



**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN – ISSUE DATE 29TH
OCTOBER 2003**

CONTENTS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

1. Forthcoming Committee Meetings
2. Training Courses:
 - Victims and Witnesses – Providing Better Support
3. Planning Performance Criteria
4. Information on Village Facility Grants
5. Call-in Arrangements



OFFICER DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

1. To Award £85 for the Provision of an Owl Box in **Melbourn**

**DECISION MADE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLANNING & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

1. The Council's Role in the Joint Response to the Stansted/M11 Corridor Development Options Study.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

<u>COMMITTEE MEETINGS</u>			
FROM 3rd TO 7th NOVEMBER 2003			
			
MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2003	10 AM	RESOURCES & STAFFING PORTFOLIO HOLDERS MEETING	OFFICE OF FINANCE & RESOURCES DIRECTOR
WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2003	10 AM	DEVELOPMENT & CONSERVATION CONTROL COMMITTEE	COUNCIL CHAMBER

Training Courses

Name of Course	Description	Date and Venue
Victims and Witnesses – Providing Better Support	Delegates will have an opportunity to attend two discussion based workshop sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim and Witness Strategy • Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour • Victim and Witness Care • Warwickshire Victim and Witness Pilot 	3 rd December 2003 in Central London

More details on the above course can be found by contacting Patrick Adams, on (01223) 443408 or patrick.adams@scams.gov.uk

Planning Performance Criteria

QUARTERLY STATISTICS

In the second quarter of 2003 the number of applications received by South Cambridgeshire increased by 6% over the corresponding period in 2002. In England there was a 11% increase.

The percentage of all decisions taken within the eight week period in the District was 72% compared with 72% in England. The equivalent figure for householder development was 83% compared with the national figure of 81%.

The percentage of decisions delegated to officers in this quarter was 89%. There is no equivalent national figure but in Cambridgeshire the average figure was 90%. 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 79% whilst on the “minor” category where we are urged to decide 65% in eight weeks the Council achieved 51%. 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 36%.

The graphs, which accompany this report, illustrate the picture in Cambridgeshire for each of these development types during the year ending 30th June 2003 and the quarter April to June 2003.

ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS (Quarter ending June 2003)

Statistics for the previous quarter are in brackets.

Enforcement Notices	2	(10)
Stop Notices	0	(2)
Planning Contravention Notices	2	(12)
Breach of Condition Notices	0	(1)
Amenity Notices	1	(0)
Number of Complaints	108	(96)
Prosecutions	1	(2)

LANDSCAPING STATISTICS (Quarter ending June 2003)

Statistics for the previous quarter are in brackets.

Applications for work on Statutorily protected trees

(Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas) Number of applications	103	(110)
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Landscaping

Number of landscaping conditions received from D.C.	64	(65)
Number of weekly actions	867	(494)
Number of schemes submitted	93	(67)
Number of schemes finalised and approved	31	(28)
Number of landscaping conditions currently active (excluding Cambourne work)	996	(1041)
Number of breach of condition notices served	0	(1)

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
Mr A Moffat	(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
Development Services Director

Information on Village Facility Grants

Village Facility Grants

In the light of some recent applications for these grants, we are providing the information below to clarify the position for members.

Village Facility Grants are for capital projects and are aimed at improving community facilities in South Cambridgeshire. Eligible projects include:

- i. New Village Halls and improvements to existing Village Halls.
- ii. Village Car Parks associated with Village Halls and Recreation Grounds; for new Car Parks and improvements to existing Car Parks.
- iii. Other community buildings where it is the primary community building in the village; for new build and improvements to existing buildings.
- iv. New disabled access to any community building which is substantially used by the community.
- v. 'Drop in' Centres for young people.

Community Facilities can, in appropriate circumstances, provide funding to enable community buildings to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). The DDA aims to end the discrimination which many disabled people face. The Act gives disabled people rights in the areas of employment, access to goods, facilities and services and buying or renting land or property. The employment rights and first rights of access came into force on 2 December 1996; further rights of access came into force on 1 October 1999 and the final rights of access will come into force in October 2004. The act states that 'you must take reasonable steps to provide a reasonable alternative method for making your services available to disabled people, where a physical feature makes it impossible or unreasonably difficult for them to use these services'.

Further information is available at www.disability.gov.uk.

In order for projects to be eligible for a grant the building needs to **have a substantial level of use by members of the community**. Substantial use is generally defined as daily use by a community group i.e. a nursery. The community development budget is not able to meet the costs of other schemes for disabled access. Any change to the current criteria, to include buildings which do not have a high level of community use, would require an increased budget.

