

Girton Parish Council

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The Pavilion
Girton Recreation Ground
Cambridge Road, Girton
Cambridge CB3 0FH

Minutes of the meeting of Girton Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st September, 2021, at St Vincent's Close Community Centre At 7.00 p.m.

Residents were invited to attend the meeting and to speak in the public open session at item 21/93.2

Present: (Cllrs) Williams (Chairman), Buckler, Dashwood, de Lacey, Godby, Kettle, Rodger.
Cllr E Murphy (Cambs. County Council), Cllr C Garvie (South Cambs. District Council)
Mrs A Bonnett (Girton Town Charity)
Mr W Berry (Hill Residential Ltd)
2 members of the public
In attendance: S Cumming (Clerk)

21/90 Welcome from the Chairman The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

21/91 Apologies and Reasons for Absence Apologies had been received from Cllrs Cockley and Griffin and from District Councillor Bygott. The Chairman extended the Council's best wishes to Cllr Griffin regarding his cataracts operation.

21/92 Members declarations for items on the agenda: None.

21/93 Public Participation session on agenda items and matters of mutual interest:

1. Presentation from Hill Construction regarding Lot 4 at NW Cambridge. Mr W Berry of Hill Residential's Cambridge office explained that the company has purchased Lot 4 on the North West Cambridge site. They are at outline planning stage and are working up a Reserved Matters application at the moment. The site is near to the veteran oak tree. There will be 64 apartments, a terrace of 20 3-bedroom houses, and 4 4-bedroom houses, and also basement parking for 86 vehicles. They have a second pre-application meeting on 2nd October and will submit the application before Christmas. There will be a private amenity area for the apartments. They are currently at the concept design stage and will go to the detailed design stage shortly. Mr Berry was asked how environmentally-friendly the dwellings will be and if there is any affordable housing included. All the affordable accommodation is for university keyworkers and private blocks are for sale. It was felt that London commuters will live here. There will be entry level one-bedroom apartments but most will be two or three-bedroom apartments. There will be a communal gas substation and solar panels. The three-bedroom dwellings will have one car parking space each. There are 66 spaces for the apartments, one per dwelling, plus visitors' parking. Shared ownership properties will be 40% below market value. Regarding S106 payments to Girton village for burial ground and medical services, Cllr Garvie is to speak with the S106 officer. The Chairman thanked Mr Berry for his presentation.

2. Members of the Public. A member of Girton Neighbourhood Watch explained that for 10-20 years Neighbourhood Watch has raised funds and have reached the stage where they'd like to spend money in the village. They would like to approach the Parish Council to provide benches. They need agreement from the Parish Council and whether there is a preferred supplier and location. The Chairman explained that finding somewhere to put benches will be a difficulty, but if Neighbourhood Watch can identify a place the Parish Council can approve it. The Chair of Girton Town Charity Trustees said that they are installing two benches on Mayfield Green and two in the William Collyn Community Centre garden. Neighbourhood Watch wonder about the possibility of Girton Corner as a location because people catch two buses from there. The Pump Garden needs a replacement bench. Girton Town Charity will share information on suppliers and Neighbourhood Watch will come back to the Parish Council to arrange location.

3. County Councillor's Report (*Appendix A*) Cllr Murphy had updates to report about items which come up later on the agenda. Regarding Oakington Road bridge the solar studs have been reinstated where there are not going to be street lights. There will be a one-way system build-out with a wider footpath and cycleway.

4. District Councillors' Reports (*Appendix B*) Cllr Garvie gave updates to her written report. People who are double-jabbed are not required to self-isolate. Three families of Afghan refugees are about to move into housing supported by a government funded scheme for a year. Cllr Garvie has an address for people who would like to donate time, goods or money through the Red Cross or Cambridge Ethnic Forum. The 'Visit South Cambridgeshire' site is now live at www.visitsouthcambs.co.uk

The Chairman noted that in his report Cllr Bygott mentions East West Rail, and that our MP is actively opposing the southern route. It was felt that the case for the southern route is strong, with demographic changes pointing to the southern route. The decision is to be made in Whitehall. It was suggested that East West Rail has nothing to do with SCDC. Addressing Cllr Bygott's comments on housing Cllr. de Lacey asserted that SCDC has to do what the government says to produce a sufficient number of houses to meet the five year land supply. Cllr de Lacey is to write to Cllr Bygott. Any questions on Cllr Bygott's report should be directed to him.

