



**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN – ISSUE DATE 12TH
FEBRUARY 2003**

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

		<u>COMMITTEE MEETINGS</u>			
FROM 17TH – 21ST FEBRUARY 2003					
THURSDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2003		AT 2PM		CAMBOURNE DESIGN & ENVIRONMENT GROUP (Contact Officer Holly McKenzie)	
4 MONK DRIVE, CAMBOURNE					

2001 Census Key Statistics for Local Authorities

The results from the 2001 Census have been released in the report "Key Statistics for Local Authorities" and is available on the National Statistics Website: www.statistics.gov.uk

The census returns for South Cambridgeshire can be accessed through the following link:
www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/pop2001/south_cambridgeshire.asp

The summaries of the complete results of the Census are set out to enable comparison at local, regional and national levels.

Any queries regarding the Census results can be directed to 01329 813800 or can be e-mailed to: censuscustomerservices@ons.gov.uk

Traffic Proposals made by Cambridgeshire County Council

Name of Order	Details	Order made	Advertised in local Press	Order in force
Sawston:	No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 20mph along Hillside (part), High Street (part) and Link Road (the whole length). A person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of its provisions on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 as amended, or that any instrument made under that Act has not been complied with, must apply to the High Court before 25th February 2003.	14 January 2003	23 January 2003	27 January 2003

Planning Performance Criteria

QUARTERLY STATISTICS

In the third quarter of 2002 the number of applications received by South Cambridgeshire decreased by 0.5% over the corresponding period in 2001. In England there was a 10% increase.

The percentage of all decisions taken within the eight week period in the District was 72% compared with 65% in England. The equivalent figure for householder development was 84% compared with the national figure of 75%.

The percentage of decisions delegated to officers in this quarter was 90%. There is no equivalent national figure but in Cambridgeshire the average figure was 89%. The Government has set a target of 90%.

During this second quarter, South Cambridgeshire ranked 106th of all 362 District, Unitary and National Park Authorities in terms of decisions taken within eight weeks.

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 79% whilst on the “minor” category where we are urged to decide 65% in eight weeks the Council achieved 56%. The 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 45% which is good compared to the neighbouring authorities.

The graphs, which accompany this report, illustrate the picture in Cambridgeshire for each of these development types during the year ending 30th September 2002 and the quarter July to September 2002.

ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS (Quarter ending December 2002)

Statistics for the previous quarter are in brackets.

Enforcement Notices	1	(15)
Stop Notices	0	(8)
Planning Contravention Notices	8	(14)
Breach of Condition Notices	0	(0)
Amenity Notices	0	(0)
Number of Complaints	79	(39)
Prosecutions	1	(1)

LANDSCAPING STATISTICS (Quarter ending December 2002)

Statistics for the previous quarter are in brackets.

Applications for work on Statutorily protected trees

(Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas)

Number of applications	152	(128)
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Landscaping

Number of landscaping conditions received from D.C.	56	(60)
Number of weekly actions	366	(846)
Number of schemes submitted	58	(90)
Number of schemes finalised and approved	31	(52)
Number of landscaping conditions currently active (excluding Cambourne work)	988	(972)
Number of breach of condition notices served	2	(0)

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 agenda are available as required from the following individuals:

Mr J Belcham	(01223) 443252
Mrs S King	(01223) 443169
Mr K Miles	(01223) 443181
Mr R Morgan	(01223) 443165
Mr D Rush	(01223) 443153
Mr P Sexton	(01223) 443255

D B HUSSELL
Planning Director

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY PLANNING PORTFOLIO HOLDER MEETING

At a meeting held on Thursday, 23rd January 2003 at 10.00am

PRESENT:

Councillor JD Batchelor (in the Chair)	Portfolio Holder
Cameron Adams	Strategic Development Officer
Jonathan Dixon	Planning Assistant (Planning Policy)
Iain Green	EHO (Projects and Campaigns)
Nick Grimshaw	Conservation Manager
Peter Harris	Principal Accountant
Maggie Jennings	Committee Clerk
Simon McIntosh	Ast Director of Housing & Community Services
Councillor DSK Spink	Leader of Council
Jane Thompson	Community Development Partnerships Manager

An apology for absence was received from Paul Swift, Policy and Review Manager.

