Clerk: Mrs Joanne Depradines-Smith **Chairman: Mr Peter Dee**
24b Laceys Way, Duxford, Cambridgeshire, CB22 4SE
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MINUTES OF DUXFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT DUXFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 12 September 2019

		ACTION BY
	Present: Parish Councillors: Cllr Dickson, Cllr Harris, Cllr Hyde, Cllr O'Grady, Cllr Heath, Cllr Pell-Coggins, Cllr Skeates-Hall, Cllr Tarrant, Cllr Young. Chairman Cllr O'Grady. Parish Clerk Joanne Depradines-Smith. Five members of the public in attendance.	
	Open Forum: None	
	The Meeting commenced at 8.01pm: The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.	
138	**Apologies**: Cllr Dee	
139	**Declaration of Interests**: None	
140	**Minutes**: The agenda and minutes of the Parish Council monthly meeting held on 11 July 2019, and the extraordinary meeting held on 03 August, circulated to all members, were agreed and signed by the Chairperson.	
141	**Matters Arising:** **119:100:82f: Zero Carbon Schemes**: it was confirmed that many of the ideas were unviable (24 hour access required). Solar panels would require expenditure before profits, and Cllr Dickson confirmed that an application for trees is in progress. **119:101c: Brewery Field Dog Management:** Cllr Heath confirmed that SCDC are providing two new bins, for delivery this month. **129a: LHI application:** Cllr Tarrant confirmed that an application has been sent re Laceys Way dropped curbs. The Chairman thanked Cllr Tarrant for achieving this.	
142	**Chairman's Announcements: The Chairman shared the following:** **a. Condolences for Professor Willy Brown:** The Chairman confirmed that condolences had been sent immediately after the Chairman of Hinxton Parish Council had passed away. **b. S106:** The S106 monies for Sopwith Grange had arrived, totalling £130,836.25 **c. Village Streetlights:** Confirmation had been received from SCDC that DPC are not responsible for any village streetlights. **d. Streetlight:** A faulty streetlight on St. John's Street, opposite the entrance to Greenacres, has been removed, but not yet replaced. The Clerk is awaiting news from SCDC. **e. Speeding:** A resident has expressed concern about speeding on Chapel Street / Moorfield Road. Cllr Tarrant agreed to retain this information as a potential future LHI application. **f. Community Gritting Scheme**: It was agreed to publish this notice on the DPC website.	**Clerk** **Cllr Heath**

		ACTION BY
143	**Planning:** **a. Planning applications received from SCDC:** See appendices. **b. Planning decisions confirmed by SCDC:** See appendices. **c. Planning correspondence:** None	
144	**Finance: Accounts for payment:** See appendices (retrospective August payments included)	
145	**District Council Matters:** see appendices - as discussed by Cllr McDonald.	
146	**County Council Matters:** see appendices - as discussed by Cllr Topping. **i.** Cllr Hyde agreed to ask SCDC for a Marshalls Aerospace briefing, before proposing a meeting between Duxford, Thriplow and Whittlesford Parish Councils. **ii.** The Clerk will send a list of replacement signage required to Cllr Topping for an overall update on progress, including name plates and speed signage. **iii.** Brewery Field outstanding entrance works to connect pavement at corner of Elms Close – Cllr Heath will email all details to Cllr Topping to investigate further. **iv.** Cllr Topping agreed to investigate how SCDC contractors are using weed killer on private gardens in Laceys Way, also reported the previous year.	**Cllr Hyde** **All / Clerk** **Cllr Heath/ Cllr Topping**
147	**Allotments Report:** **a. Discuss and agree costs for replacement trophy:** It was unanimously agreed upon to spend up to £75 on a new trophy.	**Clerk**
148	**Operations (FRG&B) Report: See appendices** **a. Cemetery railings repair options:** It was agreed that whilst the neighbouring trees are in situ, works to the wall would be futile. Up to £400 was agreed to tidy the boundary, and install hedging. **b. Pavilion: Discuss and agree pavilion water system drainage works:** It was agreed to spend £125.00 on waste drainage services. **c. Maintenance: Discuss and agree County / Parish maintenance contract responsibilities:** A discussion took place regarding areas of the village under County Council maintenance control, which are not being attended to sufficiently for residents. Cllr Heath agreed to bring comparative costs to the next meeting, to decide if works warranted an increased precept.	**Cllr Heath / Cllr O'Grady** **Clerk** **Cllr Heath**
149	**Brewery Field Report: See appendices:** **a. Discuss and agree ad hoc hedge works and maintenance budget:** It was agreed to pay for ad hoc hedge and grass maintenance ahead of the new contract in April 2020. **b. Discuss and agree entrance works contractor payment in part:** It was unanimously agreed to pay the contractor for works achieved, separate to works in dispute.	**Cllr Heath / Clerk** **Cllr Heath / Clerk**
150	**Village Hall Report:** The Chairman confirmed that the build is progressing well, with the roof construction within schedule.	
151	**Road Safety: Discuss and agree Speedwatch future:** Cllr Tarrant confirmed that the existing Speedwatch Team had decided to disband due to lack of availability. In light of the recent road awareness event on the Recreation Ground, the Chairman asked that a new team be advertised for, within the village. **Parking:** Concern was raised regarding resident parking on the corner of St. Peter's Street and Hunts Road. Cllr O'Grady agreed to raise this with Highways.	**Cllr O'Grady / Cllr Heath** **Cllr O'Grady**

