

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 15 September 2021 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Apologies: Mr Brown, Mr Sole - both unavailable. Cllr Williams - family issues.

Present: Mrs Slator, Mr Barnes, Ms Newland, Mr Wenman, Mr Wheeler, Cllr Kindersley (arrived later), the Clerk and one member of the public.

Minutes: The July meeting minutes were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None reported

Matters Arising:

Community Group: The First Tuesday Group for September was reviewing the subjects discussed so far. The meetings in October, November and December have all been planned and the topics will be circulated in due course.

Housing Needs: No further information yet.

New Code of Conduct: This will be considered at the October meeting. It has been reported to the Clerk that SCDC will probably adopt the new Code in full, but that it would not become effective until after the elections in May 2022. The new Code is in plain English and is much easier to understand, although there are a lot more pages in it.

Speedwatch: Cllr Williams has been trying to organise an area meeting for all her patch's Speedwatch groups. As she was not at the meeting, this item will be deferred.

Clopton Sign: It is still undecided on the best way forward with this. Item will be revisited at the October meeting.

Additional Dog Bin: Awaiting a report from the focus group. (An email received after the meeting is added at the end of the minutes).

Footpath Sign at Wimpole Hall: Replies were received from both Peter Gaskin and the Wimpole Hall Estate manager. The sign is now correctly in place.

District Councillor's written report for The Mordens Ward SCDC September 2021

Council Emails: I continue to have issues with my council email, meaning there is often delays between emails being sent and my receiving them, so please if a matter is urgent do call me on the number below.

Local Plan update: On the 31st August the documents for the proposed Local Plan were released by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service governed by South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council. The Local Plan sets out where development of housing and commercial sites are proposed to be situated during the planning period. The current documents are out for consultation soon but give a clear indication of what is proposed by the administrations. The following link will allow you to access the proposals and see where development has been proposed.

<https://maps.3csharedservices.org/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a6742a84b6aa418f8b1e41315c2b8845>

The Council has gone through the for a call for sites and then Councillors and officers deciding which out of those proposed developments they want to include within the Local Plan. Ultimately the Council will have to come forward with a credible plan that will pass a planning inspectorate to show it delivers housing for growth within the Local Plan area. There has been consultation at each stage of the Local Plan process and now that the proposals have been put forward, Parish Councils and residents will be consulted again at this stage.

The proposed Local Plan will have huge impacts on the District and I am sure that all the parishes within the area will want to make comments on these proposals. As District Councillor, I will be raising several concerns regarding the proposals put forward. My initial concerns are that around 48,840 houses are included within this Local Plan which is above and well beyond what the Government's calculated need suggests. I also have concerns about the build out rates that are proposed due to the worry of how realistic they are and to be so reliant on them given build out rates are at the discretion of developers. It is also noted that the proposed developments within this Local Plan,

especially those around the city, are very dense, cramming lots of houses into small spaces, this will have a big impact on communities and residents' privacy in relation to garden space etc.

Water is also a concern given the existing pressures on chalk streams and water supply in our area. 48,840 houses using 80litres a day equates to over a billion litres of a water needed every year, if the house numbers were lower, the water demand would also reduce. This has already been challenged by councillors and the response has been it is for others to sort the water problem, but it seems unreasonable to pass the buck when so many more houses are being proposed. Requiring this amount of housing within the Local Plan with the infrastructure not being there is of great concern. I have concerns about how growth has been calculated within the Local Plan given the methodology that has been used has not been used anywhere else before to our knowledge.

I really would like to encourage all residents and parish councils to make representation when the consultation opens, this document will have such an impact on our district. I have also requested that the way the consultation is completed and presented be reviewed given the difficulties some councils found in producing a collective response. Officers have agreed to take this away and look at making it more accessible for council responses.

Five Year Land Supply: The appeal I reported on previously was postponed and is due to be resolved heard on 21st October. Below is the link to the first appeal in case anyone would like to look at the sites that are being challenged.