1. MINUTES

1.1 The Group approved the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2002, subject to the following amendment:

- Councillor Dr JA Heap was also in attendance at the meeting

2. MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Minute 3.1 – SMC reported that the Primary Care Trust, via the Local Strategic Partnership were considering future financial contribution to the Mobile Warden Schemes and that two further MWS were anticipated at Little/Great Abington and Histon.

2.2 Minute 4.1 – JT had attended a meeting with the County Council on 22nd January concerning Youth Development and would report any future developments, particularly concerning co-ordination between all parties to the next appropriate meeting of the Portfolio Holder.

2.3 Minute 5.5 – CA reported that unfortunately, he had been unable to secure sponsorship to reduce production costs of the sustainable calendar.

3. REVENUE ESTIMATES

3.1 PH presented his report on the Revenue Estimates for the Sustainability and Community Planning Portfolio. It was noted that as the CIPs process would not be finally completed until approval by Council on 27th February, the figures contained in the report, were for indicative purposes only. Attention was drawn to the following points:

- para 7 – Savings previously identified had been included in the estimates resulting in the target figure having been met
- para 8 – Stated items not included in the estimates
- para 12 – Confirmation that the post of Tourism Liaison Officer remained with the City Council

- para 15 – Grants earmarked for payment in 2003/04 could be brought forward for payment within 2002/03 as a sum of £2,350 had been vired from the Partnership Working budget

3.2 The Group noted that bids for inclusion in the CIPs were still forthcoming, including a bid within this Portfolio for two additional posts.

3.3 The Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Community Planning,

ENDORSED and **RECOMMENDS** the Revenue Estimates shown in Appendix A to the report for examination by Scrutiny Committee on 13th February and approval by Cabinet on 24th February and Council on 27th February 2003.

4. LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP REPORT

4.1 SMC reported on the LSP meeting held on 21st January 2003. It was noted that:

- a Children's Partnership for ages from 0-19 years had been formed that would consider both strategic and operational issues. It did not however have any democratic representation. In the event of a successful bid within the CIPs process for two additional posts, further involvement by SCDC could be given to the Children's Partnership.
- Developing Joined-up Thinking - Officer's were working on a strategic vision to address the issues and challenges which had been agreed.
- Consultation – Workshops were being arranged for the voluntary sector and draft priorities would be included in a future edition of the South Cambs magazine.
- Capital programmes – Each sector (SCDC, CC and PCT) to consider how they might work better together on their Capital Plans.
- Co-ordination with the Voluntary Sector – Draft proposals were being considered by the County. **JT to circulate Terms of Reference when available.**
- Lessons learnt from the Cambourne development – A joint document had been produced setting out the lessons learnt by the Planning Department and the Service Providers.
- Consultation Brief for Arbury Camp – The existing facilities in the northern part of Cambridge would be assessed to consider if they could meet the needs of additional development.
- Impending Library Closures – The LSP Board were working with the six communities involved to investigate possible future uses of the buildings.

5. SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES UPDATE

5.1 CA gave a verbal update on the following issues:

(a) South Cambs Waste Management Contract Vehicle Specification

5.2 Potential funding was available to install particulate traps on certain models of diesel powered on refuse vehicles either leased or bought by the Council. CA would liaise with the Commercial Director concerning both the possibility of using bio-diesel for these vehicles and the option of providing a bio-diesel fuelling facility at the depot. It was noted that:

- funding was available from the Energy Saving Trust's clean-up initiative for the installation of particulate traps on refuse vehicles
- contracts and date for commencement of the scheme had yet to be finalised, and

- a project team had been initiated to manage the scheme.

(b) Community Strategy for Climate Change

- 5.3 A brief had been prepared for a consultation exercise to be conducted on the Council's behalf by BMG. The cost would be in the region of £5,000 and would comprise a workshop session involving a cross-section of approximately 40 residents from the District.