		ACTION BY
152	**Public Art Contribution:** **a. Discuss and agree The Biggen entrance revised quotes and extra works to achieved disabled access (utility management):** Cllr Tarrant confirmed that the blacksmiths would be willing to wait until spring 2020 before proceeding. Cllr Pell-Coggins agreed to investigate works required regarding the utilities at the site.	**Cllr Tarrant** **Cllr Pell-Coggins**
153	**Gonville & Caius: Discuss and agree invitation to meet and discuss plans**: It was unanimously agreed to meet with Gonville & Caius to discuss their plans for Duxford, and share residents' questions and concerns directly.	**Clerk**
154	**Policies: Discuss and agree new Public Access and Amenities Statement**: This was unanimously agreed upon.	**Clerk**
155	**Surgery Report:** one parishioner attended re weedkiller, as mentioned in item146iv above.	
156	**Diary and next meetings:** • 5th October - Surgery at the Laceys Way Centre at 10.30am. • 12 October - Monthly Parish Council Surgery and Extraordinary Meeting at 8pm.	
157	**Meeting closure:** 10pm.	

Signed:
Dated:

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Planning: As presented by Cllr Harris:

a. Planning applications received from SCDC:

APPLICATION REF	LOCATION	PROPOSAL	DECISION A/R
S/2868/19/FL	7, Chapel Street, Duxford	Side first floor extension	**A**
S/2896/19/FL	Imperial War Museum, Duxford	Construction of a 168 bedroom hotel with ancillary facilities, associated access, gates, car parking (including reconfigured conference centre car parking), cycle parking and landscaping.	**R: Design, appearance & materials**
S/2813/19/LB	Building 59 Imperial War Museum Duxford	Removal of existing asbestos-cement diamond roof slates and replacement with non-asbestos fibre-cement alternatives, including associated works to replace hips/ridge fittings in concrete and replacement of non-original aluminium and plastic guttering/downpipes.	**A**
S/4329/18/OL	Wellcome Genome Campus Hinxton Saffron Walden	Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for a phased, mixed use development comprised of up to 150,000 square metres of Gross External Area (GEA) of flexible employment uses including research and development, office and workspace and associated uses falling within Use Classes B1 (office, laboratories, light industry), B2 (general industrial)	**R: Reasons Stated previously**

		and B8 (Storage) uses; up to 1,500 residential dwellings (Use Class C3); supporting community uses and social infrastructure including a nursery (Use Classes D1); conference facility (Use Class D1) and associated hotel (Use Class C1); retail uses including shops (Use Class A1), restaurants and cafes (Use Class A3) and bars (Use Class A4); leisure uses (Use Class D2); landscape and public realm, including areas for sustainable urban drainage and biodiversity enhancements; energy centre and utilities; site access (vehicular, cyclist and pedestrian), car and cycle parking and highways improvements; early landscape and enabling works; and associated works. (This application is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment)	

b. Planning decisions received from SCDC:

APPLICATION REF	LOCATION	PROPOSAL	DECISION A/R
S/1639/19/OL	31, Blakeland Hill, Duxford	Outline planning permission with all matters reserved except for Access, layout and scale for the demolition of existing garages and development of 1No. detached dwelling house for SCDC Self-Build programme.	**A**
S/1150/19/FL	1, Chrishall Grange Cottages, Chrishall	New Agricultural Barn unit	**A**
S/2207/19/OL	The Flower Pot, Hunts Road, Duxford	Site for the erection of one, 4 bed detached house with all matters reserved other than access.	**R**
S/2160/19/OL	4, Kintbury, Duxford	Outline planning permission for demolition of existing dwelling and replace with 2 x 3 bedroom, detached dwellings with all matters reserved.	**R**

Appendix 2: Accounts for payment: **As authorised by Cllr O'Grady and Cllr Heath:**

NAME	INFORMATION	METHOD OF PAYMENT	AMOUNT £
Cambs County Council	Retrospective payment: Community Centre access: Section 278 – to be refunded upon completion	**Cheque 002217**	17418.24
Cambs Water	Retrospective payment: Community Centre: Inv: 169214	**Cheque 002218**	6619.46
Jaggard Projects Ltd	Retrospective payment: Community Centre: building works (valuation 3) Inv: 19023	**Bank Transfer**	70651.50
Alan Lamb Associates	Retrospective payment: Community Centre: Inv: 16/113/13	**Bank Transfer**	4194.00
Balfour Beatty Living Places	Retrospective payment: Streetlight relocation: Hunts Road re Community Centre access	**Bank Transfer**	2971.20
Andrew Firebrace Partnership Ltd	Retrospective payment: Community Centre: S278 drawings: Inv: 6590	**Bank Transfer**	2070.00
UK Power Networks	Retrospective payment: Community Centre electrical supply: Ref: 3500075243	**Bank Transfer**	4400.56
Envirocare	Retrospective payment: The Biggen: Inv:112519	**Bank Transfer**	45.00
Envirocare	Retrospective payment: St. John's Churchyard : Inv: 112520	**Bank Transfer**	66.00