5. Police Report. No report this month.

21/94 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th August, 2021

(previously circulated). Lucy Wilson is to be an advisor not a co-leader of the Rewilding Project. With this amendment, the Minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey and approved with two abstentions.

21/95 Matters arising from the Minutes (for information only). The Chairman reported on the online banking saga. Tokens turned up last week but to activate them, signatories will need to phone business banking and will need to be in possession of all the latest correspondence from the Bank in order to satisfy security questions. This will need to wait until bank statements are back from the accountants. Once we have it all back, the Chairman and Cllrs de Lacey and Buckler will get together to register themselves for this facility.

21/96 Business items for consideration by the Council

1. To approve the co-option of new Councillors to Girton Parish Council. Dr Marcelo de Lima was

proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Dashwood and duly co-opted. Daniel Carney has sent a letter of application for co-option which will be circulated, and will be co-opted next month.

2. To approve the 2020-21 AGAR submission. This has to be signed off by the accountants, and there will be an extraordinary meeting to approve the submission on Friday 24th September at 6.30pm at the Pavilion. The Internal Audit has been organised for Monday 27th September.

3. To confirm HR Committee decisions on recruitment of a Clerk to the Council. The Human Resources Committee has appointed Yvonne Murray to be the new Parish Clerk. The Chair of the HR Committee commended her as a very able candidate and we look forward to her joining us. She lived on the High Street and did a paper round when young, and she still has connections here. The current Clerk is to hand over next week. The Head of the Human Resources Committee needs to send her a letter of appointment. She is also a Histon Parish Councillor. The Chairman proposed that the appointment be confirmed, seconded by Cllr Buckler and unanimously approved. As for all new appointments, Mrs Murray will serve a probationary period of three months. Adverts for the Assistant Clerk role will be put in Girton Parish News and on noticeboards.

4. To consider the Bowls Club request for payment of District Council Green bin collection service. This payment has been made by Girton Town Charity by default in the past. The Parish Council owns the bowls green, and whilst the Bowls Club use it, we should pay for removal of grass cuttings. The Chairman proposed that a decision be held off until we get clarification of why we're suddenly being asked to pay and should see invoices, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. Approved unanimously.

5. To consider the Bowls Club request for provision of Club Facilities (details circulated). William Collyn Community Centre was planned to facilitate a clubhouse for the bowls club. A 2013 minute states that the building will serve as a pavilion. A few years later, this was stood on its head when the GTC decided to retain management of the building. The Bowls Club do not seem to be able to get to a sensible arrangement with GTC regarding use. The Bowls Club have been asked to come up with a business case to show the financial benefit of a separate pavilion in the longer term. This has not materialised. It was queried if the bowls club could have an external door into the changing rooms. The Chairman is to write to the Bowls Club repeating the request for a business plan and will then take this to the GTC.

6. To consider Post Office request to park mobile unit on Recreation Ground Car Park (details circulated). It is not an option to put this in Cotton Hall, but is to allow GPO to have a post office in the pavilion car park. Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Godby. It was felt this would set an unfortunate precedent and queried if we could suggest an alternative site. The pubs aren't interested in having a post office, but would they like a van parked outside? It wasn't a viable proposition at The George, and councillors felt that provision of 1 hour a week was likely to be inadequate. It was agreed that the Chairman should write to deny permission for Car Park use and suggest that greater provision was needed.

7. To agree the finalisation and approval of the Draft LHI Application (*previously circulated*) Thanks were given to Cllr Murphy for her comments. There is evidence of one accident at Weavers Field with the bollards taken away. It is not known how much parking there is on St Margaret's Road. Cllr Murphy reports that the County Council is trying to have more applications and are looking to give points for addressing issues. If a project is wanted by the local community this is a winning criterion. Changes should feel positive. It can be a danger on the corner in winter, and the entrance to Weavers Field is dangerous. The Chairman will make the additions and submit by the end of the month.

