

**COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN
2 NOVEMBER 2005**

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Cambridgeshire
District Council**

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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FROM:
7 November to 11 November 2005**

				Contact
Mon 7 Nov	10 am	Licensing Committee	Swansley	Maggie Jennings
Tue 8 Nov				
Wed 9 Nov	10 am	Licensing – Queens Head, Sawston	Mezzanine	Patrick Adams
Thu 10 Nov	10 am	Cabinet	Council Chamber	Maggie Jennings
Fri 11 Nov				

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 **Wednesday 9 November 2005 at 5 pm**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Thursday 10 November 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.

CELEBRATING THE CLASSICS

Celebrating the Classics is part of a long standing tradition of free concerts organised by South Cambridgeshire District Council. 2005 will see the last concert of its kind happening at the Cambridge Corn Exchange on **Thursday 10 November**.

This year international duo-pianists the Cann Twins perform with the Cambridge Youth Orchestra. Three very special concerts will bring together international artists to play with the best young musical talent from the district through the guidance of CIMA (Cambridge Instrumental Music Agency). The programme includes Bruch's Two-Piano Concerto, Festival Overture by Shostakovich, Ravel's Mother Goose Suite and excerpt from Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1.

In the morning 1,000 school children from South Cambs will see the twins Claire and Antoinette Cann take to the stage with their two pianos and the Youth Orchestra. In the afternoon there will be a free concert for South Cambs residents over 60.

We would like to invite Councillors to the schools concert at 11.30 or the over 60s concert at 2.30. Both concerts will be an hour long, and we will reserve the boxes for Councillors seating. Please let me know by Friday 4th November if you wish to join us for either or both of the concerts.

The final evening performance at 7.30pm is a full-length concert, with drinks in the interval. Due to the current financial situation we ask that you purchase tickets should you wish to attend the full evening concert. We have managed to negotiate a buy one get one free on tickets for Council members and officers. For bookings please contact the Corn Exchange Box Office on 01223 357851 (quote Council offer when booking).

SUPPORTING THE REPRESENTATIVE COUNCILLOR - MAKING WARD MEMBERS MATTER

Being a Councillor is a form of public service that puts people in a privileged position where they can make a difference to their local community, and to the quality of constituents' lives. It's a complex role and Councillors have to balance the needs and interests of their residents, voters, political parties and the Council.

Following the introduction of the executive model into local government with its emphasis on cabinet decision making and scrutiny many non-executive members have felt increasingly disengaged from the work of the Council. However, the primary role of a Councillor is to represent

the ward and citizens who live in it. The job of the Councillor is not to be the council's advocate in the Community but to be the community's advocate in the Council, and to ensure that local democracy works and people believe in it.

The East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) is holding an event on Wednesday 14th December 2005 at Ickworth House, Horringer, near Bury St Edmunds which offers the opportunity for members to review what works best to support them in their representative role, and to meet members from other councils who face the same issues. The event comprises a mixture of presentation and discussion sessions, and will give an opportunity through workshops to have a more detailed look at key issues.

If there is a member who would like to attend, please contact Carol Tyrrell in Democratic Services on 01954 713026 or email carol.Tyrrell@scambs.gov.uk. Carol can provide you with additional details and book your place.

CONSULTATION ON A REVISED CODE OF PRACTICE ON PART 3 OF THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT.

The Government and the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) are producing Codes of Practice to explain the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 2005. The DRC are consulting on the latest of these, a draft Code of Practice relating to Part 3 of the DDA 1995, amended by DDA 2005. It revises the existing Code to reflect changes to be introduced in December 2006. These changes will affect:

- Public authorities, some of whose functions had previously been excluded;
- Private clubs whose activities regarding their members were previously excluded;
- The housing sector, with important new duties being placed on those selling, letting, controlling and managing property.

To enable full consultation the draft code has been prepared prior to the production of the regulations under DDA 2005. The DRC has tried to reflect the stated policy of the government on the regulations, but the final regulations may necessitate some alterations being made to the final version of this Code.

DRC are keen to have the views of all interested parties – particularly on the new chapters 11, 12, 15 and 16 – as these will shape the redrafting of the Code for publication next summer. The Code and Questionnaire are available on line at: www.drc-gb.org. For copies in more accessible formats, telephone 08457 622 633 or textphone 08457 622 644. DRC would also like case study examples, if you have them, relating to the above chapters. The consultation period closed on **14 November 2005**. Written responses should be sent to Sarah Knibbs (J25494) at MORI, Freepost WC3163, 77-81 Borough Road, London SE11BS.

LOCAL.GOV.UK – ONLINE SURVEY

The gateway website for the national local government organisations was launched in 2004 to improve access to the Local Government Association (LGA) and its partner organisations providing information and support to member authorities. It was aimed primarily at local authority officers and members and acts as a portal for the content on the existing websites. Emphasis was placed on the fact that each of the bodies has a distinct and unique role – with individual expertise and specialisms – but that all have a common purpose.

The portal currently allows easy searching across all of the national sites providing quick links to the unique content on the sites. There is also a 'featured websites' area – on each visit different family websites are shown – again to illustrate and inform users of the diversity and range of activities and services provided nationally and to provide easy access to the sites. The local.gov.uk site has been built to high accessibility standards – achieving AAA rating which is the highest standard possible.

