

CALDECOTE PARISH COUNCIL

(South Cambridgeshire District)

MINUTES

**The Annual meeting of this Council was held in the Village Hall, Caldecote
On Thursday 3rd June 2021.**

Members of the public are reminded that copies of reports and supporting documentation for agenda items can be obtained from the Parish Council website, <http://caldecote.gov.uk> or upon request to the Parish Clerk.

Present: Cllr John Barker (JB), Cllr Chris Corcoran (CC), Cllr Polly Field (PF), Cllr and District Cllr Tumi Hawkins (TH), Cllr Jack Lang (JL) Cllr Nicola Pritchard (NP) and Cllr Claire Robinson (CR).

In Attendance: Alan Melton, Parish Clerk, Katy Reeves, Deputy Clerk. County Cllr Michael Atkins. There were 2 members of the public present.

- 1. Election of Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2021/2022** – The Clerk announced that the former Chairman, Cllr Helen Cartwright, has resigned from the Parish Council.

There were two nominations for the office of Chairman of the Parish Council. Cllr T Hawkins was proposed by Cllr J Barker and seconded by Cllr C Corcoran. Cllr P Field was proposed by Cllr J Lang and seconded by Cllr C Robinson. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr P Field be elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the municipal year 2021/2022. It was further **RESOLVED** that Cllr N Pritchard be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for the municipal year 2021/2022 (proposed TH, seconded CC).

- 2. Public open forum** –

Mr Claridge outlined the reasons for his objection in principle to planning application 21/02265/FUL to be considered under agenda item 8) as well as some detailed suggestions for issues that should be brought to the attention of the Planning Office, should the application be approved. These were also circulated electronically to Councillors ahead of the meeting (see attachment).

Discussion of application 21/02265/FUL was brought forward to this point.

21/02265/FUL: Construction of 74 dwellings together with associated infrastructure, open space, and landscaping. At, Land East of Highfields Road, Caldecote.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to the application on the grounds of overdevelopment and overcrowding of the site, the location outside the village development framework and the inappropriate nature of the development for a semi-rural location. If officers are inclined to support the application, the Parish Council requests that it be sent to the Planning Committee for a decision. It was further resolved that the issues identified in Mr Claridge's report (attached) be noted in the comments from the Parish Council. Proposed JB, seconded JL. Cllr T Hawkins abstained from the vote.

- 3. Apologies for absence** – There were no apologies for absence.
- 4. Members' declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests** – There were no declarations of interests.

5. **Chairman's Announcements** – The Chairman thanked former Councillor and Chairman Helen Cartwright for her hard work at the Council during an unprecedented and difficult time. It was agreed that a thank you letter and flowers be sent to Mrs Cartwright. **Action: Clerk**
6. **Minutes of the last Meeting** – The minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st April 2021 were approved as a correct record and duly signed by Cllr P Field. Proposed JB, seconded JL.

6a Actions

- **East West Railway – Consultation.** Cllr Chris Corcoran provided an outline of the work that has been carried out by the EWRail Working Party to evaluate the route options and engage the community and shared a summary document describing the recommended position of the Council as well as the proposed answers to the key consultation questions (numbers 1, 38 and 39).

A member of the public was given permission to speak and noted that many residents are under the impression that alignments 1 and 9 would completely block the road out of the north of the village. Councillors noted that this is incorrect, the rail line would run along a viaduct over the road. The resident also stated that they did not feel that the routes that affect the Bourn Valley have been evaluated in as much depth in the report as those affecting Highfields Caldecote. Cllr Corcoran noted that the view of the Working Party was that neither route is suitable, but as EWR stated that two areas would still be affected after mitigation, Highfields and Crow End, the Working Party concentrated on a comparison of these two areas, which clearly showed that, of the two routes, alignments 1 & 9 would have a disproportionately greater impact on Caldecote than the impact of 2 & 8 on residents of the Broadway, Bourn.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council adopt the EWRail Summary Report and submit the answers to the consultation as recommended by the Working Party.

It was further agreed that the Parish Council will use powers under section 137 of the LGA 1972 to fund the printing and distribution of leaflets to advise residents of the Council's position and guidance on participating in the consultation (to a maximum of £320). Proposed CR, seconded CC.

- **Dog Fouling** – The Clerk reported that the new dog poo bins have been delivered.
- **Lockdown party** – Cllr Polly Field reported that the proposed lockdown party has been cancelled.

7. Report from District Councillor and County Councillor

District Cllr T Hawkins provided a monthly report (see attached). The report included the following points:

- A reminder about the East West Rail Consultation, which ends June 9th. SCDC have produced a draft response which will be considered at cabinet.
- Information about the Zero Carbon Grants scheme. A webinar is being held on 7th June – a representative of the Council is recommended to attend.
- Information on the Wild Minds programme for teenagers.

Parish Clerk: Alan Melton, 20 St. Martins Road, Chatteris, Cambs PE16 6JF
Email: parishclerk@caldecote.gov.uk

- A reminder not to become complacent about the COVID risk, noting that Bedford currently have one of the highest infection rates in the country.
- Cambridgeshire County Council have launched a cycling and walking consultation. It was agreed that JB will look into this on the behalf of the Parish Council.
- Information on Pride 2021, taking place this month.

County Cllr Michael Atkins introduced himself and provided a monthly report (see attached). He urged the Council to pass on any outstanding casework that had been being dealt with by the previous County Councillor.

8. Planning Applications

[21/01334/S73](#) – Land East of Highfields Road, Highfields, Caldecote.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no comment on the application but to note that this is because it was unclear what has been changed in the updated application. It was also agreed that the developers should be asked to clarify what will be done about the hedgerow that has been cut down. Cllr T Hawkins abstained from the vote.

[21/02265/FUL](#): Construction of 74 dwellings together with associated infrastructure, open space, and landscaping. At, Land East of Highfields Road, Caldecote.

Please see agenda item 2.

9. Financial Reports –

- **Summary of receipts and payments.** A report on the on current budget vs. expenditure dated 26th May 2021 was received and approved.
- **Bank Reconciliation.** The bank reconciliation dated 25th May 2021 was received and approved.
- **Accounts for payment.** The schedule of payments (attached) was received. It was **RESOLVED** that the payment of bills be approved.