Playmaintain	Retrospective payment: Playground inspection: Inv: 619	**Bank Transfer**	112.80
Buchans	Retrospective payment: Contractor Fees: Recreation Ground - Inv: 1999	**Bank Transfer**	612.91
Buchans	Retrospective payment: Contractor Fees: Paths / verges - Inv: 2000	**Bank Transfer**	564.62
Mercer Tree Services	Retrospective payment: Tree works at The Biggen Inv: 346/19	**Bank Transfer**	960.00
South Cambs District Council	Retrospective payment: Councillor tree training (Cllr Heath)	**Debit Card**	100.00
Hortiservices Ltd	Retrospective payment re Brewery Field Inv: 0585	**Bank Transfer**	29956.62
Roy O'Grady	Retrospective payment: Recreation Ground gate emergency repairs (materials from Scotsdales)	**Bank Transfer**	19.97
J Depradines-Smith	Retrospective payment: JULY 2019 Clerk duties & expenses (postage)	**Bank Transfer**	1192.06
Alan Lamb Associates	Community Centre Inv: 16/113/14 Including Anglian Water licence fee	**Bank Transfer**	4071.60
Birketts LLP	Professional legal fees including Land Registry charges: Inv: 621257	**Bank Transfer**	2161.20
Jaggard Projects Ltd	Community Centre building works: Inv: 19027 (valuation 4)	**Bank Transfer**	109147.40
Andrew Firebrace Partnership Ltd	Community Centre: Professional services: Inv: 6677	**Bank Transfer**	300.00
Sarah Ashworth	Brewery Field: pre-landscaping / marking out fees	**Bank Transfer**	200.00
Mercer Tree Services	Tree works: Cemetery frontage: Inv: 366/19	**Bank Transfer**	216.00
The Hundred Parishes	Annual membership fee	**Bank Transfer**	10.00
Mrs Elizabeth Earle	Allotment trophy engraving 2019	**Bank Transfer**	23.47
Cambridgeshire County Council	LHI contribution re HGV signage (St. Peter's Street). Inv: 423000963478	**Bank Transfer**	106.49
Parish Online (GeoXsphere)	Annual fees (online mapping / website use.	**Bank Transfer**	108.00
Buchans	Contractor Fees: Recreation Ground: Inv: 2026	**Bank Transfer**	490.60
Buchans	Contractor Fees: Paths / verges - Inv: 2027	**Bank Transfer**	657.60
Duxford Primary School	April – June 2019 Room Bookings: Inv:2018051	**Bank Transfer**	21.60
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit fees 2019	**Bank Transfer**	360.00
Gillian Heath	Usage signage for The Biggen	**Bank Transfer**	31.33
J Depradines-Smith	AUGUST 2019 Clerk duties & postage costs	**Bank Transfer**	1104.10

TOTAL: £260,964.33

Automatic payments from previous agenda publishing date:

25/07/2019	Information Commissioners' Office	Annual obligatory ICO payment re GDPR	**Direct Debit**	35.00
1st of each month	Roy Gill	Maintenance contracts	**Standing Order**	945.83
01/08/2019	Nest	Clerk pension	**Direct Debit**	49.07
1st of each month	Roy Gill	Maintenance contracts	**Standing Order**	945.83
06/09/2019	Nest	Clerk pension	**Direct Debit**	39.13

TOTAL: 2,014.86

Appendix 3: Operations Report (FRG&B):

The Cemetery

Due to the high costs involved with removal of the railings, the recommendation is to straighten the railings as much as possible, without disturbing the foundations further and to plant low, slow growing hedging along the boundary, which will eventually cover the railings.

A mixed native hedge is too fast growing so the proposal is to plant an evergreen slow growing hedge, e.g.

Euonymus japonicus 'Jean Hugues' is a low growing dense shrub and its compact habit makes it ideal for borders, hedging and parterres. It is particularly hardy and the evergreen foliage retains its deep green colour throughout winter. We could get between 50 and 100 plants for £3.89 per plant (ex VAT) **DPC to discuss and agree.**

The Biggen

No progress on the entrance works for installation of the art fund gates, as we are still negotiating the invoice for the Brewery Field entrance works with the contractor, so he is not in a position to give me a price. In addition Highways have not yet come back to me to confirm whether the verge is County or Parish responsibility.

We have asked Envirocare to carry out some additional works on the boundary with a parishioner. If there is additional cost, it should be minimal.

Maintenance Contracts

Plan is to present updated contracts to DPC for approval in November. DPC to consider the following points:

• Current contracts are for grass cutting only and hedges where specified;
• Operatives tend not to cut back self-seeded saplings (e.g. elder, sycamore);
• Operatives do not cut back side shoots on trees;
• This results in trees that need crown lifting every 3 years or so, and overgrown shrubbery, neither of which is covered by current maintenance contracts;
• If we ask County to do the work, it often takes many months and a few nudges to get it done, if at all;

Question is, do keep the status quo, or do we add this to the individual maintenance contracts or the General Maintenance (Handyman) contract?

