

**COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN
26 JANUARY 2005**

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**South
Cambridgeshire
District Council**

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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FROM:
31 January 2005 to 4 February 2005**

Mon 31 Jan	10 am	Site Visits	
	2 pm	Development and Conservation Control Committee Chairman's Briefing	Swansley Room
Tue 1 Feb	9.30 am	Council (special meeting): Local Development Framework – Northstowe Results and Approach	Council Chamber
Wed 2 Feb	10 am	Development and Conservation Control Committee	Council Chamber
Thu 3 Feb	9 am	Speed Reading Training Course	Council Chamber
Fri 4 Feb	10 am	Community Development Portfolio Holder	Monkfield Room
		Cambridgeshire Councils' Association	Council Chamber

YOUTH DEBATING COMPETITION SEMI-FINALS – CHANGE OF DATE

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have had to make another change to the date of the semi-finals of the Debating Competition. I am, however, pleased to confirm that this was the last change and this event will definitely now take place on Monday 7th February 2005. The finals will take place as originally arranged on Tuesday 1st March 2005. We would like to welcome as many Councillors as possible to come and watch the debates and to participate by asking questions of team members.

Both events will be held in the Council Chamber at South Cambs Hall. Doors will be open from 6:00 pm. Refreshments will be provided before the start of the first debate at 6:30 pm.

The debates so far this year have been of an extremely high standard, with entrants debating the introduction of a 'fat tax' and the abolition of private education. Competing for a place in the final are teams from Bassingbourn Village College, Comberton Village College and two teams from Impington Village College.

The motion for the semi-finals will be "I propose that the number of women in parliament should be increased through positive discrimination". The motion for the final will be "I propose that voting in elections should be compulsory".

To ensure that we order enough refreshments for all of our spectators, we would be grateful if you could confirm that you are planning to attend. If you would like more information on the competition, please contact Susannah Harris on 01954 713355.

PLANNING PERFORMANCE CRITERIA – QUARTERLY STATISTICS

In the third quarter of 2004 the number of applications received by South Cambridgeshire increased by 6.2% over the corresponding period in 2003. In England there was a 1% increase.

The percentage of all decisions taken within the eight week period in the District was 79% compared with 78% in England. The equivalent figure for householder development was 90% compared with the national figure of 86%.

The percentage of decisions delegated to officers in this quarter was 92%. There is no equivalent national figure but in Cambridgeshire the average figure was 91%. The Government has set a target of 90%.

The new Government targets are included in the Statistical Release. On the "excluding major and minor applications" where the Government target is 80% in eight weeks the Council achieved 86% whilst on the "minor" category where we are urged to decide 65% in eight weeks the Council achieved 64%. The more difficult target is the Government's 60% in thirteen weeks for major applications i.e. things like the Wellcome Trust or the Northern Fringe! Here the Council achieved 40%.

The graphs, which accompany this report, illustrate the picture in Cambridgeshire for each of these development types during the year ending 30th September 2004 and the quarter July to September 2004.

Retrospective Applications

In response to a recommendation from Scrutiny Committee (17th April 2003), the number of retrospective applications is to be recorded.

Thus in the third quarter of 2004, the number of retrospective applications submitted was 18. This represented 2.7% of all applications submitted during that quarter. Of the 17 retrospective applications which have been determined, (one was withdrawn) 59% have been approved and 41% refused. During the quarter 86% of all applications were approved.

Enforcement Statistics (Quarter ending September 2004)

Statistics for the previous quarter are in brackets.

Enforcement Notices	4	(2)
Stop Notices	1	(1)
Planning Contravention Notices	10	(0)
Breach of Condition Notices	0	(1)
Amenity Notices	0	(0)
Number of Complaints	78	(96)
Prosecutions	0	(2)
Injunctions	1	(2)

Trees and Landscaping Statistics (Quarter ending September 2004.)

Statistics for the previous quarter are in brackets.