10. **Appointment of Auditor** – It was **RESOLVED** that Robert Mandley be appointed as Internal Auditor.

11. **Groundworks Contract – update** – The Clerk reported that tender documents have been sent to 5 companies. Several have expressed an interest and intend to visit the village before preparing their tenders.

12. **Leisure and Amenities report** – Cllr P Field reported that the installation of the new playground equipment for the Furlong Way Park (Stage 1) is now complete.

Cllr Field further reported that the groundwork for the installation of the table tennis tables has been completed and that the tables have been ordered.

13. **Correspondence** – There was no further correspondence to report.

14. **Clerk’s report** – There was nothing further to report.

15. **Meeting dates** – Meeting dates for the remainder of the municipal year were agreed as set out in the table below:

Thursday	3 rd June	2021
	1 st July	
	2 nd September	

Parish Clerk: Alan Melton, 20 St. Martins Road, Chatteris, Cambs PE16 6JF
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	7 th October	
	4 th November	
	2 nd December	
	6 th January	2022
	3 rd February	
	3 rd March	
	7 th April	
	5 th May (Annual Council Meeting)	

16. Councillor Reports–

Cllr T Hawkins reported that she has met with the young resident that is interested in developing a wildflower area on the green space next to the social club, as well as having discussions with the ecology officer at SCDC. Cllr Hawkins requested further information on the position and depth of the storage tanks located underneath the green space and noted that it has been recommended that the area should not be mowed until late August or October. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr J Barker reported that the drains and gullies at the south end of the village are again blocked and that one of the pipes appears to be broken. It was agreed that the issues will be reported to the Highways Department of the County Council. **Action: Clerk**

17. Dates and times of the next meeting – Thursday 1st July 2021 at 7pm in the Village Hall,

The Meeting Closed at 8.40 pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS: to consider and approve the schedule of payments. * = cost incurred as a result of vandalism.

Key to Frequency (Freq) codes:

O = 'one-off' or intermittent regular payment with no set frequency.

T = Termly (usually associated with youth club payments which get invoiced on a termly basis) **A** = Annually. **M** = Monthly. **Q** = Quarterly. $\frac{1}{2}$ = Half-Yearly.

Payments made since last meeting that require Council approval

Payment date	Voucher #	Amount	To	For	Budget Code	Freq
10/5/21	19	92.64	BT	Pavilion broadband	38	M
13/05/21	20	94.56	E-On	Cabin electricity	45	M
17/5/21	21	10.00	Nicola Pritchard	Community support phone	34	M
18/05/21	22	37.41	British Gas	Pavilion electricity	36	M
10/05/21	23	63.48	P Field	Councillor expenses	7	O
24/05/21	35	27.54	P Field	Cleaning supplies	44	O
24/05/21	36	350.74	HMRC	PAYE May 2021	33	M
24/05/21	37-39	1371.57	Staff salaries	Salaries May 2021	27,28,29	M

New payments yet to be made requiring Council approval

Amount	To	For	Budget Code	Freq
55.62	Katy Reeves	Expenses May 21	6	M
329.73	Alan Melton	Expenses May 21	5	M
1822.32	CGM	1/8 grounds maintenance contract (June 21)	54	O
450.00	P Field	Table tennis table installation	49	O
158.00	LGS Services	EWRail flyers printing	14	O
567.48	Mills and Reeve	Legal services	70	O
70.00	RL Hartwell	Pavilion cleaning	39	O
250.00	Hardwick and Caldecote Cricket Club	Cricket Pitch Preparation	61	O
452.93	Cambridgeshire County Council	Street Lighting Final Account	0	0

Resident's notes on application 21/02265/FUL

We encourage the Parish object in principle to the Linden phase 2 application:

- Previous outline consent was only given because, at that time, there was not a 5 year land supply, so the NPPF overrode the Local Plan. That no longer applies, so development should be according to the Local Plan.
- South Cambs objected to the previous application for outline consent sufficiently strongly to challenge the plan through to Public Inquiry. All the reasons for objection still stand. All that has changed is that the Local Plan now has force.
- Development of the site would go against the Local Plan: It is outside the village development boundary, and is not listed as an exception site. Therefore it should not be developed.
- Even if it were deemed as inside the village boundary, Highfields Caldecote is a Group Village, so development should be limited to 8 houses for a greenfield site, or 15 for a brownfield.
- All the brownfield land on the whole site was taken into the Phase 1 development, so this area was then greenfield, and should still be treated as such, to avoid benefitting developers for putting tarmac on top of a greenfield site.
- Allowing this development would give rise to precedents for developments going against the Local Plan.

Included with that objection we would like the Parish to include the following comments to SDCD in the event the application is successful:

Boundary with houses on Clare Drive & Damms Pastures.

- We wish to ensure that the requirement to retain the boundary vegetation with Clare drive is consistently stated. Note section 4.23 of the Landscape and visual impact assessment, section 4.23 quote: "Boundary vegetation [with Clare Drive] includes Hawthorn, Ash, Blackthorn and English Elm. This vegetation should be maintained where possible to reduce potential views of the residential properties of Clare Drive."
- Before any boundary vegetation is removed adjacent owners must be consulted and an agreement reached. For example Covayancing documentation from the construction of Clare Drive (and Damms Pastures) shows that the boundary runs down the centre of the vegetation separating the phase 2 development and Clare Drive. Linden can not make unilateral decisions on the boundary treatment.
- There are inconsistencies between the soft landscaping plan and the Landscape Assessment. We would like to verify the detailed plans, and intend that the existing trees and hedging should be retained, along the boundaries, and supplemented with native hedging, such as Hazel, Quickthorn etc.

Street Lighting

Please provide street lighting with the minimum light spillage where the development backs onto the gardens of adjacent properties. Please consider if street light is required after midnight.

Surface Water

- The detailed review of the drainage is still underway, any comments to follow in subsequent email.
- However we note that some of the phase 1 drainage that was supposed to be completed before phase 1 development commenced still has not been completed (the attenuation pond was not started as of a couple of weeks ago, as we can not see the eastern enclosing ditch). So maybe we can get the Phase 2 drainage installed before phase 2 building starts and encourage SDCD to police this ...

- Housing along the Clare Drive/Damms Pastures boundary should be built at the natural land level. The ground level should not be raised, as has been previously proposed.

