

**COUNCILLORS' BULLETIN
6TH OCTOBER 2004**

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**South
Cambridgeshire
District Council**

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS FROM: 11th – 15th October 2004			
Monday 11th October 04			
Tuesday 12th October 04			
Wednesday 13th October 04			
Thursday 14th October 04	9 am	Cabinet	Council Chamber
Friday 15th October 04			

Councillor Pigeon holes

Please note that the new Councilor pigeon holes have now arrived and have been installed in the Members Lounge. Please ensure that whenever you are in the building you pop up to the first floor to check for post. Any post that has not been collected is sent out to Councillors every Friday. The less post we have to send out on a Friday, the more money we can save!

Headed Paper and Business Cards

The headed paper is now ready for collection from your pigeon holes. The business cards are due for delivery on Thursday 7th of October and will be placed in pigeon holes by 2 pm this Friday. Due to their weight, these will not be posted out and will have to be collected in person.

IDEA National Census of Local Authorities

The Employers Organisation for local government and the Improvement and Development Agency are undertaking the third census of all Councillors in England and Wales. Each Councillor will receive a form to complete and return to us. In order that the information can be kept confidentially, please complete the form and return it to the Members Lounge in the sealed envelope provided. There is a labelled black ballot box situated in the Lounge for you to post your envelope into. The sealed envelopes will be returned to the IDEA without being opened. Provisional feedback should be made available in November 2004. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me, Lucie Edginton (Democratic Services Officer) 01954 713026 or by email lucie.edginton@scams.gov.uk

Annual Travel to Work Survey

Over £285 worth of prizes are on offer in this year's Annual Travel for Work Survey.

As part of the Council's corporate objective 'a sustainable future for South Cambridgeshire', we have a Travel for Work Plan to encourage members and staff to find alternatives to coming to work on their own by car. A crucial part of our Travel for Work Plan is the Annual Travel for Work Survey. It provides up-to-date information on staff and member travel arrangements to and from their place of work i.e. Cambourne, Cambridge or Waterbeach. This year's survey is being conducted on our behalf by Cambridgeshire's Travel for Work Partnership (TfW) and concerns your travel for work arrangements for the week commencing Saturday 2 October. All staff and members are asked to recall what forms of transport they use the week commencing Saturday 2 October – Friday 8 October, and complete an on line questionnaire available from Monday 11 October (up to Friday 22 October) at www.tfw.org.uk

Members and Cambourne and Cambridge staff

For members (and staff at the Cambourne and Cambridge office), the questionnaire will be available on line between Monday 11 October and Friday 22 October via the TfW website at www.tfw.org.uk

Incentive? All South Cambs members and staff will be entered into TWO prize draws. South Cambs is offering a first cash prize of £50; a second cash prize of £25 and a third cash prize of £10. Cambourne Business Park is offering £200 worth of vouchers towards a bike of your choice.

For further information contact Sally Carroll, communications manager on (01223) 443262, sally.carroll@scambs.gov.uk

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 13th October 2004 at 5pm**. All decisions not called in by this date may be implemented on **Thursday 14th October 2004**.

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.

DECISIONS MADE BY OFFICERS

Reason	Decision
Wildlife Enhancement Scheme to contribute towards the following biodiversity action plan targets; urban, ponds and great crested newts	Award £571.90 to the Wildlife Trust for a wildlife garden and pond creation
Wildlife Enhancement Scheme to contribute towards the following biodiversity action plan targets; dry calcareous grassland and skylarks	Award £1685 to The Magog Trust for dog fencing of down land to protect ground nesting birds
Willow Pollarding Scheme to contribute towards the following biodiversity action plan targets; veteran trees and ponds	Award £370 to the Little Shelford Wildlife Group for willow pollarding and branch topping with renewal from the adjacent pond.
Sports Development Grant to benefit patients who have recently suffered a heart attack	Award a grant of £1,000 to Sawston Sports Centre to set up phase 4 cardiac rehab classes.

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Housing
Options Working Group held on
Thursday, 23 September 2004 at 10.00
a.m.

