

Planning

Planning at South Cambs has been making the headlines of late, and many residents have been getting in touch after experiencing delays and issues in contacting officers. I am having regular meetings with our planning team leader where I raise planning applications that have been brought to my attention. Please do let me know of any applications you are aware of and I will raise them. I would also like to encourage parish councils to be mindful of any deadlines around conditions, in Arrington there has been an incident where the District council failed to respond on time with the result leading to the developers having the only say on the condition. I have asked the Chairman of Scrutiny to add the processes around 'Deemed Discharge' to the agenda so that members of the District council have some oversight as to what is happening. Once I have a response, I shall let you know asap as there is the opportunity for public questions at this committee. I shall also be raising this incident at full council.

Due to an IT error consultation were extended on 5 applications on the September planning committee agenda. It was suggested by officers that 2 applications be deferred to allow the consultation to finish, and 3 applications be determined by committee with the caveat that any new representations would trigger the application to come back to committee. I put the case that to do this would mean that we were treating the applications differently even though the issue was this same, which I believed was inconsistent. I believe that accident or not we should not be determining applications while members of the public are still being consulted, however I was in the minority and the officers' recommendation was voted through by a majority vote.

Solar Together

The County and District Council are working together to deliver Solar Together. This is a group buying scheme to support the installation of solar panels and battery storage. Registration is up to the 6th October 2020 and can be done via the link below.

<https://www.solartogether.co.uk/southcambridgeshire/home>

Five Year Plan

On Wednesday 16th September, the District Council will be launching the results of the call for sites. As District members we have been asked to remind residents that this is raw data and that no judgements have yet been made. The amount of land that has been submitted is enough to support a staggering 220,000 homes but the council estimates it will need between 5,000 and 30,000 in the next local plan. It will be natural for residents to worry when the sites come in, but this is a very long process and it will not be possible to comment until summer/autumn 2021. If any residents have concerns, please do encourage them to speak with myself and I will do all I can to support them through the process.

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