

## District Councillor's Report for The Mordens Ward SCDC      November & December 2020

### **Covid-19**

As I'm sure you are aware the government has put South Cambridgeshire into Tier 2. I have been in contact with as many business owners that I can to help with access to the government grants the district council is administering, if you are aware of any business that are struggling or have been forced to close please do encourage them to get in touch with myself or the council as support is out there in many cases but people are unaware or unsure how to access it. Below is a link to the districts business covid support page.

[Coronavirus information for businesses - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://www.scambs.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-for-businesses)

Vulnerable residents are being contacted regularly, but if anyone becomes aware of someone struggling please do get in touch with myself, the council or county hub. The county hub is able to give a wide range of support not just providing food. It's important to note that the food boxes are distributed to anyone who asks, there is no means testing or hoops to do through. It's really important that people know there is support out there. The County hub can be contacted via phone, 0345 0455219.

### **Motion re consultation on site submissions**

I am very pleased to report that my motion at full council today (26<sup>th</sup> November) wrote below was successful. I will continue to keep track of the results of the motion, and hope that it will not be long before you are consulted on the site submissions.

#### *13 (c) Standing in the Name of Councillor Heather Williams*

This Council notes the outcome of the 'First Conversation' and 'Call for Sites' stages in the development of the next Local Plan for South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City. The Council records its thanks to officers involved in developing the next Local Plan and recognises the work being undertaken by officers to draw up a list of preferred sites. In light of the large number of sites put forward in the Call for Sites which affect almost every village/ town and community in our District, this Council calls for Parish and Town Councils to be offered the opportunity to comment on sites put forward for their area and for their views to be taken into account in the process of drawing up a list of preferred sites.

### **Planning**

The Council has issued an apology for granting permission for two applications accidentally, one in Steeple Morden, the other for eight houses in Great Abington. There is an internal investigation currently underway and the results will be published in a public meeting. I think it is vital that the outcomes of the investigation are set out in the public domain as this errors will significantly cost the tax payer, estimates as to the cost of each JR are £5,000, this figure being based on the cost of the first JR the council pursued on itself earlier in the year for the same application as the one in Steeple Morden.

## **2019 Accounts**

It was reported at a recent Audit and Corporate Governance meeting that the council has had a further set back in the auditing of the 2019 accounts, which they had hoped to complete before Christmas but are significantly delayed from the due date of just over a year ago. It is hoped that only a few more months are required at that they will be ready to be signed off at the March 2021 meeting. It was also reported that the council will need to borrow £39 million partially to replace cash used in previous investment acquisitions, and further borrowing will be required to keep up with the Investment programme the administration are pursuing.

**I'd like to end with saying Merry Christmas to all and I hope that 2021 will be one where we will be able to see each other once more without the use of Zoom! But also that I am contactable throughout the festive season if residents need assistance.**

**Cllr Heather Williams**

**SCDC The Mordens Ward**

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