Adding to our contracts will mean higher cost to precept, even if we request County to give us more money to take on this work. **DPC to discuss and agree**

Appendix 4: Brewery Field Report:

Landscaping is well underway, with the gravel paths now visible, the pond dug, the chalk mound being formed, the nectar garden, rainwater harvesting shelter, Petanque court and bicycle shelter are under construction. Our contractor has brought in additional (free) material as the excavations did not generate enough to create a substantial mound.

• We have high hopes that local farmer Lewis Duke/Robert Smith Farms will fill the pond for us.
• We will close off the corner entrance at Hunts Road/St John's Street – this is a planning condition to ensure safe entrances and will also allow the new hedging to grow.
• We will cut the grass and ensure that the field is at least partially accessible for the 21/22 September airshow weekend.
• SCDC have confirmed that 2 dual purpose waste bins should be installed near the pedestrian gates by Friday 13th September, so hopefully we will see less dog waste.
• All new funds raised will go towards getting water on site, whether it be from a borehole (preferred), or from the mains.

Water is essential to improve biodiversity, ensuring the success of the new plants and will be used to top up the pond when needed.
• Planting will begin this autumn.
• We planted a memorial oak tree on the 29th August for Mathew Smyth and have another four requests to date. If any parishioners are interested in a tree or bench to remember a loved one or as a gift for, e.g. a child/grandchild, ask them to get in touch. Some suggestions for memorial benches (though you would be free to choose from other sites, provided the wood comes from a sustainable source):
◦ http://www.rusticgardenfurniture.co.uk/oak-memorial-benches.html
◦ https://www.4memorialbench.co.uk/acatalog/memorial_benches.html
• Keep an eye on the Instagram and Facebook pages (search for Duxfordgreen) for progress reports and photos.
• We have created a hibernaculum, which will eventually be covered by the mound; this will provide a dark and frost-free place for amphibians and other small creatures to overwinter.
• We are thinking of holding a launch event in May or June next year. Please get in touch if you have ideas or proposals for crafts, stalls or generally green activities, or would be willing to help on the day.
• Sadly no progress yet to connect the path to the eastern entrance. We are still negotiating with the previous contractor and have also requested BT/Openreach assistance.
• **Don't forget to use easyfundraising to do your on-line shopping** – it's easy and costs nothing – switching utilities (including broadband), travel and hotels are all particularly lucrative. Do encourage your friends and family to use it by sharing the flyers or by following the link: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/duxfordgreen

Appendix 5: District Councillor Report: from Cllr Peter McDonald:

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

The process of consultation is now starting. Don't forget to register on the South Cambs web site which will then automatically mail you once new documents are published.

Local Transport Plan

As reported previously there was series of consultations over the summer. The final meetings are taking place now.

Local Developments - Latest Status:

Huawei

The technology company has submitted a planning application to South Cambridgeshire District Council that seeks permission to develop the former Spicer's site on the Sawston Bypass.

The plans propose space for 360 people working across the building, along with a 'clean room' laboratory, offices, workstations, meeting rooms, training rooms, stores, a canteen and reception area. Parking facilities would be provided via a 422-space underground car park. Cycle parking facilities are also included in the plans. This is intended to be the first phase of a larger development.

A505 Study

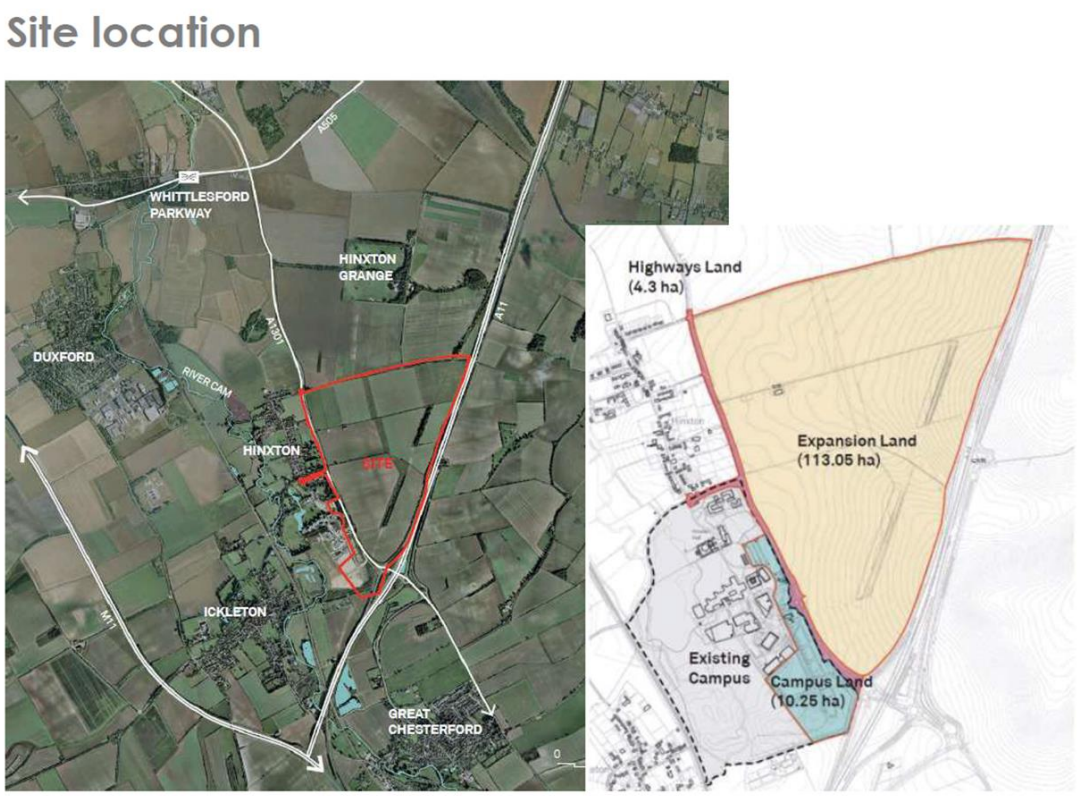
I believe the tender has closed and one company will be chosen to do the work.