[S/3873/17/OL | Application for outline planning permission for a residential development of up to 40 dwellings with some matters reserved except for Access Appearance Layout and scale. | Land At Mill Lane Sawston CB22 3HY \(greatercambridgeplanning.org\)](https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/S/3873/17/OL)

2018/19 Accounts Audit: I have previously reported on the delays to the auditing of the accounts, since my last report the External auditors of the council, EY, have given a report to the Audit and Corporate Governance committee on the 28th September, and gave a two week deadline for works to be complete, or they would consider using their statutory powers against the council, and a form of 'special measures' would be taken. I have repeatedly raised my concerns in relation to the progress of the accounts and the knock on affects that this causes in that we do not get to see how money has actually been spent until months and even years after the year end. This can not continue and it will not be easy for the council to catch up on the now several years of accounts to be audited. The administration needs to take this matter seriously and give the resources needed to complete the accounts which it has failed to do so far

Cllr Heather Williams
SCDC The Mordens Ward
Tel: 07885 774 775
Email: cllr.williamsh@scambs.gov.uk

County Councillor's written report - September 2021

The Gamlingay Division is comprised of 13 parishes. This report is for all Division Parish Councils but please be aware that it will include items that may have little or no relevance to your particular Parish. Apologies in advance!

Greater Cambridge Local Plan: On September 1st South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council published the First Proposals/Preferred Options for the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan. There has been some comment about this so hopefully this will answer questions and correct some of the wilder conspiracy theories and mischief-making (some by people who should know better).

It is important to understand the new Local Plan is not starting from scratch. It uses the current adopted local plan which is valid from 2011 to 2031 and rolls it into a new plan period of 2020 to 2041.

In the current Cambridge City adopted local plan, there is provision for 14,000 homes to be built between 2011 and 2031 to meet the objectively assessed need as required by Government. The equivalent current adopted local plan for South Cambs provides for 19,500 for the same period of 2011 to 2031. These two plans mean there are 33,500 dwellings already in the pipeline.

But, those with long memories will remember the local plan that the previous South Cambs administration created and submitted to Government in March 2014 was only approved in 2018. That

delay meant over 4,000 dwellings were given planning consent that were not in the Plan itself as - without a Plan -SCDC could not demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply as required by Government. There have also been some "windfall permissions" in the time being in both areas. All added into the mix this means the allocations in the current local plans for both councils is already for 37,198 homes.

Government requires all Councils to provide housing based on what it calls Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) as stated in the National Planning Policy Framework. This OAN uses the Government's standard method as a baseline, and takes account of additional factors such as population growth/demographics, household projections, employment growth, expected levels of economic activity, and affordable housing needs.

This means in areas with a growing economy care must be taken to ensure the right level of housing is provided, otherwise the Planning Inspectors that examine the plan will demand to see the evidence base for the plan and may find it "unsound", and send it back to the drawing board if it does not meet the OAN. South Cambs already went through that and none of us want that to happen again.

The number of additional new houses being proposed for the new local plan period 2020-2041 using the OAN and allowing a small 10% buffer is 11,596. So if you take the current adopted plans for both councils as above at 37,198, carry it forward and add the buffer you get a total of 48,794. That means 76.23% (over three quarters) of the housing requirement is already in the pipeline of the current adopted local plans. Just under one quarter, 11,596, is new proposed allocation.

So the next concern is to where that allocation might be. Because sustainability is a key local concern (water, air, the natural environment) the Councils intend to speed up the housing delivery at some settlements already planned at Eddington, Northstowe and Waterbeach. This will deliver 2500 homes (5%). Further housing allocation will be made for Cambourne, Cambridge East and North East Cambridge. This will deliver the last 19% required, at 9096 homes.

Of this last figure only 384 homes are allocated in rural sites - for example in Melbourn and Great Shelford. There are NO sites allocated in Gamlingay, nor in any of the other Parishes of the Gamlingay Division.

There will be a further public consultation starting in November.

Covid: Covid is not going away and the situation in all of Cambridgeshire is dire with numbers going up every week most especially in the 18-24 age range. Most cases in hospital are in the age range 35-55. At the time of writing 111 people were in hospital (a huge increase on 2 months ago) and we are seeing more people on ventilators and in intensive care.

