12 June. More information can be found via <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/health-and-wellbeing/wild-minds>

URBAN SPLASH

You may have seen the news that the consortium delivering the Inholm development in the first parcel of Northstowe Phase 2 (the area closest to Rampton Drift), Urban Splash, has gone into administration. At the time of writing neither we as councillors nor the SCDC have any further details on what will happen next with this part of the Northstowe development. We have been contacted by concerned residents and will be holding a meeting with those already living in Urban Splash homes. We will ensure the wider community is updated as well as asking for this to be on the agenda at the next Northstowe Forum.

The next Northstowe Forum is being held on 13th July. We would encourage Longstanton residents to attend these forums as the issues discussed are often of interest to Longstanton or impact the village. More information, including notes from previous meeting can be found via <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-forums/northstowe-community-forum/>

NORTHSTOWE MOTION AT FULL COUNCIL

We proposed the following motion at March's Full Council at South Cambs District Council and it was approved:

Council notes that in May this year we will celebrate the 5th anniversary of the first residents moving into Northstowe. This new community will ultimately grow to be the largest new town in the UK in decades. Northstowe is an exemplar of high standards in community building and sustainability, and this council should be proud of the role it has played in bringing this complex development forward. Council recognizes the immense, hands-on effort and oversight that has been required to guide Northstowe to this point and drive community development which has seen Northstowe already grow into a strong and active community. This council is now taking a direct role in bringing forward vital community buildings, the Phase 1 enterprise zone, and Civic Hub, which will house the town's health centre. We are grateful to the many officers for their continuing hard work and dedication to delivering these projects and most especially our community development officers who have continued to represent the Council positively within the community throughout lockdown and COVID restrictions.

Council further notes that Northstowe is at a crucial stage, with permission recently granted for phases 3A and B, work underway on Phase 2 and more residents continuing to join the community in phase 1. While we celebrate reaching this point, there is still a long way to go on the journey for this new community in the heart of South Cambridgeshire. Council therefore reaffirms its commitment to the success of Northstowe and its growing community, and further commits to continue to explore, in consultation with residents and the Town Council, ways in which facilities so vital to this community can be delivered most effectively.

Recognizing the essential nature of these facilities, this Council commits to investigate contingencies for provision of GP services, community space, and a convenience store.

The full text of the minutes for this portion of the meeting can be found here:

<https://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=92002>

FORMATION OF NORTHSTOWE MANAGEMENT GROUP

Alex and Sarah have long been demanding for an oversight group to oversee all aspects of Northstowe rather than it be handled in different areas at the Council. We are pleased that a newly formed Northstowe Management Group will be convened which Alex and Sarah will sit on and the senior responsible officer will be Anne Ainsworth, the Council's COO. We are hoping with such senior representation and a focus we can see some real progress on items we have all found frustrating.

DISTRICT WIDE NEWS

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

One of the roles of the District Council is to support community development. One way we are now doing this is through offering tailored advice to residents and community groups who want to set up new initiatives in their community. The guidance can include information about different grants that a particular project might be eligible for, the most appropriate toolkits to use, and introductions to community contacts who have been successful with similar projects locally.

If you are thinking about setting up a new group, encouraging others to take an interest in issues that matter to you, or addressing a local concern but aren't sure where to start, you can complete an online form here <https://www.scambsgov.uk/community-action>

GREEN TO OUR CORE – ZERO CARBON COMMUNITIES GRANT

Deadline for applications for this has now extended to 5pm on Friday 17 June 2022.

Green issues were raised a lot during the past month, and I was pleased to be able to share with more people some of the good things that we have done on this. including creating and adopting the Doubling Nature and Zero Carbon Strategies. For more practical steps, we created the Zero Carbon Communities Grant in 2019, and so far allocated £314,415 to 51 different community groups to support carbon reduction projects. This grant is open for the fourth round of funding from a pot of £120,000! Community groups can apply for funding up to £15,000 for projects which reduce carbon emissions and engage communities on Climate change. To learn more and find out how to apply, please visit this webpage on SCDC website.