Applications for work on Statutorily Protected Trees

(Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas)

Number of applications – Received	140	(99)
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Landscaping

Number of landscaping conditions received from D.C.	96	(72)
Number of weekly actions	852	(593)
Number of schemes submitted	92	(79)
Number of schemes finalised and approved	36	(24)
Number of landscaping conditions currently active (excluding Cambourne work)	832	(984)
Number of breach of condition notices requested	3	(8)

Local Government (Access To Information) Act 1986

Background papers in respect of this report for the purposes of the above Act are available for inspections in accordance with the provision of that Act:

- (a) Any planning application, including plans and any accompanying letter or document from the applicant.
- (b) Any letter or representation received in connection with a matter reported.
- (c) Any Structure Plan, Local Plan or Policy Document referred to in a report.
- (d) Any agenda, report or minutes of a meeting of the Council referred to in a report.
- (e) Any other publication, document or report referred to in the report.

Files on individual items on the Development and Conservation Control Committee agenda are available as required from the following individuals:

Mr J Belcham	(01954) 713252
Mr A Moffat	(01954) 713169
Mr S Anderson	(01954) 713165
Mr D Rush	(01954) 713153
Mr P Sexton	(01954) 713255

D B HUSSELL
Development Services Director

CALL IN ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee or any five other Councillors may call in any executive decision recorded in this bulletin for review. The Democratic Services Manager must be notified of any call in by **2 February 2005 at 5 pm**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **3 February 2005**.

Any member considering calling in a decision made by Cabinet is requested to contact the Democratic Services Section to determine whether any relevant amendments have been incorporated.

The call in procedure is set out in full in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, 'Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules', paragraph 12.

DECISIONS MADE BY THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Subject	Decision	Reasons
Village Sports Facility Grant: Oakington and Westwick Parish Council	Agreed to award a grant (VSF08) of £5,500 to Oakington and Westwick Parish Council to make improvements to the tennis courts to include a path to provide wheelchair access.	The improvements will ensure continued growth of the club.
Village Sports Facility Grant: Papworth Tennis Club	Agreed to award a grant (VSF07) of £35,000 to Papworth Tennis Club to construct 3 tennis courts, a practice court and training area on Papworth Everard playing fields. The current courts will be used as a Multi-Use Games Area.	The new courts will increase the level of usage at the tennis club and enable it to be utilised all year round. People of all ages will benefit from the new facilities.

DECISIONS MADE BY THE HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Subject	Decision
Affordable Housing Proposal for Garage Site at Evans Way, Sawston	Requested that officers continue their enquiries with both the Local Planning Authority and Circle 33 in an effort to establish the potential for affordable housing on the site, and the extent of any Public Open Space. This matter will be considered again at the Portfolio Holder meeting on 18 th April 2005.
Vehicular Right of Way Over Council Land to The Rear of the Lawn and Butts Green, Whittlesford	Declined to make a decision at this stage, instructing officers to address a number of unresolved issues, including advisability of creating grassed areas in the proposed layout, surface dressing, relationship of the footpath to parking areas and the option of transferring some areas of land into private ownership.
Sale of Land and Application for Vehicular Right of Way Over Council Layby to No. 26	Declined to make a final decision at this stage, instructing officers to clarify legal issues relating to covenants and possible enforcement action. Sale of the front garden would be subject

Sheppard Way, Teversham	to such clarification but, in any event, the strip of land along the south west of the property would not be transferred to the owners of 26 Sheppard Way, and all block paving thereon must be removed in order to preserve the character of the area.
Sale of Council Land at 31 New Road, Sawston	Instructed officers to offer to sell the land to the owners of 31 New Road, Sawston for garden use only, subject to valuation.
Sale of Council Land to the Rear of Barton Road, Comberton	Instructed officers to retain the land in the Council's ownership, offering the applicants a twelve month lease to use the land for garden purposes only, with Conditions that close-boarded fencing be erected next to the footpath, the applicants being reimbursed a reasonable sum by the Council upon determination of the lease should they, the applicants, have paid for the fence themselves, and that all fencing except that to the rear of 105 and 107 Barton Road be maintained by the applicants for the duration of the lease.