The situation is not helped by high levels of sickness and exhaustion within the health workforce. The sad fact is that the next 6 months is unlikely be any less difficult. Hospital are keeping all infection prevention and control procedures in place. The only resolution is vaccination. It is not surprising that the majority of those who are severely ill are not double vaccinated. However, 76% of eligible people in our area are vaccinated but we have to do more to get everyone protected.

There has been talk of doing covid booster jabs with flu jabs but the advice from public health is to get your flu jab as soon as possible and your booster when it is ready. Having to have 2 separate jabs is a whole lot better than getting covid.

Avenells Way - Church St footpath: We are happy to report that this footpath is being resurfaced very soon. A number of people have reported trips and falls in recent months so this can't really be done fast enough.

Afghan Refugees: South Cambridgeshire District Council is building on the work it has been doing since 2018 when we agreed to house 4 families a year from Syria and the surrounding areas by offering homes to 3 families escaping the terror in Afghanistan. The council will be using houses available through its private rental housing company and will be working with the County Council and with specialist charities to make sure that these people have the access they need to support, education and health services so that they can start to rebuild their lives.

Gamlingay Gym: We hope to be able to report quite soon on progress with Gamlingay Gym. We know this is taking a long time but please be assured that the Academy Trust, the Council and the terrific group of volunteers who have stepped forward to help are all working very hard.

Gamlingay Green: Thank you to the resident who brought to our attention a website promoting a large scale development outside of the village which is being promoted as 'Gamlingay Green'. It is disappointing that the promoters have not talked to either Sebastian or Bridget though we are aware that they did turn up to the parish council meeting to make an informal presentation. One issue of concern was a page on the website with 'fictitious personas' expressing support for the scheme. One of these

was a councillor called Bridget. This has now been removed as it could have been misinterpreted as representing the actual views of Bridget as the District Councillor. Just to reassure you - this scheme has not been submitted into the Local Plan Call for Sites and has not been submitted to the council as a planning application.

Changing Places Toilets Funding: Back in May you may have seen that the government announced there would be funding available to increase the number of Changing Places toilets. This is because most disabled loos don't actually meet the needs of all those with a disability. Local authorities have now been invited to submit an expression of interest in this [Changing Places toilets programme](#). If you have a possible venue which would benefit from a Changing Places toilet please send us any information you can provide to support a bid.

£30,000 for local organisations supporting families and vulnerable people: As part of Cambridgeshire County Council's Covid Local Support Grant, £30,000 has been given to a range of local organisations in South Cambridgeshire to support families over the summer months with food, fuel and other emergency supplies. The educational charity Cambridge Online has received a grant of £15,000 to support 105 families who are financially vulnerable. The money will buy equipment to help refurbish laptops and buy tablets and data packages for online access. They also provide free ongoing support to all families who use the service. The aim of the new scheme is to provide computer devices and internet connections to help South Cambridgeshire families and households gain online access for education, to access services or for social interaction. More information and to apply for the scheme can be found here: www.cambridgeonline.org.uk/internet-devices

Other grant recipients include Care Network, which was awarded £1,000 for its 'community navigator' and 'help at home' teams, which help people to continue to live independently and Age UK which was awarded £8,000 to support older residents through the community warden scheme, and to help to provide a fruit and veg service for older people.

New County Council administration: taking stock and looking ahead: The new County Council Joint Administration has been taking stock of the council's financial position and ways of working, at a time of continuing increasing financial and demographic pressures as well as new variables around Covid legacy and recovery. In other words we are examining how to go forward with less income and a continuing need to 'make savings' while dealing with inflation and the economic costs of Covid to the council.

Our population is getting older and/or has increasingly complex health needs which need to be understood and our highways network is in 'managed decline'. Our job as a council is to provide the best possible services for our residents. We will be reporting in more detail in weeks to come. The next round of committee meetings is in September, and all meetings are live-streamed and accessible on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/CambsCountyCouncil/videos>. (Only if you are VERY bored).

Bus Changes: A number of changes to bus routes will start shortly. The first service from Gamlingay to Sandy will now be at 08.52, a much later start than the current 07.33am and the first from Gamlingay to Biggleswade will be earlier at 07.44 rather than the current 08.18am.