8. To agree a consultation process for proposed build out at Oakington Road bridge to accommodate a wider, safer shared use path. The bridge is a pinch point and a build out would make it wider.

Objections that queuing traffic equals more pollution, have been received from residents. The Parish Council can put something on the website and ask the Girton Parish News editor to make a feature of it. Susan Rooke and Cllr Murphy have spoken about the mechanics of a consultation. Susan Rooke is happy for Cllr Murphy to share details and diagrams of the scheme. A couple of months to complete a consultation is within her timescale. A similar one lane system exists at the other end of Oakington Road, but the proximity to traffic lights at that end leads to greater congestion and queuing. It was also suggested that the 30mph limit be extended beyond the bridge. Cllr Murphy asked if hedge maintenance could be taken on by Girton Parish Council and commented that installation of street lighting on this section of road is subject to 14-16 week delays. We will trail it in Girton Parish News for next month. The bridge parapet is to be strengthened when the build out is done.

9. To give consideration to proposals for remedy of traffic issues in the High Street adjacent to Gretton School's Rectory Site. Cllr Dashwood has recirculated the information sent out before the August meeting. The Chairman is to speak to the school again, having spoken to the School Principal. We should ask Cllr Murphy to approach the school on our behalf as former Cllr Harford did. It was commented that we should consider requesting road signage for a school which would provide restricted parking.

10. To approve adoption of Cotton Hall Trustee as PC Representative (details circulated). Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr de Lacey. Unanimously approved.

21/97 Finance and Resource Management

1. To approve the payments schedule to date this month (previously circulated). Billing for Pavilion electricity is to be clarified, and there is a query over the groundsman's wages. Unanimously approved.
2. To note any significant variance from usual levels of monthly income/expenditure. None.

21/98 Correspondence (to be received)

Correspondence had been circulated by the Chairman by email.

21/99 To receive reports

1. Chairman's Report (*Appendix C*) Cotton Hall Trustees have accepted that the Parish Council can rent the room for 2 hours/day in the new year for £75 per week. There is concern regarding a house extension in Duck End and the SCDC Planning Department have been alerted.
2. Girton Town Charity Report. The Chair of the Trustees apologised for not having been to several meetings and is glad to attend. Dovehouse Court has started with a weekly construction programme to be circulated to Councillors and residents in High Street. Ian Meadows is the site manager and is very approachable. Cllr de Lacey found him helpful. A new site manager is coming in. There have been lots of lorries over the past weeks but they have now finished importing and exporting fill. Some were exceeding 20mph speed limit and were dealt with. The drilling piling rig is on-site. From 5th October there will be a new youth group in the village. The Connexions bus has run 14 youth projects with local villages over the last 25 years and since lockdown have operated pop-up youth groups. GTC have provided a grant for a youth group for years 7-11 from 7.30-8.30pm on a Thursday evening. Three new youth workers for the project have been recruited. It will run for a year and be reviewed on a 3-monthly basis. William Collyn Community Centre bookings are pretty much back to where they were before lockdown. Club 55 and Patricia Johnston are trying to organise residents' activities in the afternoons with residents cautiously encouraged to a large airy well-ventilated space. Mrs Bonnet was asked if children at

the youth group will be exclusively from Girton and she says that the money is to be spent on Girton children. She was asked to extend delivery of updates to all of High Street up to Gretton School. The Town Charity was congratulated on getting the youth group going. Mrs Bonnet has had letters from residents and Bowls team visitors saying they are forbidden to use the William Collyn Community Centre, which is not true.

3. Pavilion Refurbishment Report. There has been a meeting with the appointed contractors and the Chairman has a meeting with the designer on Thursday 23rd September.

21/100 Items which the Council need to discuss at the next meeting.

No development sites have been identified in the parish and this should be publicised in the Girton Parish News report.

Underlay on the roundabout, swings and slide is a trip hazard and needs quotations for replacement/repair from three companies.