PRESENT: Councillor NJ Scarr – Chairman
Councillor Mrs A Elsby –Vice-Chairman

Councillors: EJ Pateman Mrs DSK Spink MBE
and Councillor Mrs EM Heazell (Housing Portfolio Holder)

External: R Tebbut HACAS Chapman Hendy

Tenant Representatives: Mrs H Ballantyne H Renshaw
Mrs G Smeaton

Officers: John Ballantyne Chief Executive
Tracey Cassidy Tenant Participation Officer
Kari Greaves Head of Shire Homes
Steve Hampson Housing and Environmental Services
Director
Greg Harlock Finance and Resources Director
Sarah Lyons UNISON representative
Gwynn Thomas Principal Accountant (Housing)

Also in attendance were Helen Dawson as replacement for Jon Holden (PS Consultants) and Martin Williams (who will be replacing Sarah Lyons as UNISON rep)

Action

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor HF Kember, Andy Booth and Janice Curtis.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Councillor NJ Scarr declared an interest as a member of UNISON.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2004 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Minute 10.2 – Substitute *Cllr Heazell* for *The meeting* was asked if ...

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Minute 6 – An update of the Project Plan was given by KG who informed the Group that there was a delay in establishing the financial baseline position due to information required from the consultants on the stock condition survey. The revised project plan would be included in the agenda for the October meeting. Councillor Mrs Spink requested that all Members be informed of the Housing Finance presentation to full Council. SL raised concerns about the delay in receiving the financial information given the tight timeframe.

- 4.2 Minute 8 – It was reported that the first phase of the consultation process had had a higher response than expected, resulting in a delay in the results by the Independent Tenant Advisor. A response would be given at the meeting of the Working Group to be held on 30th September and a more detailed report on the second phase at the October meeting.
- 4.3 Minute 8 - Cllr Mrs Heazell queried the reference to producing general housing information for Members by Cllrs Scarr, Elsby and Heazell and in response SH explained that it had been felt important to keep all Members informed of the progress of the Working Group and that the Project Team would circulate to Members all relevant information as it occurred.
- 4.4 Minute 10.1 – Cllr Scarr queried whether any progress had been made and in response KG replied that a glossary/abbreviations list would be included in the revised project plan.

5. PRESENTATION

- 5.1 A presentation on 'The Four Options' was given by Robin Tebbut, lead consultant, HACAS Chapman Hendy; Members considered the presentation in conjunction with an ODPM factsheet containing guidance on the options available provided in the agenda. The options were:
- an Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO); a company set up by a local authority to manage its homes and make them decent
 - Private Finance Initiative (PFI), the award of a long-term contract from a local authority to a PFI private sector operator that would provide additional investment in social housing to meet the Decent Homes Standard
 - Stock Transfer; where a council transfers some or all of its stock to a housing association
 - Retain existing arrangements
- 5.2 Following the presentation, Members were requested to disperse into three groups to form questions regarding the implications of each of the options on Tenants, Leaseholders, Staff and Council Tax Payers. A further presentation by Robin Tebbut was given to answer the questions raised. Questions raised and not covered in the presentation included:
- accountability – there would be representatives on the boards of ALMO and Transfer of Stock, PFI's would be via a consultation process
 - decision process – in respect of ALMO and PFI, the Council would carry out the consultation
 - ability to achieve same standards as others – would be achieved by grants
 - housing benefit – would remain for tenants in respect of all the options
 - affordable housing in the future and the cost implications - would be dealt with later in the option appraisal process
 - how would equity share be managed – would be included in a transfer business plan

- Right to Buy – it was noted that housing association tenants in villages of less than three thousand people do not have the right to acquire

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 6.1 The next meeting will be held on 30th September 2004 at 9am in the Ground Floor Meeting Room for a presentation from the Independent Tenant Advisor on the Phase 1 consultation. This will be followed by a coach tour to Hereward Housing, Ely. Lunch will be provided.