The last service from Sandy to Potton will now be at 20.46 on the new 72 route, which is a great improvement on the previous 17.47. The last service from Sandy to Gamlingay will remain at 17.47 from the train station and the last bus from Biggleswade to Gamlingay leaves at 17.32.

Renewables in School: Schools across Cambridgeshire will be supported in replacing gas and oil boilers with cleaner, greener heating systems thanks to a new model of funding approved by Cambridgeshire County Council, which will speed up the process and make it easier for work to be carried out. We have agreed that a combination of capital and loan funding could be used to supplement any grants, to help cover the costs of retrofitting Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) systems in council-maintained schools where existing boilers need to be replaced. Additional measures such as LED lighting, solar panels and energy management systems will be installed at each school to offset energy costs and to help achieve the council's commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Summer food vouchers distributed across Cambridgeshire: Over 18,000 vouchers have been sent to families of children across Cambridgeshire receiving free school meals so children can continue to be fed during the break. Although the amount of Government grant has been reduced, the new Joint Administration at Cambridgeshire County Council agreed to allocate an additional £570,000 to the scheme to keep benefits at their previous level.

In addition, each district and city council in Cambridgeshire has been given a further £30,000 to support vulnerable families and individuals in need over the summer holidays. This funding will go towards further supporting local activities and will be coordinated by the district and city councils. A

further £100,000 has gone to the Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme to support families in need with essential supplies.

Details can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/wintersupport Local hubs can also be contacted on 0345 045 5219 from Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm.

Apprenticeships Funding

Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed to transfer £273,000 of its apprenticeship levy fund to K-10, an organisation set up to support apprenticeships in the construction industry. K-10 will work with award winning housebuilder Hill to find placements for the 21 apprentices in the county, allowing them to gain skills and qualifications in plumbing, electrical, carpentry, groundworks, dry-lining, bricklaying and painting.

As a levy paying employer, the council is able to transfer 25% of unused, annual levy funds to other employers that wish to utilise apprenticeships to train their staff. As the transfer of funds would support employment for Cambridgeshire residents on major construction projects with Hill, the funding transfer was approved. All of the apprenticeship positions are full time with the first year pay rate being £8.36 per hour. Apprentices will all be studying at colleges or training providers within the county for the duration of their apprenticeships. K10 is recruiting now, so if you know of anyone aged 18 or above who may be interested in one of these fantastic opportunities, please encourage them to apply at www.k-10.co.uk/vacancies or send their CV directly to K10 at atmahbub-uddin@k-10.co.uk.

Growth Fund: New Growth Fund, using Government funding, is designed to support South Cambridgeshire based businesses' growth and expansion plans. These could be start-ups looking to scale and grow quickly or established companies which can clearly demonstrate ambitious growth plans. Businesses from any sector can apply, including sole traders and partnerships, for one-off grants of £1,000 to £50,000. The scheme will end when all funds have been allocated.

New washable nappy discount scheme: Nappy and sanitary waste makes up nearly 10% of what we send to landfill from the black bins, and households with children in disposable nappies will know that they fill up their black bin very quickly. To encourage parents to switch to washable nappies, even for just one nappy change a day, the Recycling in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (RECAP) partnership has teamed up with suppliers to offer a 10 to 15% discount off the cost of washable nappies, washable wipes, and reusable period products. The scheme is available via the South Cambs website.

Biodiversity Consultation: New planning guidance about how to increase biodiversity in new development has been published for public consultation by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service. The new Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been developed by Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councils to help developers and applicants maximise biodiversity on their sites.

The aim is to ensure that development increases biodiversity on the site by at least 10%, in line with the proposals anticipated in the upcoming Environment Bill. Communities across Greater Cambridge are asked to comment on the new guidance. The consultation runs for eight weeks from now until Friday 17 September 2021.

