

Melbourn Parish Council September 2021

Local Plan 'First Proposals' – including Melbourn, Thakeham and the bigger picture

The long process of putting together a Local Plan – the statutory framework for population growth and house building – included a 'Call for Sites' period which saw over 690 sites submitted for consideration. These were then assessed over a two-year period, during which 'late' submissions were legally required to be accepted. The final closing date for late submissions was August 31, because on Sept 1 South Cambs as the Local Planning Authority announced its 'First Proposals' based on the assessment of all sites submitted in the Call for Sites window.

All local authorities must align their Local Plans with central government parameters. Greater Cambridge as a nationally important economic growth area must in its Local Plan support the whole population with particular regard for lower paid key workers who require affordable homes, and with the necessary infrastructure for development that is 'sustainable' including things like travel to work. Climate change and water resource are the headline considerations in these First Proposals. The Local Plan in essence provides protection for sustainable development.

After SCDC committees have scrutinised and commented on the proposals, the council will make any changes that are agreed. SCDC will then publish the First Proposals for full public consultation during November and December 2021.

Out of the long assessment process, 19 of the 690+ sites were taken forward to the next stage, with the bulk of proposals centred primarily around established growth sites like Cambourne, where the gradual process of infrastructure development has been taking place over a period of decades. Two sites are proposed in Melbourn, off The Moor and Cambridge Rd.

A very readable and useful website is here

<https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/>

And attached to this report please find a Powerpoint presentation published by the South West Cambridge Action Group that provides more context for Melbourn, Thakeham's vision and the current stage of the Local Plan.

Civil Parking Enforcement being explored for South Cambs

The County Council is supporting the principle of civil parking enforcement for South Cambs – in which the Council would oversee inconsiderate parking including for example pavement parking. The process involves the Council applying to the Secretary of State for a Special Enforcement Area. The Greater Cambridge Partnership has agreed to fund the project if it is decided to go ahead.

Communities Duty Team, South Cambs

The Team set up during Covid's first lockdown continues to communicate every two weeks with parish councils and community groups. Funding runs until next spring. There remain useful links for people in our community who need support including from Food Banks, social contact and community health services. We are exploring longer term opportunities for supporting people, which these practical networks have provided thus far.

Electoral Register – letter to all households

South Cambs District Council has written to all households to update the electoral register, taking account of all eligible voters in a household. Many responses are awaited.

<https://www.householdresponse.com/Home/Welcome>

Riparian Ownership and responsibilities for ditches and watercourses

Both the district and county councils are actively working to improve information dissemination on riparian ownership.

Cambs County Council reports: "As part of our Community Flood Action Programme, we are updating our riparian guidance document to make it more useful for those living next to a watercourse. As this document is aimed at residents and landowners, we wish to seek their views and get a better understanding of their awareness of riparian issues. We have therefore prepared a short survey (5 questions) which has been reviewed and approved by our Surveying Analyst Team. We would be grateful if you could disseminate this with your residents and parishes by social media, word of mouth or on your website/publications." Deadline is Sept 30 but could be extended. A link to the survey is here: <https://forms.office.com/r/5HQbNqGtba>

Citizens Advice at the Melbourn Hub

It's great to see Citizens Advice back at Melbourn Hub every Wednesday from 10am to midday. Thanks to all at the Hub for the amazing work on the extension. The North Herts Citizens Advice AGM is next month; we've written to thank them for their support in Melbourn.

Home adaptations for living independently

Every year the district and county councils complete an annual report showing how many home adaptations for disabled and older people have been completed. You can see it at here: <https://www.cambshia.org/about-us/plans-and-performance/>.

Given the challenges in 2020/21, it's great that although the number of adaptations completed and the spend was lower than in previous years, we still managed to complete 166 adaptations investing over £2m to enabling residents to live more independently in their own home. Our service works closely with Occupational Therapists who were heavily redeployed to primary care services because of the pandemic – we look forward to a busy year ahead as these critical services resume. If you or a relative needs help to continue living at home please contact hia@cambshia.org.

Vaccine boosters

The Government has announced that some people will be eligible for booster vaccinations. If you are over 50 or clinically extremely vulnerable, then you will be invited to get your booster vaccination by your GP or through the national booking service. If you are eligible because of your role as a health and social care worker then you will receive a letter shortly from your local authority setting out how to book for your vaccine.