The meeting ended at 12.20 p.m.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development

Meeting held on Friday 24th September 2004 at 2.00pm

Present

Councillor Dr DR Bard – Portfolio Holder
Lesley Dickinson – Landscape Design Officer
David Hussell – Director of Development Services
Michael Monk – Principal Planning Policy Officer (Transport)
Ian Senior – Democratic Services Officer
Claire Spencer – Senior Planning Policy Officer (Transport)

In Attendance

Councillor RF Bryant (Chairman of Council)
Councillor SM Edwards (Member for Oakington)
Councillor R Hall (Member for Bar Hill)
Councillor Dr JPR Orme (Vice-Chairman of Development and Conservation Control Committee)
Councillor A Riley (Member for Longstanton)
Councillor Mrs DSK Spink (Leader of Council)

1. Purpose

To assist the Portfolio Holder in determining the Council's reply to the response from Cambridgeshire County Council to the representations made by South Cambridgeshire District Council in relation to the proposed Guided Busway.

2. Background

The Portfolio Holder and Principal Planning Policy Officer (Transport) reminded those present that, while the District Council supported the Guided Bus project, it had a number of reservations about it, largely in respect of public access and the impact on landscape and ecology. Many of these issues had been resolved as a result of meetings held at officer level, but some remained outstanding. The approach was that it would not be appropriate to appear at the public inquiry since the Council supported the scheme. In addition, officer resources had been concentrated on delivering the Local Development Framework.

3. Issues (Principal Planning Policy Officer (Transport))

- (a) Longstanton/Northstowe Park and Ride
- access, design and landscape would be dealt with at a later stage in the development control process
 - amount of land to be used considered not critical
 - all relevant issues resolved

- (b) Histon car park
 - access for the disabled, design and ongoing management would be dealt with at a later stage in the development control process
 - all relevant issues resolved
- (c) Swavesey “Kiss and Ride”
 - SCDC had reservations about the appropriateness of this facility, and had suggested a small car park instead. However, the County Council had pointed out that a car park would take more land in this sensitive location
 - CCC had responded that this was a “snapshot” only, and that a future change of use to a car park was always possible through the planning system, if deemed more appropriate
 - all relevant issues resolved
- (d) Oakington stop
 - considered too far from village for pedestrians (but noted Northstowe loop)
 - SCDC had remaining concerns about environmental impact, which should be acknowledged
- (e) Cambridge Northern Fringe
 - Arbury hedge an important feature
 - SCDC to inform CCC about its continued concern
- (f) Impact on landscape and village character
 - need for “stripping out” and replanting as a worst case scenario
 - SCDC needs to be a full partner in the necessary construction strategy and formulation of management plans
- (g) Disability and access
 - SCDC to consider appointing a Group to monitor issues

4. **Comments and concerns from Members present**

- the impact on the local environment and landscape of the guideway was a significant issue that would require monitoring and additional planting
- SCDC should advise the Inspector that some of the 10,000 homes option for Northstowe would include land on the northern side of the former St Ives railway line. To clarify the impact on the two hedges -- the ancient hedgeline running north/south and the other section along King Hedges Road
- Oakington Parish Council and Oakington villagers supported the Oakington stop.
- impact on the natural environment

It was **AGREED** that a reply, taking into account the matters raised at the meeting, should be drafted and approved by those present before being sent to the County Council.

The meeting closed at 2.54pm

**SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AREA JOINT
COMMITTEE: MINUTES**

Date 27th September 2004
Time 1430h – 1545h
Place South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne
Present: County Councillors
J E Coston, S F Johnstone (Chairman), A Milton (substituting for T J Bear) and J E Reynolds

District Councillors

D Bard, J D Batchelor, S G M Kindersley, D S K Spink and
R Summerfield

CALC Councillors

G Everson and M Williamson

Also present

County Councillor R B Martlew
District Councillors P Orme, J Williamson and N Wright

Apologies: County Councillor T J Bear

155. MINUTES – (a) 28 JUNE 2004 & (b) 10 SEPTEMBER 2004

The minutes of the meetings held on 28 June and 10 September 2004 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:

28 June 2004

Page 4, Minute 142, Elsworth - delete "District Members" and add "the former District Councillor for Elsworth Bunty Waters".