Agri Tech

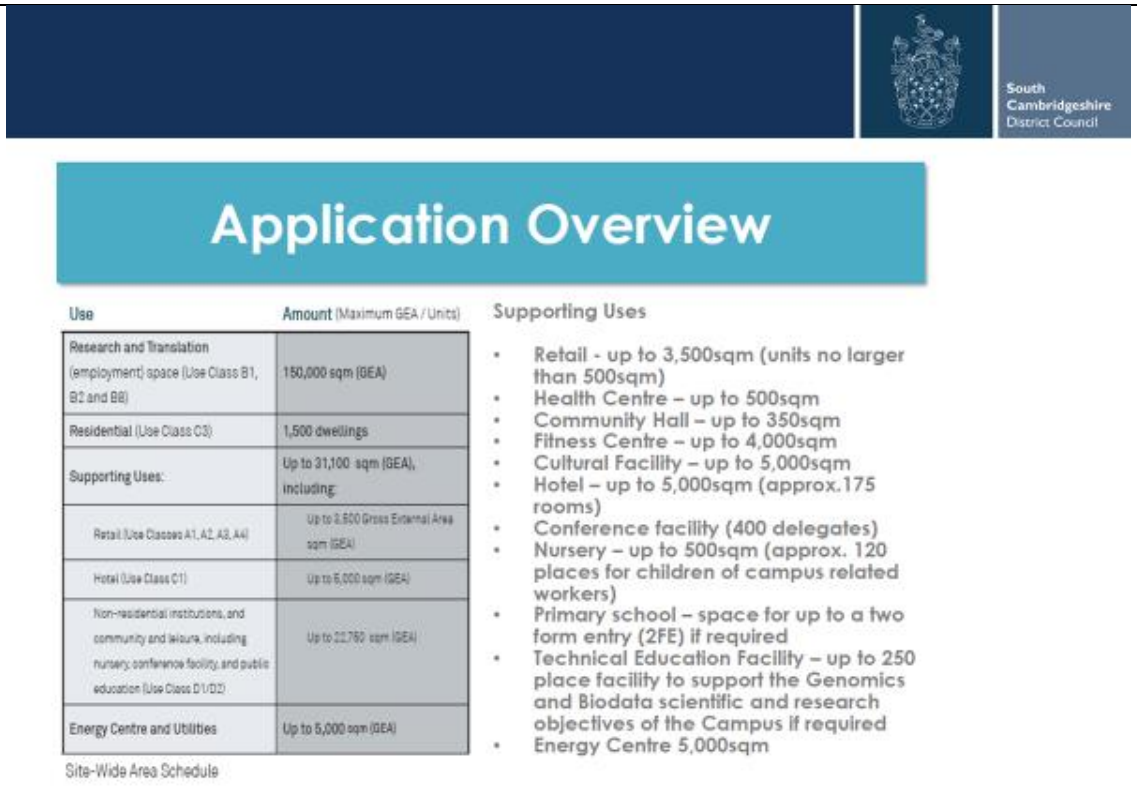
The Smithson appeal against South Cambs decision to refuse planning permission concluded on Friday July 5th. South Cambs closing case contained 200 reasons for refusal and took the Council's QC 1 hour to read out. This appeal cost the Council (and residents) so far £120k and counting. The Inspector must submit to the SoS by November 2019. I'm hoping the Smithson Hill political donation of £20k will have no impact on the SoS.

Wellcome Genome Campus:

Latest view is that WGC will be considered at an October meeting of South Cambs Planning Committee. Probably Oct 24th or 31st. I am updating the response document with Parish input. There will be a transport briefing on Sep 12th which I will update you on.



The campus still proposes a development of 1,500 dwellings which would be a mixture of purchase and rental with covenants on the properties being for staff/local people.



Planning Staffing/ Outsourcing

There was some discussion in August about the South Cams resourcing/outsourcing for planning team. Here is some explanation from Stephen Kelly.