There is a missing screw handle on the seesaw at Weavers Field play area.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm

The Clerk was presented with a card and gift-card and thanked for her service with Girton Parish Council. The Clerk thanked the Parish Councillors for their kind gift, support and friendship over the past 10 years.

APPENDIX A

Girton Parish Council – County Council report – September 2021

Huge challenges and financial problems for the new Joint Administration emerge as expert cross-party group reviews Council's position

The Local Government Association (LGA) conducted a Peer Review of the County Council over the summer. They spoke to more than 250 people including council staff, elected members and external stakeholders. The report is here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/Cambridgeshire-County-Council-Corporate-Peer-Challenge-Report.pdf>

The key recommendations are:

1. Devise a strategic approach to financial strategic planning for Cambridgeshire as a place.
2. Ensure the budget planning process for 2022/23 addresses the medium-term budget gap and incorporates contingency planning.
3. Develop a member/officer strategic forum to consider the overarching picture of progress and outcomes across the organisation.
4. Take action to recalibrate member roles, behaviours and conduct.
5. Sustainable capacity in the Chief Executive role needs to be established for Cambridgeshire.
6. Embrace the opportunity to reset, clarify and rebuild the different roles for the CA, the GCP, CCC and District and Town & Parish Councils in place shaping and place delivery, and take the lead where appropriate.
7. There is a need to review 'This Land'.

8. Review the effectiveness of the new Committee system arrangements, including the role of scrutiny, in six months.
9. The use of short-term additional capacity should be considered to ensure that there is the necessary capability to both develop and deliver the savings programme and strategic financial plan.
10. Develop some shared services to deliver greater efficiencies through shared data and client record systems and a shared service Target Operating Model where appropriate.
11. Further develop the current organisational resource to better support wider transformation and innovation.

Points made in the report include:

- A **cumulative deficit of £64m** has been caused by years of inadequate financial management. The Tories had allowed the Council to spend beyond its means, without either raising enough funds to cover expenditure or containing costs. The Joint Administration needs to develop a long-term strategy to bring the County back in balance, while delivering on ambitious programmes supporting climate, young and vulnerable people. The Tories had hoped that the Government would meet the funding gap but this cannot be assumed.
- The report agreed with the incoming Joint Administration that **This Land Ltd needed a review**, via an independent advisor to look at how realistic and robust the company's plans and finances were. The business plan supports the Council maximising its return on the loan it made to This Land Ltd. Can it be a commercial success while servicing these debts? This is potentially a very high-risk strategy for the Council and its invested funds.
- **'Farmgate'** - it is vital lessons are learned for many reasons including to reassure the public that the council maintains high standards in its conduct. Also that there is a need for **some elected members to 'recalibrate' their behaviour** which has not been acceptable at times.
- The LGA team believed that the Lib Dem led Joint Administration had made a good start, and were working collaboratively, creating strategic plans to deliver against the future challenges.

County Council Committee updates:

- The first meeting of the **Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion** committee after the summer break with some social media coverage of the domestic violence debate.
 - The Joint Administration team on the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion committee has now set up its own YouTube channel—see committee chair Cllr Tom Sanderson [here](#) talking about decentralisation, vice-chair Cllr Hilary Cox Condron [here](#) on domestic violence, and Cllr Firouz Thompson [here](#) on volunteers, apprenticeships, and inspiring the next generation.
- **Highways and Transport Committee** met last week. Highlights include:
 - *Civil Parking Enforcement* - Cambridgeshire County Council agreed to prepare an application to the Department for Transport to support Civil Enforcement Area (CEA) or Special Enforcement Area (SEA). The application will go in probably October 2022 as there is a great deal of planning and engagement to do prior to submission. For example there is to be a Designation Order for the introduction of CPE in Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and South Cambridgeshire, and delegate the approval of Agency Agreements with Fenland, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils. There will also be a funding agreement with the Greater Cambridge Partnership to help fund the set up. This will help to unblock the problem of dangerously illegally parked cars but without the effective powers to enforce legal parking.