Public footpaths

We would welcome early completion of the footpath (even with temporary routing) to complete another circular walk from East drive/hardwick woods.

Sewage

Still have concerns about all of the additional sewage. The sewage pumping station associated with the site should have temporary underground storage in excess of what normally be provisioned to average out the rate sewage is pumped into the village.

Caldecote PC Working Party EWR Summary

1) **AGAINST** - North Cambourne Station - Alignments 1(Blue) &

9(Purple) a) Environmental impacts flawed.

i) No real account has been made for the Angel Park development (Linden Homes)

- *140 house development to be completed in the summer 2023.*
- *First occupant summer 2021.*
- *Additional 9+ houses to be demolished.* ii) No real account has been made for the Bourn Airfield Development
- *Now has outline planning permission.*
- *Another 3,500 houses will be impacted, including 2 schools and associated recreation grounds.*
- *The whole field containing the majority of the railway through the top of Highfields is part of this development and will contain recreation grounds, orchard, allotments and levelling ponds.*
- *Visual impact on the front of this new community will be horrendous with the current projected alignment severing its main entrance.* iii) No real account has been made to the pollution, noise and visual impacts on the inhabitants of West Drive, Highfields Road, Highfields Court of a 12m high 80M+ wide embankment, or the possibility of severance further down towards Hardwick and Toft/Comberton. No-one needs reminding that this is a route to our village college.
- *Having a station at North Cambourne and then proceeding south has a disproportionate visual and noise impact on the entrance to Highfields Caldecote and the Bourn Airfield Development compared to the impact of any other entrance to any other community.*
- *Having to rise up an additional 12 meters on a hill that is already some 72M high has a disproportionate visual, noise and pollution impact on the surrounding area.*
- *The southern routes are built lower across the valley leading to a smaller overall noise profile and less visual impact.*
- *South Cambourne Station is lower at 60M (and could be lower). The railway height at the viaduct over the Caldecote/Kingston/Toft/Bourn junction is around 40M at the same Latitude as the Viaduct (82M+) across the A428.*
- *In general, the embankments are considerably lower on the south routes, with a considerable saving in real estate and hence visual impact.*

- *If route is electrified, the pylons will sit an additional 5M above the surroundings* iv) No account has been made for the severance of the entrance of Highfields and its main access to the old A428.

b) Everything takes longer.

- i) Its 3.6km (2.2Miles) longer than Alignment 6 (Light Blue)
- ii) Takes about 1minute 40 seconds longer

c) The wood & habitat behind Angel Park would need to be destroyed.

- d) Further south of Toft and Cambourne there is a considerable loss of mapped priority habitat areas (300% more).

MYTH Housing Development

- a) Even if a development is made to the north it will take people just as long to travel from West Cambourne to a North Station as it would be for people in a Northern development to travel to a Southern Station.
- b) There is as much development land to the south/west of Cambourne as to the north, without the problem of navigating both the new dualled A428 and the old A428. Their technical document “Consultation-Technical-Report-Chapters-8-12-1.pdf” page 334 says that if a development corporation at Cambourne comes into existence then it should not be a distinguishing factor between the two locations. The Government has already started the process of setting up development corporations as needed for the OxCam arc.

9.6.31. Land at the Cambourne South site is in multiple ownerships, which would present challenges to delivering large scale development at speed. In contrast, land ownership around Cambourne North is generally consolidated, which would provide better opportunity to deliver the proposed development. However, in March 2020 the Government committed to developing the case for a development corporation at Cambourne to “accelerate new housing and infrastructure development”⁶³. Should a development corporation come forward, land consolidation in the vicinity of each site would not impact on deliverability of the proposed development, therefore should not be a distinguishing factor between the two locations

FOR - South Cambourne Station - Alignments 6(Light Blue) & 2(Red)

- a) Not surprisingly the consultation document has beefed up the advantages of the North Cambourne Station over the South Cambourne Station.
- b) Housing is one advantage quoted; this is six of one and half a dozen of the other. But their own documents state it shouldn't be a distinguishing factor.
- c) Much is made of the fewer properties demolished (4) if Alignments 1 or 9 are followed. But they haven't accounted for both the Angel Park demolitions (another 9+) and the considerable impact on the new Bourn Airfield Development community. Alignments (2&6) will have much less impact since fewer properties (9) will be demolished and there are fewer houses (roughly 34) within 200 M.

- d) Once mitigation has been considered only Crow End (Broadway) and Highfields are singled out as being overtly impacted. The number of homes impacted in Highfields (156+) is over four times larger than those at Crow End (34).
- e) The railway would follow the terrain down the hill from a Cambourne South Station, having less immediate visual impact. More noise will be absorbed because it follows the side of the hill, partly in a cutting and, in general, is lower during its descent from the Hill than alignments 1&9.
- f) On the downside this alignment will impact Caldecote Village to the South of Highfields. Whilst it will be within 500M of the railway, after mitigation its effect will be slight compared to the effect of Highfields in the North.

Approach Cambridge from the North

- a) Routes North of Cambourne flawed unless Cambridge is approached from the North.
- b) Following the new A428 route from the Black Cat roundabout to Caxton roundabout only makes sense if a northern approach to Cambridge is proposed.
- c) There is a small case to approach Cambridge from the north if **freight** is going on this line since it may limit the impact on Cambridge itself.
- d) EWRail's remit is to get to Cambridge, so a train change would be needed to reach South Cambridge station
- e) It negates the advantage of quick access to the Biomedical Campus and Addenbrookes
- f) Whilst there is NO proposed alignment for a Northern approach to Cambridge, we are asked to comment on their assessment of a Northern Approach in Q1 of the feedback form.