The LGA is now working on upgrading the site, starting with a more user-friendly 'events' section to be launched early next month and an improved jobs area. The LGA will also be redesigning the

news and features areas on the site – with your assistance. From now until the end of November an on line survey is being run from the home page (<http://www.local.gov.uk>). The survey consists of ten short questions that will only take a few minutes to answer. The views of officers and Councillors will help to ensure the website is meeting the needs of all and highlight the areas that need further attention. Feedback and comments from SCDC Members and Officers to the LGA will be gratefully received!

DECISION MADE BY THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABILITY & COMMUNITY PLANNING PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Subject	Decision	Reasons
South Cambridgeshire District Wide Design Guide	To accept the draft Design Guide, subject to the amendments agreed at the meeting and recommend that the Portfolio Holder seeks Cabinet approval for the Design Guide to be adopted as Council policy.	The amended draft meets the requirements set out for it and the adoption of the Design Guide will assist in delivery of the Council's objectives.

DECISION MADE BY THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Subject	Decision	Reasons
Village Sports Facility Grant 05/06	To award an additional grant of £750 to Cambourne Parish Council towards the cost of changing facilities in the multi-purpose sports building on Cambourne sports ground. The total grant is now £4,750 (VSF06/06).	The cost of changing rooms has increased due to complications with the electricity supply.

DECISION MADE BY THE PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Subject	Decision	Reasons
Proposed Bridge Addenbrooke's Access Road	It was agreed to make comments on proposed bridge options stating that Options 3 & 4 are preferred but with less banking and more permeability. Comments were sent as per the letter attached below dated 31 October 2005	Comments required by the County Council.

DECISIONS MADE BY THE HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Subject	Decision and Reasons
Renewal of Hostel Contracts with Hereward Housing Association.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Agreed to continue with the agreement to award the hostel contracts with Hereward, subject to ongoing discussion in relation to some changes to the agreements. b. In respect of the Poplars, Histon, alternative options have been considered as interim arrangements but, if Histon Baptist Church is willing to accept the Council's proposed increase in rent, agreed that the preferred option was to renew on a further 3-year term, with a view to finding a longer-term

	alternative solution during this time. Potentially this could include alternative hostel provision within the South Cambridgeshire District Council stock.	
Spend to Save expenditure	Agreed to support the continued use of such expenditure to prevent homelessness.	
Subject	Decision	Reasons
Sale of Council track adjacent 17 Hunts Road, Duxford to No 17A.	Agreed to offer the track for sale to the owners of 17A Hunts Road for use as an access way only, subject to valuation and to finalisation of the development proposal on Council land to the rear.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council will have no further interest in track once development proposal is finalised. 2. A capital receipt could accrue to the Council.
Sale of SCDC car park, High Street, Melbourn to Melbourn Parish Council.	Agreed to offer the car park at High Street, Melbourn Parish Council, subject to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuation as car park and proposed uses • The investigation of all options for the development of affordable housing on the site • Consideration of the future of the garages • Retention of parking spaces 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A capital receipt would accrue to the Council. 2. Would save the Council future maintenance costs. 3. Possibility of provision of some affordable housing 4. Parish Council's proposals for new community hall, parish offices etc would improve village facilities.

DECISIONS MADE BY OFFICERS AND REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

Conservation Manager

Applicant	Decision and Reasons
Castle Camps Parish Council	Historic Building Grant (G/13/05) of £500 awarded to Castle Camps Parish Council towards the cost of an interpretation board as part of the enhancement of The Green, High Street, Castle Camps

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**South
Cambridgeshire**
District Council

Our ref: FF/ Southern Fringe

Your ref: JC/CP42

31 October 2005

Development Services Department

Contact: Frances Fry

Direct dial: 01954 713430

Direct email: frances.fry@scambs.gov.uk

Dear John Clough

ADDENBROOKES ACCESS ROAD, PROPOSED BRIDGE OVER THE RAIL LINE

Further to your letter dated 20 October 2005 regarding the above mentioned development the comments of South Cambridgeshire District Council are as follows.

The proposed bridge needs to be of an exceptional quality design which makes a statement and which is a landmark. It should help create a distinctive gateway into the city. Unfortunately the various options presented do not fulfil these key principles. The following comments are made in respect of each option.

Option 1

This relates to the standard engineered style of bridge giving a functional but unimaginative appearance. This would not be acceptable in the location as it would have an adverse visual impact.

Option 2

Although has a wider opening than option 1 the design is still unimaginative and would not make a high quality landmark.

Option 3

This option is the most permeable but lacks the requirement for a landmark feature.

Option 4

This option goes some way to making an architectural statement but lacks the permeability that is also required.

Option 5

This also goes some way to making a statement and landmark feature. This needs to be more permeable also.

In terms of a preferred option it would be options 4 or 5 but designed so that there is less banking so that they are much more permeable.

The Council cannot stress enough the importance of a bridge design which is striking and of exceptional quality that makes a statement in the landscape. In addition the bridge should not be cluttered with highway signage, lighting or safety features which would dilute any landmark feature. These features should be designed to complement rather than dominate the structure.

I hope these comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR DR DAVID BARD

Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder

South Cambridgeshire District Council