- *Winter Service Plan 2021-22 – 2024-25* - new gritting plans were approved, on what was the hottest day of the year so far! The Council is now looking at a 4 year rolling programme, rather than year by year, and will invest significantly in new equipment which should help it cope with potential bad weather in winter.

County Council meetings next week to take major decisions

Several important measures will be addressed in next week's Strategy & Resources Committee at 10am on 21 September 2021. The meeting will be broadcast live on the council's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/CambsCountyCouncil>.

The decisions are:

- **External review of This Land to be undertaken.** In line with the LGA recommendations above, a review of This Land, the County's arm's length property development company, will be complete by November.
 - Avison Young Inc, a global real estate services consultancy, has been appointed to conduct the review.
 - This Land pays commercial rates of interest on the loans of approx £113m advanced to it by the Council, the expected net income council is due to receive in the current financial year is £6m. So far this year the company has repaid a loan, slightly ahead of schedule, of £2.04m and made interest payments totalling £1.06m.
 - Key questions for the review are:
 - Are the assumptions that This Land has made in its latest business plan reasonable and deliverable?
 - Is there a clear understanding about the exposure to risk, particularly in the medium term?
 - How could This Land adapt its plans to adjust its risk appetite or strategy?
 - How could the firm quicken the pace of housing delivery and are there examples from other local authority related housing companies?
 - Does This Land have the right skills, capabilities and expertise compared to a typical housing development company of this type?
- **Mill Road Library secured until at least 2064** - This Land is progressing a sale of the property they have re-developed at Milton Road - which houses the public library (of which the council is the tenant) and seven residential apartments.
 - As the company is arms-length, the council has limited scope to influence the sale as the shareholder or lender, but since July the Council has negotiated with This Land and the prospective purchaser a 20 year extension to the existing 25 year public library lease, and even after that ensure it will have further Landlord and Tenant Act protection. This lease extension includes five year break clauses for the council (but not the landlord). We have proposed agreement to this extension to maximise the council's control of the tenancy, which won't limit the council's opportunities to negotiate agreed extensions and rent in the future. The completion of the longer lease is expected to be finalised as soon as legal work is completed.
 - While we had an existing 25 year lease on the building with an option to extend for a further 15 – we have gone even further than this to make the library secure in its current location until at least 2064. This does not limit the council's ability to negotiate on further extensions or rent.

- **Additional investment to speed up council's biodiversity agenda** – investing more in seasonally dependent biodiversity projects will speed up progress on the new administration's climate change commitments.
 - This new funding has been proposed to come from the existing transformation fund, following a recognition that there needed to be additional resource provided in year.
 - The additional £109k will be used to undertake urgent and seasonally dependent site repairs and maintenance, plus beginning a biodiversity audit across the council's land which will help with the countywide 'doubling nature' agenda and the council's commitment to 20% biodiversity net gain.
 - An ongoing allocation for biodiversity will be considered as part of business planning for 2022-27.

Also the Adults and Health Committee on 22 September 2021 will report the following:

- **More residential and nursing care beds now in place in the County** to help people stay closer to their support networks. For the first time there is also an increase in beds available in the east of the county. Choice and control are the key benefits of the new contract awarded last year that is outlined in an update going to the Adults and Health Committee on 22 September. This has been achieved despite an incredibly challenging time for all concerned.

Oakington Road Bridge and approach

In addition to a proper repair of the parapet and improving the invert, the County Council is proposing to widen the shared use path over the bridge, to improve safety and the experience for non motorised road users (pedestrians, people using wheelchairs, cyclists, equestrians) as well as improving the path on the outbound stretch approaching the bridge from Girton.

Milestone (formerly Skanska) are proposing to continue the 3m wide shared-use path across the length of the bridge, and narrow the carriageway to accommodate this. Priority would be given to traffic leaving the village, similar to the pinch point into Oakington. There would be benefits to 'non motorised users' who would have greater confidence negotiating the bridge with a wider path, and traffic into the village would have to slow down to stop and give way to outbound traffic. The work needed to repair the parapet would happen at the same time.