POSSIBLE MITIGATIONS for Alignments 1 & 9

- a) Due to the proposed height and its impact on 2 communities the only sensible mitigation would be to tunnel under the A428.
- b) Across the field it should be in a cutting below ground, just as is offered to the Broadway on alignments 2 & 6. This should extend to behind the woods at the back of Angel Park.
- c) Where it cuts Highfields Road and the track to Highfields Farm & its Public Right of Way there should be bridges constructed over the cutting at ground level.
- d) Pedestrian and cycling access should be offered by similar bridging across the field as per the paths detailed by the approved Bourn Airfield Development plan

CONCLUSION - Alignment 6 (Light Blue)

- a) Its quicker and shorter - surely that is what trains are for
- b) It's cheaper, especially once the costs of mitigation and developer compensation are taken into account for going through Highfields on alignments 1&9
- c) Fewer houses demolished once the additional 9+ properties at Linden Homes are considered. This will mean 13+ homes will be demolished for alignments 1&9, compared with 9 for alignments 2&6

- d) Alignments 2&6 has No impact on delivery of the 3,500 home Bourn Airfield Development
- e) Alignments 2&6 avoid having to rise up an additional 12M on a hill that is already 72M high, thereby reducing the disproportionate noise, visual and pollution impact on the surrounding areas
- f) There is No advantage to follow the new A428 route since only a Southern Approach to Cambridge is offered.
- g) The alignments in order of preference are 6,2,8,1,9
- h) “North for North or South for South” i.e North Cambourne station if a Northern approach to Cambridge and a South Cambourne station if a Southern approach to Cambridge.
- i) If people had realised the terrain of option E, i.e a Cambourne Station, would be such a problem, not sure anyone would have voted for the option at the previous consultation.
- j) If a northern approach to Cambridge is to be reconsidered, then we feel all other options from Bedford should be revisited.

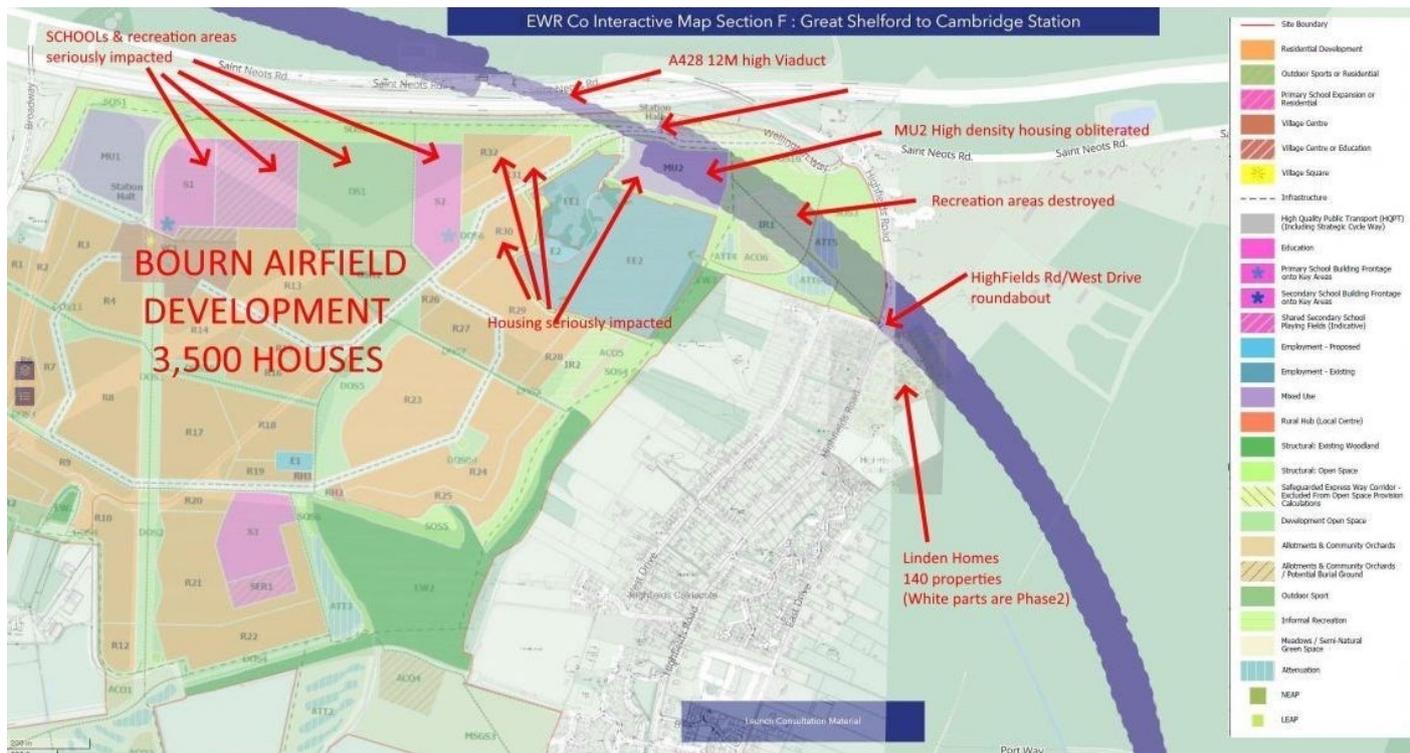


Figure 1 Route of Alignments 1&9 through Highfields



Figure 2 Route of Alignments 2,6 & 8 through the Broadway at Bourn

Caldecote Parish Council Consultation feedback

Q1

Because EWR alignments closer to north Cambridge are now being considered, we have looked again at whether we were right to have favoured Route Option E and approaching Cambridge from the south as we confirmed after our last consultation. In particular, we have reviewed our previous assessment that concluded approaching from the south was the better option taking account of a Cambourne North Station outside of Route E to see if we would have made a different decision. We consider that the advantages of approaching Cambridge from the south continue to support this conclusion and that a number of challenges remain for a northern approach even with a Cambourne North station. We'd welcome your comments on our assessment.

Whilst you have explained in great depth why a Northern approach into Cambridge fails to better any of the alignments of a southern approach into Cambridge, we can see no evidence that you have revisited the route option E choice alluded in question one. From the lack of responses from the northern communities, who would not have been directly impacted by your choice until the North Cambourne station was selected as a preference, we would have thought that alarm bells should have rung.

The consequence of going up a hill, the highest in this part of Cambridge, has meant 12M high Viaducts and embankments across many communities. Crossing perpendicularly down the Cam valley through a large swathe of priority landscapes, through significant green belt and tunnelling through a hill does not seem sensible.

There have been significant changes in the wider context since this option E was selected, including the expansion north of Corridor E, the consequences of the governments proposed policy on growth areas and the government's new bus and rail policies and Covid-19. We feel that Option C should be revisited, since the flatter landscape, the real possibility of increased housing at Bassingbourn and the enabling of a more sensible approach into Cambridge from the South.