Page 6, Minute 143, first paragraph, penultimate sentence – add "church" in between "iron crossroads".

Page 8, Minute 145, first paragraph - delete "there was little public support to reduce the dual carriageway to a single lane from the start of the dual carriageway to the Dale Head Foods factory entrance" and replace with "People were against the reduction of the dual carriageway at Dalehead Foods if this measure was proposed without consideration of the effect on other parts of the A1307".

156. PETITIONS

The Committee received:

(a) Improvements in Road Safety in Waterbeach and Landbeach

A 846-signature petition, presented by Mr P Johnson, requesting improvements in road safety in Waterbeach and Landbeach, and highlighting the need for the resurfacing of some roads/paths. Local Members County Councillor Coston and District Councillor Williamson indicated their support for the petition, and the Chairman reported that District Councillor J A Hockney had indicated his support in a letter.

(b) Extension of Speed Limit to cover Wimpole Road, Barton

A 65-signature petition, presented by Miss Scrivens, requesting that the village speed limit be extended to cover Wimpole Road, Barton. Local Member County Councillor Martlew indicated his support for the petition.

157. PETITIONS UPDATE – LANDBEACH AND WATERBEACH; NORTH END, BASSINGBOURN; AND WIMPOLE ROAD, BARTON

Landbeach and Waterbeach

The Committee had received a 846-signature petition, as outlined in Minute 156 (a). The A10 Denny End junction and the A10 “Slap Up” junction were two injury cluster sites within the parishes of Landbeach and Waterbeach. The former was a potential scheme in the Traffic Management and Safety Schemes Programme 2005/06 where it was proposed to light the junction and traffic islands and to remove the left turn slip lane. The latter had been the subject of some remedial measures undertaken in 2002, which appeared to have reduced the injury accident rate, although it was too early to say whether this was statistically significant. Members noted some works in Landbeach, which had been ordered. Waterbeach Parish Council was currently considering its bids to the Jointly Funded Minor Highway Improvement Scheme 2005/06.

The Chairman reported that District Councillor Hockney had submitted his views in writing. He was concerned that the villages of Landbeach, Waterbeach and Chittering appeared to be the poor relation in comparison to many neighbouring villages, and had highlighted the need for these villages to be offered safety measures such as interactive signs. He had welcomed the proposal for street lighting at the Denny End junction. Whilst also welcoming the maintenance of roads and paths undertaken in these villages this year, he had also highlighted the need for roads like Waddelow Road and Burgess Road to be resurfaced.

Speaking as a Local Member, District Councillor Williamson, expressed concern about the clarity of the markings on the A10 “Slap Up” junction, which were particularly confusing for motorists turning right to Ely. She also expressed concern about the dangerous junction at Denny End. In conclusion, she welcomed the introduction of vehicle activated signs to slow down traffic.

County Councillor Coston, also speaking as a Local Member, welcomed the proposals for Landbeach and Waterbeach. She commended the work undertaken by Waterbeach Parish Council to improve road safety in the village but highlighted the time and effort taken to achieve some improvements. She also raised the need for traffic lights at the A10 Denny End junction.

North End, Bassingbourn

Members were informed that a 93-signature petition had been received from Bassingbourn cum Kneesworth Parish Council requesting the existing 30mph speed limit on North End in Bassingbourn be extended. A plan was tabled at the meeting.

It was noted that the existing 30mph speed limit currently extended beyond the village envelope by 550 metres to include the majority of development. There had been two injury accidents since 1999 on the length requested for inclusion by the petitioners. Members were advised that the speed limit situation on this road did not

comply with current County Council policy, as the 30mph speed limit extended beyond the village envelope. The appropriate limit for the level of development would be 40mph. Any proposal for a 40mph buffer to include the 550 metres and the length requested by the petitioners was likely to be extremely unpopular with the majority of residents.