With respect to the contract with Terraquest, the role that they will play is at the validation and initial assessment stage. Contrary to the perception that might have been gained, the service has not outsourced any decisions to Terraquest (it simply cannot do so) but is seeking to ensure that we are able to validate promptly and then assess applications for straightforward proposals - principally householder extensions and related proposals – in line with local expectations.

This is because, as you have highlighted, the caseloads of planning officers are significant. We are recruiting nationally at present but in the interests of their immediate wellbeing, having been unable to fill our vacant roles by way of the contract/agency sector I am keen to target those areas where assistance/support can have the greatest benefit for officers, members and applicants, without compromising our ability to ensure “local” officers continue to be involved in the more complex and enduring planning proposals that exercise out communities most.

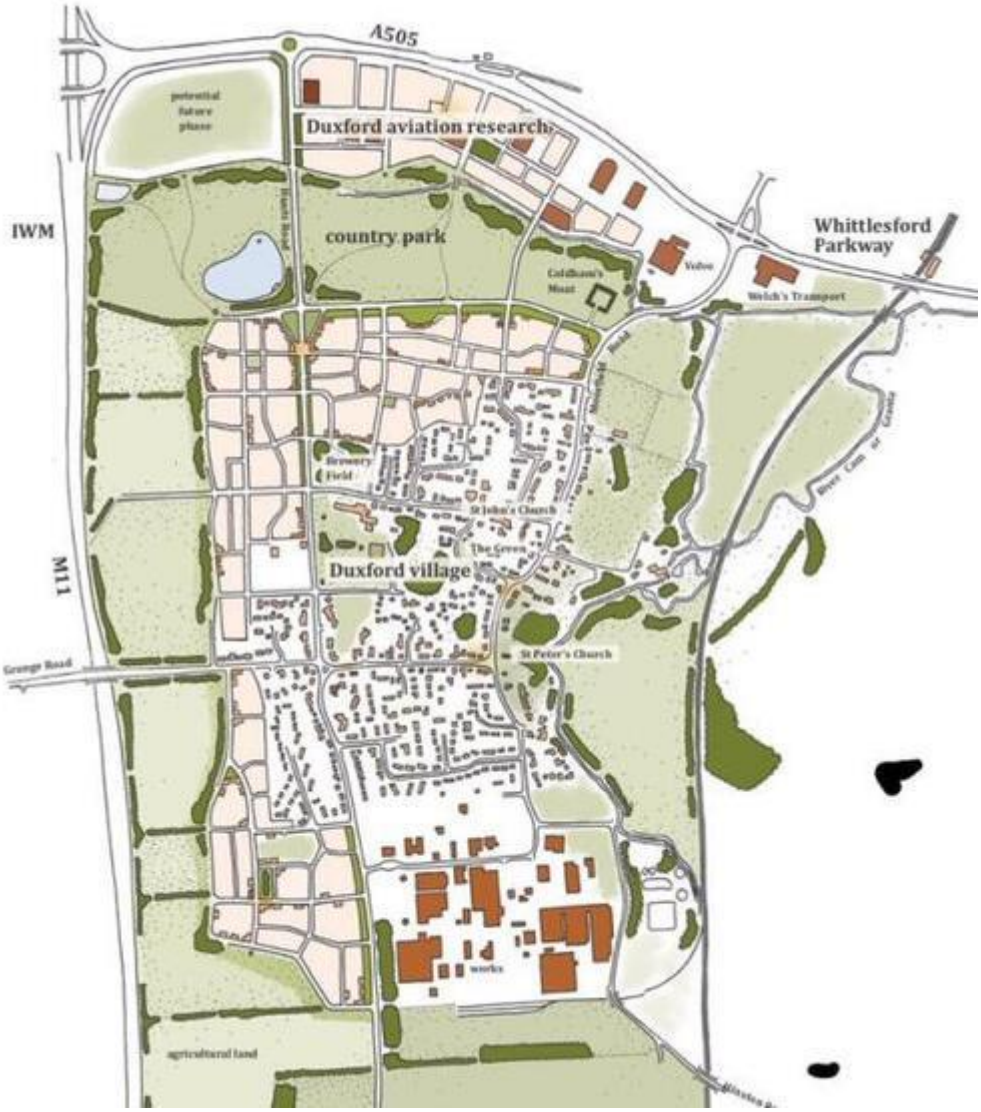
I understand and you may recall that the previous administration, before my tenure, employed Capita to undertake work on more substantial/significant applications. As reflects my experience with that approach in a previous role, the absence of a “local” officer input can lead to problems in ensuring that local knowledge and member interests were adequately reflected in the process. I did not want to repeat that experience again – but remain live to that risk.

As we progress with the appointment and assimilation of staff into their new roles, I will keep all of the measures I outlined in my email under review. I also look forward to discussing the matter of planning performance with members at the Scrutiny Committee – who have previously programmed a review of the shared service later in the year.