Q38

Please rank your preference for the proposed Clapham Green to The Eversdens alignment options.

Please use a scale of 1 to 5 to indicate your preferences where 1 indicates your preferred option and 5 the option you favour least.

Options	Alignment 8 – yellow: Tempsford Option B station to Cambourne South station	Alignment 1 – dark blue: St Neots South Option A station and a Cambourne North station	Alignment 2 – red: St Neots South Option A station and a Cambourne South station	Alignment 6 – light blue: St Neots South Option B station and a Cambridge South station	Alignment 9 – purple: Tempsford Option A station to Cambourne North station
Option preference ranking	2	X	3	1	X

Q39

Please tell us why you have ranked the proposed alignment options above and provide any other comments.

We strongly feel that we cannot recognise the current preferred alignments 1&9. EWRail has failed in their due diligence and duty of care to consider the two developments that are Countryside’s Bourn Airfield development and the Lindens Homes Angel Park development. Figure 1

- 1) EWRail have failed to realise that these alignments sever the top of Highfields Caldecote, separating most of the houses from the Village sign and the residents to the North. Coupled with the spectre of a 10m to 12m viaduct/embankment on top of a hill already higher than most of the surrounding area we feel that the landscape/townscape of both Highfields and the entrance to the new development at Bourn Airfield are disproportionately impacted, contrary to 5.30.11. Landscape. EWR Co shall protect and enhance the quality of landscapes, townscapes and visual amenity.¹
- 2) Highfields is one of only two areas, on any alignment from St Neots, that is deemed to be still impacted **after** mitigation. This significant increase in the number of homes now passed means that significantly more are seriously impacted compared to any alignments through a South

¹ Consultation-Technical-Report-Appendices-A-D-F-v2.pdf p26 Programme-Wide Output Specification

Cambourne station. This is contrary to 5.30.12. Communities. EWR Co shall be a good neighbour to the communities in which we and our partners operate by effectively managing and controlling noise, vibration and pollutant emissions to air to avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life.¹

- 3) Whilst the alignment may be moved so that no homes are demolished at Angel Park, currently 9+ additional homes, any alignment over, or under the A428 will have a significant impact on the number of homes built on Bourn Airfield. The field at the front is part of this development, offering open space and attenuation ponds for drainage. This is contrary to both 5.30.13. EWR Co shall seek to avoid or minimise residential land acquisition.¹ And 5.30.14. EWR Co shall seek to avoid or minimise the demolition of properties¹

Five main assessment factors have been used to assess the alignments.

You state all perform better than the “reference” Alignment 8.

We think that these five assessment factors are broadly similar for the alignments:

- 1) Transport user benefits - all within 2 Minutes of the reference.
- 2) Housing and economic growth - All routes facilitate development North or South/West of Cambourne
- 3) Cost and affordability - Cost difference not vastly different
- 4) Performance and safety - Similar
- 5) Environment - Biggest differences, seem to concentrate on numbers of homes demolished. Noise impact not calculated. Visual impact at Highfields totally underplayed.

The main differences between the alignments appears to be the perceived Housing Benefit of a North Cambourne station, and the Environmental impacts.

We believe the Housing benefit is a myth – Having a station to the South does not stop them building a development in the North. In fact, any station north or south of Cambourne will facilitate housing in the North or the South. It will take people just as long to travel from West Cambourne to a North Station as it would be for people in a Northern development to travel to a Southern Station. Having a station to the south may facilitate housing more to the north since developments there would not have to transverse a railway to get to the main A428 transport corridor and the new proposed C2C busway. There is as

much development land to the south and west of Cambourne as to the north, without the problem of navigating both the new dualled A428 and the old A428.

So that just leaves the Environmental differences between the alignments.

When the developments around Highfields are considered most of your environmental analysis of these alignments over 6,8 & 2 are significantly worse. Alignments from a Southern Cambourne station also ensure that a huge swathe of priority habitat is preserved south of Toft.

CONCLUSION - Alignment 6 (Light Blue)

- a) Its quicker and shorter - surely that is what trains are for
- b) It is cheaper, especially once the costs of mitigation and developer compensation are taken into account for going through Highfields on alignments 1&9
- c) Fewer houses demolished once the additional nine plus properties at Linden Homes are considered. This will mean thirteen plus homes will be demolished for alignments 1&9, compared with nine for alignments 2&6
- d) Alignments 6,8 & 2 has No impact on delivery of the 3,500 home Bourn Airfield Development. It is estimated that it would not be possible to build 150+ affordable homes for alignments from a North Cambourne station.
- e) Alignments 6,8 & 2 avoid having to rise an additional 12M on a hill that is already 72M high, thereby reducing the disproportionate noise, visual and pollution impact on the surrounding areas
- f) There is No advantage to follow the new A428 route since only a Southern Approach to Cambridge is offered.
- g) “North for North or South for South” i.e., North Cambourne station if a Northern approach to Cambridge and a South Cambourne station if a Southern approach to Cambridge.
- h) If people had realised the terrain of option E, i.e., any Cambourne Station, would be such a problem, not sure anyone would have voted for the option at the previous consultation.
- i) There have been significant changes in the wider context since this option E was selected, including the expansion north of Corridor E, the consequences of the governments proposed policy on growth areas and the government’s new bus and rail policies and Covid-19. We feel that Option C should be revisited, since the flatter landscape, the real possibility of increased housing at

Bassingbourn and the enabling of a more sensible approach into Cambridge from the South.