District Council members were concerned that the County Council was basing its Speed Limit Policy on the village envelope. South Cambridgeshire District Council had ensured that Village Frameworks were drawn very tightly to control development, which had resulted in some hamlets being excluded. Therefore they highlighted the need for the County Council to review its policy to include these hamlets. Members noted that the County Council had agreed this policy, which was designed to ensure consistency across the County and provide a consistent message to the motorist, approximately five years ago. Officers would be reviewing the impact of new advice on speed limits from the Transport Research Laboratory and work on speed limits nationally. The Chairman advised of the need to avoid raising expectations locally as extending speed limits would require resources.

Some Members were concerned that lack of police support was being used as a reason for not extending speed limits and highlighted the lack of enforcement of existing measures. They also highlighted inconsistencies surrounding the implementation of the current policy with some hamlets outside the village envelope being the subject of a 40mph speed limit. Councillor Spink proposed an amendment to recommendation iii), seconded by Councillor Bard, to extend the 30mph speed limit on North End, Bassingbourn.

Wimpole Road, Barton

The Committee had received a 65-signature petition, as outlined in Minute 156 (b). A plan was tabled at the meeting. The speed limit at the south western edge of Barton was currently 60mph, which was coincident with the village envelope. Two slight injury accidents had been recorded on this road since 1999. The latest speed counts showed that the 85th percentile speeds within the village were 38mph northbound and 40mph southbound. A reduction in the limit on Wimpole Road, which fell outside the village envelope, would not comply with the County Council's Speed Limit Policy and was unlikely to have the support of the Police.

Speaking as a Local Member, County Councillor Martlew, reported that the County Council had introduced a policy five years ago to reduce speed limits in hamlets outside main settlements. Unfortunately, the group of houses on Wimpole Road had not benefited from this policy. He highlighted the need for this area to receive the same treatment as other areas in the County. He explained that this could be achieved by moving the village sign, introducing a simple entrance feature and maintaining the grass verges to the same standard as the village. Other Members suggested targeting the speed camera at motorists leaving the village and moving the speed limit sign beyond the hamlet. Councillor Spink proposed an amendment to recommendation iv), seconded by Councillor Bard, to support the extension of the speed limits on Wimpole Road, Barton to the PPG garage.

It was resolved by a majority to:

- i) note the concerns of petitioners regarding Landbeach and Waterbeach, North End, Bassingbourn, and Wimpole Road, Barton;

- ii) note the works already undertaken in Landbeach and Waterbeach, the possible scheme at Denny End, the planned works in Landbeach, the potential Jointly Funded Minor Highway Improvement bids and the maintenance scoring process and priorities;
- iii) extend the 30 mph speed limit on North End, Bassingbourn;
- iv) support the extension of the speed limits on Wimpole Road, Barton to the PPG garage; and
- v) inform the petitioners accordingly.

(Recommendations iii) and iv) will be referred for determination to Cambridgeshire County Council's Cabinet as they conflict with the agreed policy of the County Council)

158. A14 VILLAGE TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECT – PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee was informed of progress in developing and implementing traffic calming schemes in selected South Cambridgeshire villages, along the A14 corridor between Cambridge and Huntingdon. It was noted that the Dry Drayton scheme would be completed by 1 October 2004.

Speaking as a Local Member, Councillor Johnstone, expressed her continuing frustration with EDF Energy for failing to connect street lights on the Over to Swavesey shared use cycleway. It was noted that three street lights were still not working after its completion in June and numerous requests from County Council officers. She was concerned that parents would discourage their children from using the cycleway to Swavesey Village College, as they would not consider it a safe route.

Histon and Impington

Members were informed that sixteen objections had been received to a notice of a proposal to install speed cushions and raised junctions in Histon and Impington. They noted the reasons for the objections and officer comments. The objections together with the views expressed at the public exhibitions and those obtained from returned questionnaires/supporting correspondence had been considered by an informal joint meeting of the Histon and Impington Parish Councils on 1 September. Both Parish Councils had decided to support the provision of the Phase 1 measures with the exception of the 20mph school-time advisory limit outside the Junior School on High Street/The Green, which was not supported by Histon Parish Council. They had unanimously decided not to support the proposal for the entrance to The Crescent/Villa Road, which had been withdrawn from the scheme.