There are some concerns however:

- Congestion and air pollution around the north side of the bridge – where traffic is having to stop and give way to outbound traffic there could be increased pollution caused by stationary vehicles with engines running. It is likely not to be significant increases in air pollution but further information would be required to assess this.
- Consultation – the County will not be formally consulting on this scheme but will be accommodating on timescales to allow consultation to take place eg local councillors consulting residents on the changes as it will affect all residents wishing to travel over the bridge, as well as those living close by.
- Streetlighting and hedge management south of the bridge – the stretch approaching the bridge (between Manor Farm exits) has not formed part of the County's plans. However in terms of streetlighting there is now a plan to introduce solar studs along the path where there is no streetlighting

- Signage for those approaching the bridge from Girton – the bend in the road means drivers have little warning of the upcoming restriction even if they are traveling within the speed limit. Warnings would be sensible. The Council has undertaken to address this with appropriate signage.

A proposal would be to develop a consultation process and encourage feedback from the whole village. It would be helpful to get data from the County Council from their safety audit and on pollution for example. There are different approaches to conducting the consultation which can be discussed.

Other County issues in Girton:

- Equestrian (and other NMU) use of path from Manor Farm Close to the bridge avoiding road – this was a project that was ready to implement and I am following up with the relevant officer to see that it is still happening. There have been frightening instances for equestrians for example as vehicles travel round the bend at speed and there is little time to take avoiding action.
- Michael's Close – loss of streetlight. This has been stopped up for redevelopment by the Town Charity. 2 streetlights have been removed to allow for the development but this has created a stretch of darkness as it was important for that part of the High Street and Woodlands Park. An inspection of the site showed that the construction firm were operating on the basis that the streetlights were to be reinstated. I am following up to ensure this actually happens.
- A14 development created a tree belt from the bottom of Washpit Road along the A14 to mitigate noise from the A14 – many trees are failing to thrive. This is an issue that has affected many other areas where trees have been planted to mitigate the impacts of the A14 in particular. Highways England has been contracted to ensure that they make good and replant trees. Again, I am following up to make sure that this happens, but note that Highways England is notoriously difficult to deal with and are winding down their operations as they feel the work is ‘finished’. It isn't.

Please note that the online reporting tool for highways emergencies will **not be working fully between 16 and 20 September 2021**. Please use alternatives for that time of

- Cambridgeshire Highways on 0345 045 5212 (during office hours - 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays)
- Police on 101
- If the highways emergency is on a trunk road, please call Highways England on 0300 123 5000 or the police on 101. The trunk roads in Cambridgeshire are the M11, A1, A11, A14, A47 and A428.

Otherwise please continue to report highways faults – they do get logged and it is an important part of understanding the problems there are and how to address them.

[Report a highways fault - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Contact me

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you have a query or concern. My details are:

Cllr Edna Murphy - 01223 577005; edna.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX B
District Councillors' Reports - September 2021

i) District Councillor Report Girton September 2021

Councillor Corinne Garvie

Cllr.garvie@scambs.gov.uk 07780 932267

Important update on the (New) Local Plan

The next stage of the Local Plan has just been published by the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (a partnership between South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Councils). Cambridge is an area of growth and the new jobs need housing provision This plan is till 2041

No sites have been identified in Girton Parish.

Over 690 sites were put forward by landowners in the first stage “Call for Sites” but only 19 (3%) of them are being proposed for acceptance and, of those, many are extremely small. The NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) states that local plans must make ‘sufficient provision’ for need of both homes and jobs. We are proposing to meet what our evidence has determined will meet that minimum need. This means we are rejecting the much higher growth figures suggested by some commentators and reports. One of the promises of the incoming LibDem administration was to develop a proper local plan. If it fails to prove to the Planning Inspector that we are meeting the evidential need, the plan will be rejected or significantly delayed (as was the previous Local Plan, which led to serious consequences for our villages).