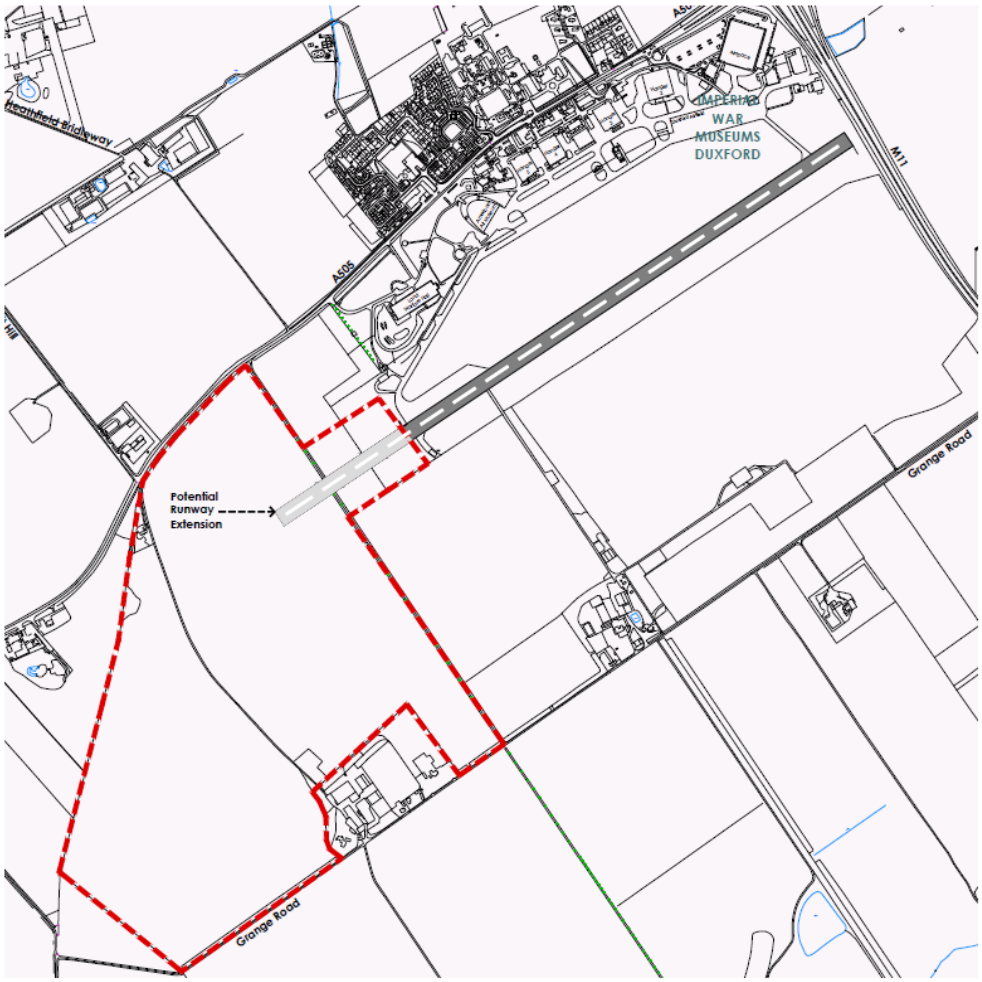
Local Headline Issues

Babraham: Discussions on going on possible boundary changes and S106 allocations between Sawston and Babraham.

Duxford: As everyone is aware Gonville & Caius made a proposal as part of the call for sites. I can't see this massive development getting any legs. However I have recommended some engagement with G & C if they will confine to a small development and employment at an aeropark.



Marshalls: Marshalls Aerospace: Marshalls Aerospace options to re locate from Cambridge Airport will be made known in September. Duxford is one of 3 options with Wyton and Cranfield. It would involve a 600 m extension to the runway.



This is a game changer for the area were it to happen. Whilst the aerospace sector should be supported and of course Marshalls are respected, this size of development would have the most enormous impact on the A 505, M11 and surrounding villages.

Hinxton: Key focus right now is reconstituting the PC after Willy's untimely death

Ickleton: See above on Genome Campus and Agri Tech. At time of writing we are hoping the street-cleaning/gulley-emptying will have been done

Pampisford: County Council finally agreed to re paint the junction lines on the A 505.

Appendix 6: County Councillor Report : from Cllr Peter Topping:

I have asked the county council to tidy up the land at the Whittlesford side of Moorfield Road/junction with the A505 as the developers there say it isn't their land or their responsibility.

The Parish Council should consider meeting with Whittlesford and Thriplow Parish Councils regarding the proposals for **Marshalls** possibly moving to a site near the Duxford IWM. I attended a meeting in Thriplow about it last week and had a briefing from county highways officers on the research starting in October on how to improve the A505 capacity.

Roads and transport

1. The highways teams have been **resurfacing roads** through villages in the summer, and the quality seems to be very good. I have passed on both compliments and also grumbles where roads are closed off with not enough flexibility for people wanting to get back into their own village.

2. I met and went through the list of road signs and lines that need replacing and repainting, and drains that need unblocking, with the highways officer, in early September. He has a list and I will be checking progress. The work in Greenacres is complete.