Further information can be found at: www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/biodiversityspd

Road Closures:

Beechside, Gamlingay - Micro Asphalt works start 7 October 2021 for one day - road closure

Plane Tree Close, Gamlingay - Micro Asphalt works start 7 October 2021 for one day - road closure

Almond Drive (access road), Gamlingay - Micro Asphalt works start 7 October 2021 for one day - road closure

Maple Court, Gamlingay - Micro Asphalt works start 7 October 2021 for two days - road closure

Cherry Grove (access road), Gamlingay - Micro Asphalt works start 11 October 2021 for one day - road closure

Crab Apple Way, Gamlingay - Micro Asphalt works start 11 October 2021 for one day - road closure

Greenacres, Gamlingay - Micro Asphalt works start 11 October 2021 for two days - road closure

Your Councillors are always ready to help. Please do not hesitate to contact County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley on 01767 651982 or skindersley@hotmail.com or write to the Manor Barn, East Hatley, SG19 3JA

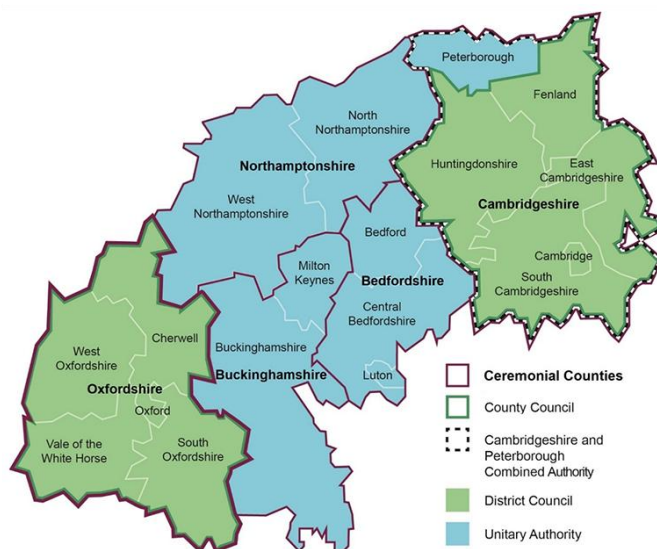
Correspondence:

Electoral Register: August and September alterations circulated.

Cambridge and Peterborough Waste and Minerals Plan: This was adopted in July 2021; this area is mainly chalk and nothing in the Plan is related to this locality.

Foxton Neighbourhood Plan: This has now been adopted. A Neighbourhood Plan is the next step up from a Village Plan, which is what Croydon has.

Ox-Cam Arc Survey: Mrs Slator has attempted the survey, but indicated it was more like a novel than a survey. She asked Councillors if anyone would like to volunteer to complete the survey, and Ms Newland offered to undertake it on Council's behalf. Brief details of the Ox-Cam Arc are below.



The Oxford-Cambridge Arc is a national economic priority area. It is believed to have the potential to be one of the most prosperous, innovative and sustainable economic areas in the world, and can make a major contribution to national economic recovery as we seek to build back better from the impact of COVID-19.

RSPB comments:

The Oxford to Cambridge Arc (or OxCam Arc) could dramatically change the landscape of south-central England. Large-scale housing developments connected by new and expanded road and rail links have all been proposed to aid “transformational economic growth”.

The RSPB is not opposed to the principle of the Arc - providing it adheres to our three principles above:

- Protect existing nature
- Restore nature across the Arc
- Set new standards for sustainable development

In the face of a climate and ecological emergency, nature and sustainability must be prioritised in any plans, creating benefits for people and communities, as well as the wider environment.

Community Gritting Scheme: No volunteers have come forward; Councillors were concerned about the implications for insurance. Because Croydon is on a bus route, the road has always been gritted before.

Local Plan - webinar and preferred options: Mrs Slator attended the webinar. She reported that the thinking for development in South Cambs would not be too much, with the areas around the most sustainable areas (Melbourn, Sawston etc) and areas of existing development with good infrastructure would be preferred.

Highways Events Diary: Nearest event is in Duxford Air Show - 18 September, Abington Fun Run - 3 October, Duxford Flying Day - 9 October, Sawston Bonfire and Fireworks - 6 November. Everything is available on the CCC website.

Traffic Management Course: This is for parishes where there are likely to be road closures.

Infrastructure Workshops: Two dates have been offered and Mrs Slator will be attending the workshop on 4 October.