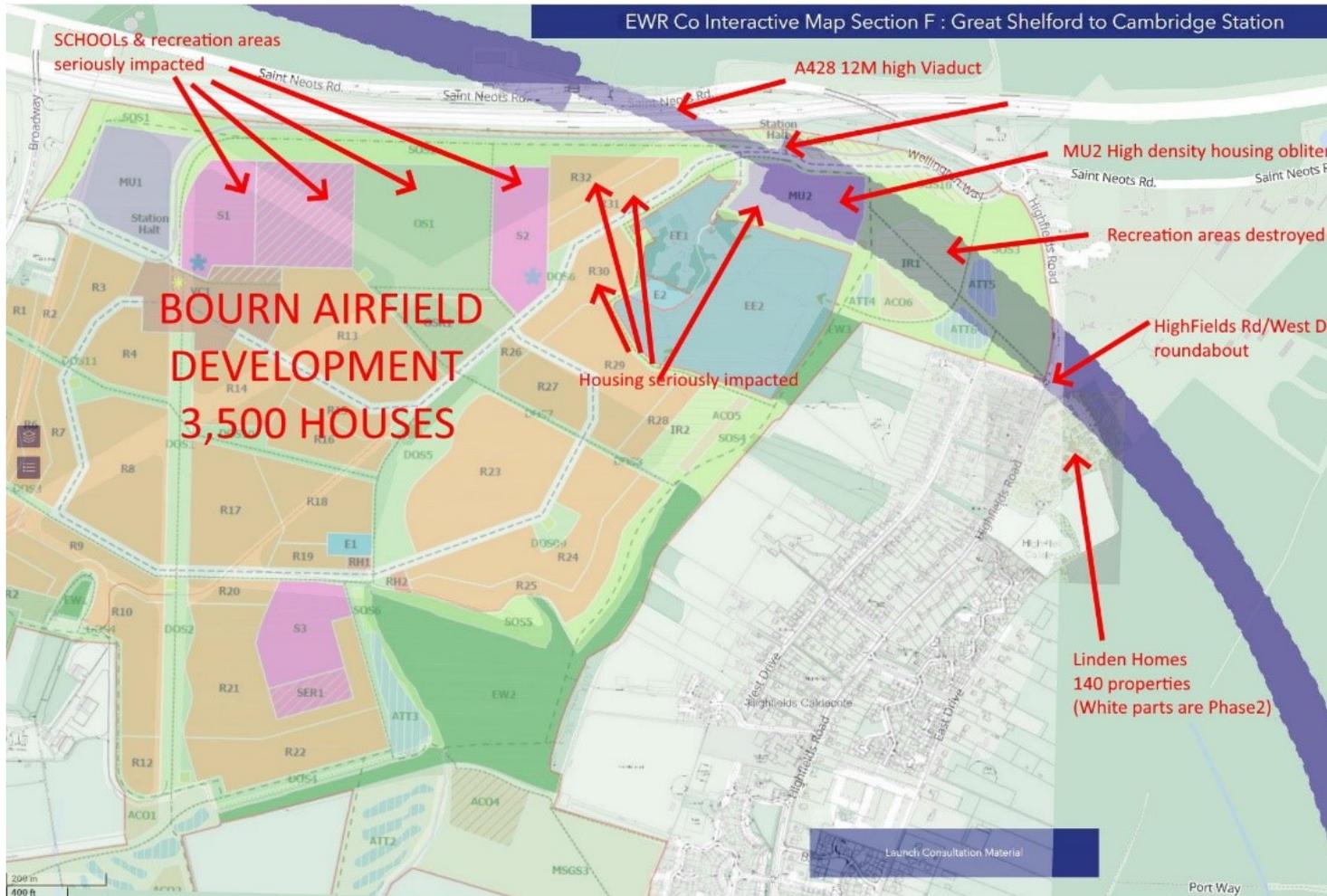


Figure 1 HighFields with Bourn Airfield and Linden Homes Developments

Councillor's Monthly Report – June 2021

This report of previous month events is for all the Ward, so please be aware that some of the content may not be relevant to your particular Parish.

General

Please contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues etc. Don't fight on your own. I am available to help you to get the best outcome possible for your situation.

If you have time to spare – check out articles on my blog <http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk>. What I post on there is my view and not LibDem or South Cambs official policy unless I state that it is.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

These are items in my previous reports that require action due to time limitations or important.

1. East West Rail Consultation

Please submit your feedback to the consultation by **Wednesday 9 June**. You can do this in a number of ways:

- a. submit it online at https://communityhub.eastwestrail.co.uk/consultationfeedback/survey_tools/feedback
- b. download and print a copy of the feedback form here <https://eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/public/Feedback-Form.pdf> and send to Freepost EAST WEST RAIL
- c. Scan completed feedback form and sent to consultation@eastwestrail.co.uk
- d. Or just send an email with your comments to consultation@eastwestrail.co.uk

2. **Zero Carbon Grant Scheme**– Community groups can bid for grants between £1000 and £15000 for projects to tackle climate change. For those interested, the Council is running a webinar on 7th June 2021 titled “How to make a successful grant application”.

Go to <https://www.scams.gov.uk/applications-open-for-cash-for-climate-change-projects/> to read more about the grant, how to apply and how to register for the webinar. Closing date for applications is **5pm on Friday 30 July 2021**

3. Wild Minds Programme for Teenagers

[Wild Minds](#) is our free programme of wellbeing activities to support the mental wellbeing of 14-17 year olds with things like anxiety and low mood, or to build self-esteem and confidence. The course has been developed by South Cambridgeshire District Council together with Cambridge Sport Lakes Trust and is supported by a Clinical Psychologist. The next 8-week courses begins on Sunday 6 June and can still read about it and register free at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/wildminds>. Also check out this ITV video

<https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2021-05-12/using-nature-to-nurture-well-being-how-being-ingreen-spaces-can-ease-lockdown-anxiety>

4. Restart Grants Open for Local Businesses

Businesses that are predominantly reliant on delivering in-person services affected by the postChristmas national lockdown can now apply via our website for the Government's Restart Grants of up to £6000. Go to <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business/coronavirus-information-forbusinesses/financial-support-for-business/restart-grants/> to make your application before closing date of **30th June 2021**.

District Councillor Tumi

Governance

The District Council held four (4) by-elections in May 2021. We retained the 3 seats we initially had and gained the fourth which was previously held by an Independent councillor. The make up of the council is now 31 Liberal Democrats, 11 Conservatives, 2 Labour and 1 Independent.

For the County Council elections, the LibDems made five gains from the Conservatives and as a result we now have a new LibDem County Councillor in Michael Atkins. I am pleased to welcome Michael onboard and look forward to working with him to provide you with the high level of service that your LibDem councillors are known for.

SCDC held its first Full Council of the new municipal year at The Imperial War Museum as it was the venue that could accommodate all 45 councillors and officers whilst keeping to Covid19 guidelines. Unfortunately, as I previously reported, Government did not extend the legislation that would have enabled us to continue to meet virtually. Added cost to taxpayer we could do without.