The top priorities of this Local Plan are to address the problems posed by climate change and the high cost of housing, Locations with excellent public transport have been prioritised, shifting the emphasis away from unsustainable locations in rural villages. For all sites we will require the provision of 40% affordable housing

When it comes to the Green Belt, it is only possible to make changes if there is very strong evidence to justify it and just 4 of the sites put forward for the new Local Plan met these rigorous tests. Two are extensions to research sites of international importance: The Cambridge Biomedical Campus and Babraham. Housing is a key issue to allow them to grow. The other two are housing allocations close to excellent public transport.

The plan strives to include considerable environmental benefits too. A “Call for Green Sites” was issued and the proposals include new green spaces and wildlife projects. The plan also sets a high bar for building standards, including policy recommendations for low carbon buildings.

Water conservation and the chalk streams. This Local Plan will put constraints on the amount of development if the water issue is not resolved. Central Government and the water companies have to invest in this in advance of further growth.

For more information visit: (www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/localplan) and take the opportunity to comment during the next public consultation, which starts on 1st November 2021.

3.. Afghanistan refugees

SCDC Housing staff have been working on plans to resettle three Afghan families, providing a home and essential support in response to the international crisis. South Cambridgeshire District Council’s five-year

(2020-2025) Council owned homes are not being used to house these three families and it will not have an impact on the waiting time for local families who are on the Council's housing waiting list.

5..Business news

SCDC Growth Grants for small and medium sized businesses.

Applicants must be South Cambridgeshire based start-ups looking to scale and grow quickly or be established South Cambridgeshire companies who can demonstrate ambitious growth plans. This grant is taxable.

A new website for South Cambridgeshire

SCDC's Business Support team is working on a new website to promote South Cambridgeshire. This is to support the local economy by encouraging tourists to visit the area and for local people to spend more time in the district.

The site will be launched in the autumn and SCDC is inviting local businesses and event organisers to secure a free listing by submitting information and photos online via a short questionnaire. www.VisitSouthCambs.co.uk to create a free listing or email.

Six free trees are being provided to parishes. Contact the parish council if you have ideas about where these trees could go.

Corinne Garvie

ii) District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott, 21st September 2021

Nearly 49,000 more flats and houses proposed for 'Greater Cambridge' One year ago, on 16th September 2020, the District Council, together with Cambridge City Council, published the Call for Sites submissions as part of their preparations for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan up to 2041. Developers and landowners, hoping to make a quick profit, suggested far more development sites than were needed. The Council, knowing that the vast majority of these sites would be rejected, subjected residents to the cruel and unnecessary ordeal of waiting for an entire year, without being formally able to make any direct comment, to find out whether their homes and lives would be blighted by unwanted development. The good news is that Girton has been spared the new major developments proposed in the Call for Sites. These included ten sites totalling 33 hectares, for between 135 and 445 houses and 40,000 sq m of other floor space. Examples included two sites between the High Street, Woodlands Park and Dodford Lane, and one at the end of Cockerton Road. The only sites in Girton Parish that have been included in the next Local Plan are Eddington and Darwin Green Phase Two, which had already been included in the 2018 Plan. Additional development pressure could come from smaller developments, however, as the number of homes required in the new plan from this 'windfall' source could be raised by over 25% from 4,220 to 5,345. The bad news is that the two councils have decided to build more than the Government has asked them to. They propose building 48,840 new flats and houses across 'Greater Cambridge' between 2020 and 2041, around 12,000 more dwellings than the Government requires. To put the number in context, Cambridge City had 52,000 houses in 2020. The Councils have chosen not to stick to the Government 'standard method' for calculating new housing which shows that around 36,700 new dwellings are needed to 2041. We need some new homes, including affordable homes in the District that fit in with existing communities, but a growth-led approach risks making affordability worse and putting further strain on local services and damaging the environment. The scale of the growth that is planned could put severe strain on local schools, roads, services and particularly water resources. The Councils were advised in the

Autumn of 2020 that any growth above the government numbers could not be supported by current water supplies without likely damage to rivers and our chalk streams. Assuming that each of the 48,840 new dwellings uses 80 litres of water per day, an additional 1.43 billion litres of water will be needed annually. Much of our water supply is pumped up from underground aquifers already more quickly than it is being replenished, and chalk streams and ponds in nearby villages, such as Kingfisher Pond in Northstowe, have started to run dry each summer. The Councils have not, in my view, provided convincing evidence for their desire to build more than they need to. Despite our current climate crisis, too many of our key decision makers are following an obsolete and defunct form of economics that prioritises rapid industrial and population growth ahead of per capita improvements in the standard of living and broader quality of life. They are stuck in the twentieth century growth ideology that regards the earth's resources as infinite.