<https://www.scambsgov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-grant/> . If you have any questions please contact zcc@scambsgov.uk.

ZERO CARBON EVENTS

If you want to find out more about Zero Carbon events that SCDC has held in previous months, including on 19th April, then check out <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/zero-carbon-communities/zero-carbon-communities-events/>.

SOLAR TOGETHER

This is the joint programme with Cambridgeshire County Council that provides cost effective opportunities for residents to have Solar Photovoltaic panels installed. The number of households to accept their offer has reached 701. This is out of a total of 1,820 acceptances across the County since registration for the scheme closed on 1st April. Also, 434 households have accepted the offer of added battery storage, meaning that they will directly benefit from the solar energy produced on their property which would otherwise have gone into the national grid. This scheme plays an important role in encouraging the uptake of Solar PV across the district to reduce reliance on fossil fuel energy. If you want to register your interest for when the scheme next opens, go to

<https://solartogether.co.uk/cambridgeshire/home>

PLANNING POLICY & DELIVERY AND BUILDING CONTROL

5-YEAR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY 2022-2027

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service published on 1st April the latest situation with the 5 Year Housing Land Supply. The published figure is 6.5 years for the period 2022 to 2027. Please take note this is valid for the next 12 months, protecting our villages from speculative developments using current planning policies.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

South Cambs have also adopted 9 Village Design Guides and 5 Neighbourhood Plans over the past 4 years. We have just heard that "Government is extending support for neighbourhood planning groups, increasing funding by over £8m to £40m in total. This new funding will support the government's plan to level up the country by empowering communities to make decisions on future development in their area." according to the tweet by Housing Minister Stuart Andrew. For more info see our Planning Cabinet Member Tumi Hawkins's Planning Resource blog at http://tumihawkins.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/220413-Neighbourhood-Watch_-Last-minute-extension-for-neighbourhood-plan-grant-programme_-_Planning-Resource.pdf.

COUNCIL TAX REBATE

The Council is now implementing the Government scheme of giving £150 council tax rebate to owners of properties in Bands A-D. This money does not have to be paid back (unlike the energy loan). If you pay your council tax by direct debit, then you should have received your payments by now. Those that do not pay by direct debit need to complete a short application form. Please email energyrebate@scamb.gov.uk or go to <https://www.scamb.gov.uk/energy-rebate> to apply online

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Action for Happiness theme for this month is Meaningful May. The calendar is at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendar>. This month's focus is "Let's find ways to be part of something bigger".

MAY HALF TERM SPORTS CAMPS FOR CHILDREN

Our school holiday sports camps run for children in school Year 3 to Year 9, from 10am to 3:30pm. Children can attend either a netball or athletics camp, or both. It costs £25 per child per day, or £22 per child per day if more than one child is attending, or for a child attending multiple days. Athletics is at Wilberforce Road Athletics Track, Cambridge, CB3 9AD. Netball is at Impington Sports Centre, Impington, CB24 9LX. Dates for May half term are as follows and bookings can be made online.

- Athletics: Monday 25 and/or Tuesday 26 July
- Netball: Wednesday 27 and/or Thursday 28 July

THE QUEEN'S BATON RELAY IS COMING TO SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Queen's Baton Relay for Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games is coming to South Cambridgeshire this summer, before going on to the games destination. During its time in South Cambridgeshire, the Baton will first pass through the Wellcome Genome Campus in Hinxton, where an event will be held to bring together local communities to celebrate the Baton relay, science and sport. The ticketed event is free, will bring together local communities, school children and Campus staff, and will have a range of entertainment, locally sourced food vendors, plus science and sporting activities. There will be a range of activities for children and families to explore areas of the genetic research that takes place on the Campus. As well as this, there will be a variety of sports games, a family fun run, and local talent providing entertainment, including performances from nearby sports groups.

Read more about it at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/birmingham-2022-queen-s-baton-relay-to-visit-wellcome-genome-campus-as-full-england-route-revealed/> and watch out for further details.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about these, or any other matters.

Alex Malyon and Sarah Cheung Johnson

District Councillors for Longstanton, Oakington & Westwick and Northstowe

Contact details:

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