COVID19 UPDATE

Step 3 of lockdown easing started on Monday 17th May 2021. It means that social contact is now possible for maximum of 30 people outdoors, and the Rule of 6 people or two households can meet indoors. Businesses that provide indoor hospitality, entertainment and attractions can open, as well as organised indoor adult sport. Domestic overnight stays and international travel is permitted but you must check the destination country rules of admission and what you need to do when you get back to UK. Government is considering if Step 4 scheduled for 21st June will happen as planned.

The Delta (Indian) variant is now the most prevalent in the country. Bedford next door to us has one of the highest infection rates in the country and the new variant spreads more easily from person to person. Government is encouraging people to [get tested](#) twice a week, work from home if possible, and get vaccinated when offered.

Infection rates continue to be low in South Cambs but we cannot be complacent. Please do be careful out there. **Hands-Face-Space** is still very much the rule not exception.

[Regular rapid testing](#) is a key way that we can all keep ourselves, as well as our friends and family, safe as restrictions continue to ease. Anyone who does not have symptoms can now get regular rapid lateral flow tests to check for COVID-19. You can get the test or collect home kits at The Hub in Cambourne or order online <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Find the full details of easing lockdown at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021-summary>

Health and Wellbeing

There is an opportunity to do something positive to help with our wellbeing each day. Action for Happiness is an organisation that brings together like-minded people from all walks of life and helps them take practical action, drawing on the latest scientific research. It has no religious, political or commercial affiliations and has a simple remit: to try to create more happiness in the world! It has created daily prompts for the month of June to help people find joy, even when things are difficult. Why not try the Joyful June calendar <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/joyful-june> and do share with friends and family.

We have also organised a series of **free webinars for local businesses** to help owners and employees deal with the stress of keeping their businesses going during the pandemic. The next one is on 15th June 2021 and you can find out more and register at <https://www.cambridgenetwork.co.uk/news/council-offers-free-mental-health-webinars-businesses>

Business Grants

The District Council has as of 28th May 2021 paid out £12,050,994 since November 2020 grants opened (LRSG and ARG/hardship). £4,576,979 out of our £4,594,88 Additional Restrictions (discretionary - hardship), that is 99.6% of fund paid to 1,653 businesses. For Restart grants, we have paid out £4,270,018 out of our allocation of £5,814,090 to 453 businesses (73%). We continue to proactively make contact with those who haven't yet applied. Thanks to the new Business Support Team who have worked extremely hard over the past year. We've now paid out well over £40m in business grants over the past 15 months but without it, the local economic consequences could have been quite dire!

Welcome Back Fund – Parish Survey

SCDC is offering support to help businesses reopen as restrictions begin to lift. We are asking parishes to help us by completing an online survey so we can determine how best to help. The survey is at <http://bit.ly/SCWelcomeBackSurvey> and should only take a few minutes. Contact email for the Reopening High Street Safely team is reopening@scams.gov.uk.

PLANNING

Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood Plans (NP) are an important planning tool for communities to use in shaping how their local area is developed. It is a proactive way of thinking of development. Neighbourhood plans once adopted become part of our adopted local plan and carry statutory planning weight when it comes to decision making on applications that come forward in the Neighbourhood plan area. At the Full Council in May, South Cambs “made” (adopted) two more NPs for Cottenham, and Histon & Impington, making a total of 3 with Great Abingdon previously adopted. There are 16 more areas designated as NP areas and working on their NPs.

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plans-adopted-following-strong-community-support/>

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

The Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS) is continuing to work on the new local plan. We hope to have a preferred option strategy ready to go out for discussion with communities in the Autumn.

In the meantime, the Government is proposing changes to how local plans are created which may significantly impact communities as it will grant permission when a plan is adopted! This limits the ability of communities then to influence those plans further down the line. I will update as and when more information is available on the proposals. I was interviewed on 12th May on BBC Radio Cambridgeshire on the Planning Bill in the Queen's Speech and you can listen here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09fs715> (at 1hr 10 mins)

Planning Awards

The Planning Service recently won the RTPI Planning Excellence award 2021 for Excellence in Planning to Deliver Homes (50 or more dwellings) for the Clay Farm (Great Kneighton) development. The level of affordable housing in the development was particularly commended.

There are four other projects that have been shortlisted for national planning awards taking place later including one for Stakeholder Engagement for our First Conversation in Jan/Feb 2020.

FINANCE & INVESTMENT

The new South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership (SCIP) has agreed to purchase land (£12.9m) in Cambourne to bring forward new homes. SCIP is a 50:50 partnership between SCDC and Hill Group. It will bring forward about 275 new homes with 40% affordable on land south of Cambourne Business Park.

At the same time, South Cambridgeshire District Council is also investing in the future of Cambourne Business Park. It is purchasing a currently empty plot of land at the Park for £1.4m together with additional land for the access road, which is identified for commercial activity, with a view to completing this part of the Business Park. This gives the Council wider control of, and the ability to develop the Business Park as part of a proactive approach to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/investment-partnership-and-local-council-agree-143-million-deals-to-build-new-homes-in-cambourne-along-with-cambourne-business-park-investment/>

TRANSPORT

Cycling and Walking Consultation

Cambridgeshire County Council has begun [a consultation](https://consultcambs.uk/engagementhq.com/ccclocal-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-consultation-2021) on the creation of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Cambridgeshire. It finishes on Tuesday 13 July 2021. Residents are invited to complete the survey and/or mark cycleways and footpaths they would like to see created or prioritised on the map. Read and respond here <https://consultcambs.uk/engagementhq.com/ccclocal-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-consultation-2021>

Cambourne to Cambridge Busway - GCP

The GCP agreed to carry out an audit of the assumptions underlying the route selection for the C2C. Details at <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/transport/transport-projects/cambourne-to-cambridge/cambourne-to-cambridge-independent-audit>. The audit has now been completed and will be reported to the GCP Assembly on 10th June 2021 then to the GCP Board in July. The papers are here <http://bit.ly/GCP-Assembly>

East West Rail – Bedford to Cambridge Railway.