NHS restructure & collaboration with County and District Councils

You may have read about the replacement of NHS 'Clinical Commissioning Groups' by the new 'Integrated Care System (ICS)' structure that comes into force next April. This is occupying

considerable time and effort, as the County Council's statutory social care role means much joint working with the NHS. For those interested in the nuts and bolts:

As part of the national ICS development programme, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) will no longer exist from April 2022. CCGs will become Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) with a slim executive team – Chief Executive, Finance Director, Director of Nursing, Medical Director; with support from a small team. There is currently one Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, whereas other Authorities have more than one CCG. We will have a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICS.

CCG Budgets, including direct delivery and commissioning, will mostly be devolved to Acute Hospitals, health community services – Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Foundation Trust, (CPFT) Cambridgeshire Community Services (CCS) - and GPs.

Recently GPs have joined up into Primary Care Networks (in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough there are 21 PCNs. Orchard Surgery Melbourn is part of the Meridien PCN, as are Bourn, Comberton Harston and the two Royston surgeries (yes, one of the geographic anomalies of the Cambs/Peterborough footprint).

Sitting under the overall ICS, there will be two 'Integrated Care Partnerships' (ICP)

- North: Peterborough, Fenland and Huntingdonshire
- South: East, Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire

And several countywide 'Collaboratives':

- Children and Maternity
- Mental Health/Learning Disability
- Acute
- Clinical

Each of the ICPs will work together with the PCNs, local health organisations and social care providers, collaboratives and the Voluntary and Community Sector within their area to deliver the services needed locally. The County Council will be actively involved as the Local Authority with statutory responsibility for social care.

An NHS Integrated Commissioning Board will be accountable for the delivery of health and care outcomes and health budgets. This will comprise the ICS Executive, the ICPs and Collaboratives, with representation from Local Authorities (membership maybe extended).

There will also be an Integrated Care Partnership Board; we are looking at the synergies between this and the Health & Wellbeing Board (chaired by the County Council and with the District Councils involved too) and considering joining these up to create one plan and a set of agreed priorities.

Recruitment of the Chief Executive of the ICS is now taking place, with others being recruited to by January 2022.

County Council's New Shire Hall, Alconbury

Construction of the 'New Shire Hall' building HQ for Cambs County Council, a project of the previous administration, has now opened in a phased return to work plan and September committee meetings have taken place there. Based at Alconbury Weald off the A1 toward Peterborough, there

are no viable public transport connections from most parts of the county. It remains to be seen whether the impressive cycle parking facilities there will be put to use.

The most surprising feature of New Shire Hall is that it contains no space large enough to hold a meeting of Full Council. Therefore, the County Council will be forced to hire a suitable venue for each of its Council meetings. The next meeting on November 9 takes place at Burgess Hall, St Ives.

New Shire Hall stands directly adjacent to the 'iMET' vocational training centre, a £10 million project launched in 2018, which has now collapsed and is closed, due to lack of public transport access.

Combined Authority News – transport and climate action

The new Mayor Nik Johnson is moving forward with bus franchising proposals. Currently 90% of bus services are commercial and councils therefore have no control over their routes, frequencies or fares. We know that we urgently need at least a 24% shift to public transport from cars to reduce carbon emissions significantly and this won't happen unless we have attractive public transport alternatives.

The draft business case is expected in the Autumn prior to plans going out to public consultation. The leaders of the district and county councils appealed for subsidised travel for young people as we are well aware that in rural villages getting young people to education or training is a real problem if you don't have access to a car.

The Mayor declined to declare a Climate Emergency but has established a Lead Member role for Climate Change and Environment which he has offered to the leader of South Cambs, Bridget Smith. The Combined Authority Board voted, not unanimously, to accept all of the recommendations of the recently completed Independent Climate Change Commission which focused on moving us swiftly to Zero Carbon. It is disappointing that not all members of the board accepted that rewetting peat is absolutely critical to minimising carbon emissions in our region and that future drying out of peat will in fact cause vast quantities of carbon to be released into the atmosphere.

The Combined Authority has been awarded £172k to run a career hub for next year. It will involve 30 schools and colleges and will hopefully help to get our young people into training and jobs.

Welcoming Afghan Refugees

Thanks to local residents who have been in touch asking how they can support Afghan refugee families. The District and County Councils are working together to offer homes to 3 families escaping the terror in Afghanistan, using houses available through SCDC's private rental housing company. The County Council with specialist charities will make sure that these people have the access they need to support, education and health services so that they can start to rebuild their lives.