

## **Unlocking the potential of your parish: How the planning team can support you as a Parish Clerk**

Meeting held by Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, 17 April 2024

The Clerks 'enjoyed' a full day hearing from the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning team – covering what they look after, how we can best contact them, plans for the future and ways to stay in touch.

It was great to put faces to names usually only encountered over many many emails! I met with Rebecca Smith, our areas Development Lead, along with Chris Bainbridge, Head of Compliance. Tumi Hawkins highlighted the importance of an open relationship between both South Cambs and potential developers.

### **Take home points**

- Importance of using the consultee inbox for planning comments – we already do this.
- Strong focus on Parishes to develop a Neighbourhood Plan – should be noted that the average time to develop a Neighbourhood Plan is 6 years!
- Noted how hard it is to reject an application – penalties for rejected applications that go to appeal etc.
- Planning Officers should respond to requests for extensions of time – if this is not done follow up with Development Lead.
- Remember permitted development rights for Parish Council land BUT still involve planning and follow the Certificate of Lawfulness path when needed.
- ALWAYS talk to developers when they contact you. The best results for Parishes always come from open dialogue with developers.
- Compliance issues mentioned on planning applications are not passed to compliance – You MUST complete a new compliance form to have this taken into account.
- Conditions on granted applications are not monitored – any breaches MUST be reported via compliance or building control.

### **Suggestions for future sessions**

- Explanation of the s106 process and how best to work with developers.
- More information on compliance and how to report breaches effectively – once they have happened it is nearly always too late to do anything about it.

Clerks pass their thanks to Greater Cambridge Shared Partnership for hosting the event.

A recording of the session should be available soon – if you would like to view it please let us know and we can share the details.