The second non-statutory public consultation by EWR started on 31 March 2021 and closes on 9th June 2021. This is a National Infrastructure project, and completely in the hands of EWR and Department of Transport to make the decision. EWR is an integral part of the Government's planned growth agenda for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc!

I want to pay tribute to the various community groups and volunteers who have worked hard over the past few weeks to go through the mountain of documents and distil the information for residents. Both Bourn and Caldecote held virtual village meetings which I was able to attend to discuss the consultation and hear from residents. You will find the reports and responses for Bourn, Caldecote and Kingston on the respective parish council/village websites.

Kingston: <https://kingstonvillage.org.uk/home-2/east-west-railway.html>

Caldecote: <https://caldecote.gov.uk/east-west-rail/>

Bourn: <https://www.bourn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/DRAFT-Outline-response-to-EWRConsultation.pdf>

The Caldecote EWR Action Group got some column inches in the Cambridge Independent which you can find here <https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/will-east-west-rail-demolishhomes-still-being-built-9199621/>. Well done team.

SCDC Cabinet considered its draft response to the consultation at its meeting on 24th May and you will find that report at

<https://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s122001/EWR%20%20Final%20report%20to%20Cabinet.pdf>. It agreed to strengthen parts of the response.

I liaised with the developers at Bourn Airfield, Bourn Quarter and All Angels Park and it turns out EWR did not consult with them directly and so did not take account of the impact of their alleged preferred alignments on those developments.

The consultation website is at <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation> so please have your say. See the first part of this report on the many ways you can send in your comments.

I have put my comments in my blog article here <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/east-west-rail-wardmember-comments/>

Pride 2021

This month is Pride 2021, celebrated both nationally and internationally. The Council supports Pride and would like to encourage everyone to check out the LGBTQ+ resources on our [webpages https://www.scams.gov.uk/LGBTQ-History-Month](https://www.scams.gov.uk/LGBTQ-History-Month) There are many events including talks, training, book and film recommendations and links to local Pride event organisers. The Council We also continues to support Encompass Network locally, and further information about their work and activities can be found on their website <http://encompassnetwork.org.uk/>

Some national events include [London Pride](#) - has been moved to September due to COVID restrictions. [UK Black Pride](#) Friday 2nd July - Sunday 4th July, [London Trans Pride](#) on 26th June and [Bi Pride \(BiFI Festival\)](#) on 20th June (virtual)

LOCAL ISSUES

Caldecote – Linden Homes have submitted a new planning application for 74 homes. The previous planning permission for 140 homes on the whole site was granted at appeal when the Council did not have a 5-year land supply. The developers applied for Reserved Matters only for Phase 1 for 66 homes and allowed the permission to lapse for Phase 2. This application will now need to be considered on its own merit.

Little Gransden – On 25th May I was pleased to be able to support John Jefferies on part of his 57km in a day walk to raise money for Leukemia UK. I joined him and Chris at Kingston and walked to Coton where I stopped. You will find John’s fundraising page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/john-jefferies4> so please do give generously.

Casework

Irrespective of the current Covid19 lockdown, please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. I will help as best I can.

You will find my past reports at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/2020-21-monthly-reports/>. Feel free to read, share and/or download.

Please stay safe. The maxim **Hands – Face – Space - Fresh Air**.is still very much the rule.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
1 June 2021

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
Twitter:	@CouncillorTumi
Facebook	@itsCouncillorTumi
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County Councillor Report – Caldecote

Cllr Michael Atkins, Hardwick Division

28th May 2021

Summary

- Election results and new administration at the County level
- Covid cases reach a new low in S. Cambridgeshire and across the County
- Everyone aged 30 and now eligible for a vaccine – take up should be strongly encouraged
- EWR consultation closes 9th June
- C2C Independent Audit Report published today
- Contact details

Results of the election 6th May

Can I start by expressing my sincere thanks to the villages for electing me as your County Councillor until 2025. It is truly a privilege to represent this beautiful part of Cambridgeshire and I hope I will repay your trust in me over the coming years.

At the overall County level a number of seats changed hands, and there is now a new Joint Administration with a majority on the council, comprising 20 Liberal Democrat (including myself), 9 Labour and 4 Independent Councillors. There is therefore scope for much to change in the County Council's priorities and delivery of services in this new term.

The election for Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough was won by Nik Johnson (Lab.), and the Police and Crime Commissioner is now Darryl Preston (Con.).

Covid-19

The news across the County is broadly positive, with overall cases falling to just 4 per 100,000 residents, and a total of 4 new cases in South Cambridgeshire, both well below the average for England. Hospital admissions remain low in the County and there have been no deaths recorded since the end of April.

Nevertheless, we are reminded that case numbers can increase very fast, particularly of new variants, and therefore it's important that residents continue to abide by the restrictions in place and exercise care and good sense (particularly with indoor interactions).

Adults aged 30 and over (as of 1st July 2021) are now eligible for a Covid-19 vaccine and should take up this opportunity as soon as possible. Many residents will also be due to have their second dose in the coming month – it is important to remember that both doses are necessary for the best possible protection.

East-West Rail Consultation

East-West Rail are currently running a non-statutory consultation on their proposed route alignments, including the section of new railway from Cambourne to Cambridge. This is the most significant piece of new infrastructure development in our area for many decades and could have an enormous impact on our villages.

I know that the parish has set up a working group to look at the impact EWR will have on both parts of the village, particularly the proposed route alignments running from Cambourne North. I look forward to our discussion on Thursday.

A reminder that the consultation runs until the 9th of June. Please encourage as many residents as possible to complete the consultation.

C2C independent audit report

Several months ago, work on the Cambourne to Cambridge busway was suspended so that an independent audit of the decisions and assumptions made so far could be carried out. This audit recently concluded and a report was made available today (Friday 28th), ahead of a discussion at the Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly on the 10th June. The report broadly recommends that the scheme should proceed to the next decision point; however, concerns are raised about how the

scheme will work in the city centre, and there are significant changes in circumstances surrounding the scheme, particularly the future of the CAM scheme, East-West Rail, and the UK government's new bus strategy. I share these concerns and will be working with my colleagues at District and County level to ensure that all the issues raised in the report are considered at the Joint Assembly and Board.

Contact Details

Councillors and residents are welcome to contact me on any issue which is concerning them:

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