SCDC - E-W Rail, Ox-Cam Arc, Greater Cambridge Planning: The Leader of SCDC has offered to come to a Parish Council meeting and talk to Councillors about these subjects. A copy of her letter can be found in the July 2021 minutes.

SCDC - Six Free Trees: SCDC is offering one tree or six whips to any Parish Council that can meet the planting requirements of Parish Council, Charity, or on County Council land with permission. Unfortunately, Croydon cannot, so is unable to claim the trees.

Zero Carbon Community Newsletter: The ZCC is offering a series of on-line tours and talks, which runs until 15th October. If you are interested in registering for any of these, please go to <https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/what-you-can-do/open-eco-homes-events/> for further details. Also, the village website has details of Zero Carbon Community actions.

Climate Emergency: Councils are being encouraged to instigate a climate change policy/plan. Mrs Slator stated that Croydon Parish Council does not have ownership of either buildings or land, but has covered as much as it can in its Green Policy.

Cambis ACRE Rural Affordable Housing Partnership: This is restructured and rebranded and is available to support Councils wanting to look at this for their parishes.

Items circulated over the summer break: There was nothing to report that has not already been included above.

Subsequent receipts:

SCDC Street Trading: This has been adopted county-wide.

Cambridge Carbon Footprint: This is very similar organisation to the SCDC Zero Carbon Community approach. The link below is to an older property, showing what can be achieved. The on-line presentation is on 5th October. If you would like to register, please go to:-

<https://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/events/whole-house-approach-to-retrofitting-a-1960s-property/>

Travellers Rights: The Chair and Clerk recently completed a course on Travellers, Gypsies and Roma, which was both interesting and enlightening. It has been reported in the Clerk and Councils Direct magazine that the new Police, Crime and Sentencing and Courts Bill risks having a disproportionate impact on their rights. Apparently, the Bill is seeking to make encampments on private land without consent a criminal offence. The Joint Committee on Human Rights is arguing that these encampments are only set up because there are insufficient site provisions provided by District Councils. The Bill is currently awaiting its second reading in the House of Lords.

Finance:

Bank Statement: Following presentation of Council's cheque for completion of the website, the balance in the current account at the end of July is £4686 - 55

Planning:

Application Reference Number: 21/03828/FUL

Proposal: Conversion of agricultural barn to C3 dwelling house

Site address: Croydon Hill Farm Croydon Hill Croydon SG8 0EA

Council inspected the plans and has no objections to this application. Proposed Mr Wheeler, seconded Mr Barnes, all in favour.

Items for next agenda: None put forward.

Date of the next meeting:

Wednesday 20 October in the Reading Room at 7.30pm. Any necessary Covid precautions that Council feels necessary will be in place.

As there was no further business, Councillors were thanked for attending and the meeting was declared closed at 8.19pm.

Signed

Date

Addenda:

Cllr Kindersley was unavoidably detained at his previous meeting, so arrived after the meeting had closed. He did give a brief verbal report, brief notes of which are below.

Ox-Cam Arc: Councillor Kindersley did not seem to feel that this development would be beneficial for the climate change, which is already a worry. He mentioned that Buckinghamshire Council had disassociated itself from the Arc, and will not be part of the scheme. He thought it was unwise of them not to work together with the scheme.

Climate Emergency: Councillor Kindersley is encouraging his parishes to adopt a Climate Emergency policy. The Chair pointed out that Croydon Parish Council does not have ownership of either buildings or land, but has covered as much as it can in its Green Policy.

From an email received on the evening of the meeting:-

Additional Dog Bin: Simply to report for the PC meeting this evening that the group looking at dog bin options are gently making progress. We have responses from several local small villages about their dog bins policy eg how many, where sited, how funded, problems/issues and these are a helpful aid. The plan is to consider how these factors may be applied in Croydon before reporting findings and making recommendations.

Harvest Festival in Croydon: The Parish Church Chancel reopening with the Bishop of Ely in attendance went very well with a good crowd present. The Downing Crypt for the present is secure. Window repairs are also progressing well. Historic England has agreed an extension to end of October for completion.