The Committee could not understand Histon Parish Council's reasons for objecting to a 20mph school time advisory limit outside the Junior School when it supported a similar proposal for the Village College. It was suggested that this could be due to the fact traffic was often stationary in the morning. However, it did not address the problem in the afternoon.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- i) note the progress made;

- ii) determine the objections to the proposed raised areas in Histon and Impington without holding a public inquiry;
- iii) approve the construction of the raised areas in Phase 1 of the traffic calming scheme in Histon and Impington;
- iv) inform the objectors accordingly, and
- v) approve the construction of all of the Phase 1 traffic calming measures in Histon and Impington identified in Table A of the report.

159. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY SCHEMES PROGRAMME 2005/06

The Committee was asked whether it wished to support the inclusion of schemes at Barton, Girton, Great Shelford, Linton, Melbourn, Orwell, Sawston and Tadlow as candidates in the 2005/06 Traffic Management and Safety Schemes Programme. There were five new schemes, which included three proposed for the A1307 and two comprising Linton High Street and A10 Denny End junction, Waterbeach. They were advised that the scheme for Longstanton was already under construction and had therefore been withdrawn from the programme. Members noted details of the assessment scores as requested at a previous meeting. Fifteen out of the thirty-six schemes countywide were in South Cambridgeshire.

Members also noted a list of minor works schemes in South Cambridgeshire costing less than £30,000 arising from the Public Service Agreement (PSA) study and further ongoing investigations, and a list of proposed Major Safety Schemes. The Committee received an update on the 2004/05 Programme. The County Council's Cabinet was likely to consider the list of Medium Sized Traffic Management Safety Schemes bidding for funding for 2005/06 in December 2004.

Members queried the scoring system as there was concern that the cost band factor was distorting the aim of the programme, which was designed to bring in measures to reduce accidents. Members were advised that the programme was not purely about accident reduction but also about value for money. For example, a number of measures could be installed in many parishes for the cost of one scheme in the programme. Some Members queried the order of the provisional scores in relation to equity of service and suggested, based on local knowledge, that some schemes should be ranked higher than others. The Chairman acknowledged the need for officers to review the scoring but highlighted the danger of Councillors prioritising schemes without the relevant technical information.

Speaking as a Local Member, Councillor Batchelor supported the inclusion of the Linton schemes. Members expressed concern about the nature of the scheme proposed for the Denny End junction. It was noted that consultation would take place with Parish Councils and local people if the scheme were successful. Councillor Coston, the Local Member for Waterbeach, reiterated the need for traffic lights at this junction and suggested that additional funding might be available from the Parish Council. She also advised officers to talk to the army. The Chairman reported that County Councillor Orgee, the Local Member for Sawston, had been unable to attend the meeting but wished his support for the following schemes to improve road safety to be recorded:

A 1307 vehicle-activated signs;
A 1307 Babraham crossroads lighting; and
New Road Sawston speed reducing measures.

He had also expressed concern about safety along the whole length of the A1307 and was pleased to see the inclusion of other safety measures to improve the very poor safety record on this road. He was also pleased about the work carried out at the A1307 Babraham crossroads and the work to be carried out at the A1307 Four Wentways roundabout.

Speaking as a Local Member, Councillor Spink expressed concern about the delay in the opening of the Caxton bypass. The Chairman suggested that, as this scheme was not part of the report, officers should update the Local Member after the meeting.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- i) note the programme of minor road safety schemes;
- ii) note the programme of major safety schemes; and
- iii) support the schemes listed in **Appendix C** as bids for funding from the 2005/2006 countywide programme of Traffic Management and Safety Schemes.

160. AGENDA PLAN

The Committee noted its agenda plan up until the 2006 spring cycle. Members requested that officers review the timings of meetings for the start of the new municipal year.

Chairman