East West Rail update I have continued to meet with the East West Rail strategy team to discuss the route of the proposed railway and to make the case why the 'northern route' across the fields between Girton and Oakington and between Dry Drayton and Madingley should not be built. I also regularly talk to key stakeholders in both Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire about the project. In my view, new railways should be constructed immediately adjacent to motorways and other main roads, wherever possible, to avoid damaging villages and open countryside.

South Cambs trailing behind in Covid-19 vaccinations In July I mentioned that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has launched a marketing campaign to increase the level of Covid-19 vaccination locally, especially amongst 18 to 29 year olds. The campaign is called "The Vaccinators on Tour" and includes several walk-in clinics that will be available at certain times and places. It also allows bookings to be made on-line for local vaccination centres. Details can be found on the website at: www.thevaccinators.co.uk. If you or members of your family haven't yet been double vaccinated, it is worth looking on that website for locations and upcoming events. Covid-19 rates in Cambridgeshire have risen sharply and by mid August were nearly as high as they were in January during the winter peak. From 23rd August, all young people aged 16 to 17 in England have been offered a first vaccine dose to give them protection before returning to school. By early September, 86.5% of people over sixteen in South Cambridgeshire had had the first dose of a Covid vaccine, compared to 88.8% nationally. For both doses, the numbers were 78.8% in South Cambs and 79.9% nationally.

Cllr Tom Bygott

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APPENDIX C

Chairman's Report

15 September 2021

Streets accountants are completing our year end accounts and the Annual Return. This will hopefully be ready for approval at our Meeting on the 21st. We have an extension of the submission date to the end of the month but this cannot be extended any further.

Payment of outstanding bills to LXA was achieved by a bank transfer requiring a visit to the Ipswich branch of the bank. An email submission to request a switch to on-line banking has been submitted and

chased after 2 weeks of no response. Provision of 'Tokens' to allow this to happen has now been promised by the end of this week.

The Pavilion refurbishment project continues to progress. Julie, Paul Clare and I met with the Contractor (Godfrey and Hicks) and LXA to review the next steps. It was proposed that the work be phased to minimise interruption of use of the changing facilities. Projected start date remains as early January. G&H are to bring their designers to the site next week to begin the design stage of the project by confirmation of our brief and further clarification of any detail.

Our LHI grant application has been drafted to cover DYLS at the ends of Thornton Road, St. Margaret's Road, and Weavers Field. This will be finalised and approved at our meeting. Proposals for build out at Oakington Road Bridge have been received and will be discussed at our meeting.

Cotton Hall Trustees have reconsidered and now accept our offer of £75 per week for use of a room as a temporary Parish Office for 2 hours per day. This will be initially for three months from January and then extendable as required.

Matters that have required follow up this month include an escape of water at Cherry Bounds/Hicks Lane, (eventually resolved after contact with Anglian Water); continued extended parking in the High Street near Gretton School, Rectory Campus, (resolution promised by Executive Head but not yet achieved); and reported unapproved building works in Duck End, (being investigated by Greater Cambridge Planning Enforcement Officer).

Recruitment of a replacement Clerk and assistant continues. Progress will be reported at our meeting.

Finally I must formally acknowledge that after almost ten years this will be Susie's last month as Parish Clerk. We are very grateful to Susie for her contribution to the work of the Council and in particular for the way she coordinated the 'Helping Girton' initiative throughout the pandemic lockdown periods. Her willingness to lend a sympathetic ear to parishioners' problems will be particularly missed. I am sure all will join me in wishing her 'bon voyage' and every success in the next phase of her life and career.

Haydn Williams