(c) European Climate Change Menu Programme

- 5.4 Management Team had approved the programme for distribution to all members of staff with training commencing in the near future. The total cost of the three year programme would be £30,000, less European Funding that had been secured of approximately €15,000. CA was requested to indicate in the appropriate revenue account when the funding had been received.

(d) Self-build Solar Team Project

- 5.5 Eight residents of South Cambs were due to attend the self-build solar team workshop on 26/27th January at Wysing Arts at a cost of £1400 each. CA was in the process of applying to the Millennium Fund for a £7,000 grant to offset part of the costs.

(e) Proposed joint feasibility study to assess the potential for renewable energy systems

- 5.6 It was noted that funds had been identified that would enable South Cambs to participate in the above joint study by Cambridge City and Cambridgeshire County Council. A final decision concerning the participation of South Cambs has yet to be taken.

6. SUSTAINABILITY BEST VALUE REVIEW

- 6.1 It was noted that the Best Value Review would be considered by Scrutiny Committee later in the day.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Wind Turbines

- 7.1 CA reported that a £100m fund would shortly be announced by the Government in order to promote the provision of wind turbines, particularly among householders. It was also noted that details of wind turbines were incorporated in village design guides and promoted within new development.
- 7.2 The provision of a wind turbine at Cambourne had provisionally been discussed with Ecotricity who would install a turbine at no cost to South Cambs, however a 12-year purchase agreement would be required. The ongoing costs would be comparable with existing power supplies and the capacity of the proposed turbine could also supply the Business Park and residents. Although Cambourne was visible to surrounding villages and the provision of a wind turbine would be prominent on the sky line, the Group agreed it was worth pursuing via Wrenbridge and the planning department.

Cultural Involvement within the Local Strategic Partnership

7.3 NG queried whether the LSP considered cultural issues and in response JB replied that theme groups had not yet been formalised. JT reported that Fenland and East Cambs had formed such a group that was proving to be effective.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

8.1 Future meetings will be held on:

Thursday, 27th February 2003 at 10am in CR2

Wednesday, 26th March 2003 at 10am in CR1

Tuesday, 29th April 2003 at 10am in CR2

The meeting closed at 11.50 am

Notes Of Environmental Health Portfolio Holder Meeting
Held on 30th January 2003

Present: Councillor C Barker, Dale Robinson
David Hill

Apologies: Councillor Mrs D. Spink

Item 1 Notes of previous meeting – Agreed.

Item 2 Matters Arising:

- (i) Item 6: The PFH enquired as to whether Rugby Cement had formally responded to our letter. Susan Walford will contact the PFA to advise and if no response has been received Susan will chase them.
- (ii) Item 8: The PFH received an update as to the latest position. Information still awaited from the Company which will assist in the discussions with the Environment Agency. Report planned to go to Cabinet in March/April

Item 3 Service Budgets – Revenue Estimates 2002/3 revised and 2003/4 Estimates

David Hill tabled papers on the above which were discussed in detail with the Portfolio Holder. Base line target was £2,290,810 and final figure was below this at £2,251,080. The PFH noted the capital and Revenue Estimates and agreed to recommend to Cabinet.

Confidential Items:

Item 4 135 High Street, Cottenham

The PFH was briefed on the latest developments concerning the renovation works at the above property. The next progress report would be presented to Cabinet on 27th March 2003.

Item 5 Any other Business:

None.

Item 6 Date and time of Next Meeting:

14.00 hours 24th February 2003 at Meadow House, Oakington.

DECISIONS MADE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Decisions Made By Portfolio Holder For Planning and Economic Development

Subject	Decision	Reason
Economic Development Grant Applications: Cambridgeshire ACRE	To award a full grant of £11,030	To support their work on rural issues. More details set out in Economic Development Grant Application for 2002/2003 Report

Decisions Made By Portfolio Holder For Resources & Staffing

Subject	Decision	Reason
Irrecoverable Debts	To write off the following debts as irrecoverable: £24,673.05 in respect of Non-Domestic Rates £ 309.53 in respect of Council Tax £ 6,144.65 in respect of Rent £ 2,455.19 in respect of Sundry Debtors	All efforts to recover the outstanding debt have failed; or because of the circumstances of the debtor, there appears to be no realistic chance of recovery.