There are set criteria that applicants need to meet in order to be eligible for a grant.

- i. All applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have applied for other available sources of funding.
- ii. The Council gives special regard to the amount of self-help, which has taken or is taking place. All applicants should contribute at least 10% of the total cost directly and undertake local fundraising.
- iii. All projects involving a total cost of over £30,000 must reflect the results of thorough consultation and local needs surveys. A Business Plan must also be undertaken.
- iv. All applications must include a programme of usage for the relevant facility. Where that request is for a Car Park, the usage of the associated Hall or facility will be considered. (See point 2).
- v. The Council does not give loans for Village Facility Projects and grants are not given retrospectively.
- vi. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all facilities have Planning Permission and meet Building Control and Health and Safety Regulations.
- vii. All buildings in receipt of grant aid must be fully accessible by disabled people. Grant aid is available towards the modification of existing buildings for this purpose.
- viii. Projects for youth 'Drop In' Centres must prove the full involvement of young people in planning and fund raising. Partnership projects are strongly encouraged involving Community Education and it is expected that young people will be involved in decision-making and in the operation of the facility.
- ix. Parish Councils are important partners with whom the Council wishes to consult on all applications.
- x. The requirements of applicants and the expected level of grant award are outlined in the attached. The maximum grant available is £75,000.
- xi. Applicants are expected to seek 3 quotations for the work in question.

For information, we list some examples of eligible schemes.

Previous applications:

Balsham Church Institute – Improvements to village hall.

West Wickham Village Hall Management Committee – Improvements to car park

Hauxton Village Hall Management Committee – Improvements to village hall.

Current applications:

Rampton Village Hall Management Committee – Improvements to village hall including access for disabled users.

Church Council of Toft Methodist Church – Toilets for disabled users.

Future applications:

Histon and Impington Millenium Hall – New village hall.

Harlton Parish Council – Improvements to village hall including disabled access.

For further information please contact Bridget Fairley, Senior Admin Officer on 01223 724159.

Call-In Arrangements

The Chairman of the Scrutiny 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 5th November 2003 at 5pm**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Thursday 6th November 2003**.

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 Committee Procedure Rules', paragraph 12.

OFFICER DECISIONS REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

Decisions by Conservation Manager

Applicant	Decision	Reason
Mrs Reeve of Lordship Farm, Melbourn	To award a 50% grant totalling £85 from the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme	For the purchase and ejection of two owl boxes.

DECISIONS MADE BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Decision Made By Portfolio Holder For Planning & Economic Development

Subject	Action Taken
Stansted/M11 Corridor Development Options Study: Draft Final Report (Consultation Draft) September 2003	<p>A joint response on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire had been agreed at a meeting of the Joint Strategic Forum.</p> <p>The final recommendation in the Study states that any additional airport-related development should take place close to Stansted and not in South Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>The Joint Strategic Forum also agreed that the councils should also send individual responses and the response from South Cambridgeshire District Council were set out in a letter from Councillor Dr DR Bard, portfolio holder for planning & economic development, on 23rd October 2003.</p> <p>The letter from Councillor Bard makes it clear that it is not accepted that the options should have included any new settlement proposal in South Cambridgeshire.</p>

Reasons Why It Would Not Be Possible To Find A Site For A New Settlement In The South Cambridgeshire Area:

The Cambridge Sub-Region now has in place a planning strategy to accommodate its development pressures. That strategy accepts an increased rate of development and locates development close to the main urban centres in the interests of sustainability. It is essential therefore that the Cambridge Sub-Region, with its limited capacity, continues to address its own needs rather than those of more distant areas. The area of search indicated in the Study by the 15 mile radius would take in Sawston, Duxford, Thriplow and Whittlesford along a nominal M11 corridor. All previous studies have demonstrated just how unsuitable this rural area would be to establish a new town. It is one of the most heavily constrained parts of the Cambridge Sub-Region, by virtue of flooding, high quality landscape, nature conservation interests, historic village character, the Cambridge Green Belt and the flying requirements of the Imperial War Museum at Duxford. By virtue of many of these considerations, the valley of the River Cam to the south of Cambridge (through which the Cambridge/Liverpool Street railway line runs) it is a vital recreation resource for this southern part of the Cambridge Sub-Region which is necessary to underpin the high levels of growth already planned for Cambridge and the surrounding area.

Further information is available from Michael Monk, Principal Planning Officer (Transport) who can be contacted on (01223) 443182 or e-mail: michael.monk@scambs.gov.uk