3. **Local Highways Initiative scheme – autumn work**

Now is the time to liaise with the highways projects officers to arrange any site visits to make sure that the bids that were submitted over the summer have the support of the highways team. If left too late to arrange, the officers sometimes cannot come out to discuss, before they have to submit their write-ups on the proposals ready for the review board in January.

Longer term transport proposals – Combined Authority transport plan consultation, the A505 research, and the Greater Cambridge Partnership plans for the A10 corridor south of Cambridge.

4. The Combined Authority (CA) is now responsible for transport across Cambridgeshire. The districts and the county are all represented on the CA, and it has recently set out its proposals for transport and is seeking replies and comments on its draft transport plan. The consultation ends on 27 September. I have suggested where South Cambridgeshire villages should put in specific views and suggestions, such as tackling the different charges for the bus zones, which make bus travel very expensive for people in villages quite close to Cambridge, also opposing proposals for extending the M11 northwards, and pressing for a solution to pinch points like the Foxton Crossing and the A505.

5. I had a meeting to find out more about the A505 research proposals, and I have made the point that parish councils along the A505 must be offered the chance to input into the research.

6. I have written to the Greater Cambridge Partnership, and will be at the Joint Assembly meeting on 12 September arguing for a Local Liaison Forum for all the councils along the A10 south of Cambridge to be brought together and properly consulted on plans such as cycling routes, the park and ride at Harston/ Hauxton, which I oppose, and the park and train proposals at Foxton, which need to be improved.

Council finances

The county and the district councils are both investing in commercial properties in and around Cambridge in the hope that the revenues generated enable them to support front-line services. The latest example is the county council's investment in the old Tesco site in Newmarket Road in Cambridge. The district council has bought an office block on the Cambridge Science Park.

Streetlights

In the past the county council dealt with the energy providers on behalf of parish councils, but that scheme is due to end this autumn. One reason is because parish council's haven in some cases been going directly to the energy companies and getting better deals.

The new arrangements mean that rather than the parish council paying the county for the electricity that powers our streetlights, the parish council will have to engage directly with the energy companies. I have challenged this, and in particular asked for more time for parish councils to get their heads round all this, as the process is quite complex. Some parish councils are more ahead of this than others and I have passed on contact details. I have also challenged where a parish council has been sent the wrong information by the county, and this has been put right.

Playgrounds

Where a village has a playground, and the parish council is responsible for its upkeep, there is supposed to be an annual ROSPA inspection which gives follow up action eg suggests repairs and things to look out for in future. I have been involved in the follow-up inspection for one village. The point is that best practice is that the parish council is supposed to regularly check the state of the play equipment and area, maybe every month, and keep on top of any problems, so that a minor repair does not become a major and costly one later on.

Environment and Recycling round-up – District Council grants scheme, Thriplow's Gravel Pit Hill, plastics, and the Vetspeed chimney

District Council Grants scheme

<u>The Zero Carbon Community Grant</u>

The current administration froze the eco grant which was previously available, there had been £50,000 allocated to this. The administration has increased this pot of money to £97,000 and have re-named the scheme The Zero Carbon Community Grant. The grant was launched on the 5th August and closes to applications on the 31st October. Applications can be made from any recognised groups (with a terms of reference and a constitution) including the Parish Council. The amount of money that can be applied for is between £1,000 - £15,000.

It is expected that there will be some joint funding from the applicant or partnership agreement. Having attended the SCDC briefing on this grant, there seems to be a broad criteria of what can be applied for but essentially it is anything that reduces carbon emissions within the community / helps environment.

It must include community involvement plus one of the following:

A reduction in carbon emissions; a reduction in energy use; a renewable energy source or heat,; promotes sustainable travel; increases recycling or reduces waste.

There is a lot more information on the SCDC website regarding this grant. It could be solar panels, solar lighting, water fountains, electric charging points, cycle paths, community energy source, insulation or anything else you as a parish can come up with it would be nice to get some applications in.

1. Charlton Autoparts have put in for a planning application regarding their work of scrapping old vehicles. I asked for more details and they sent me a comprehensive reply.

All vehicle recyclers are required to have a Waste Management Licence, from the Environment Agency. Fluids from vehicles are removed via a closed system, to eliminate any spillages and contamination. Fluids are stored in bunded tanks and then collected by licenced companies.

Batteries are also removed, stored in a bunded container, and the number of tyres stored kept to a certain number to reduce fire risk. The centre deals with some 1500-2000 vehicles a year. There is an annual inspection of the site.

2. The **recycling depot** run by the county council next door is to be reconfigured, to provide better facilities on site.

3. At the same time, a **permit scheme** is being introduced at the recycling depots. The scheme, starting in October, will better regulate the use of vans and trailers at HRCs helping to ensure only household waste is delivered to sites. Any resident planning to visit a HRC with a van or trailer will need to get an e-permit using an online system beforehand. These e-permits will be limited to 12 visits per year. As nearby counties have started charging for commercial waste, a lot more has been turning up at those recycling centres in this county – up a fifth in the last five years.

4. The planning application for a **taller chimney at the Vetspeed plant** along the A505 near Thriplow Heath expires at the end of September. The chimney was intended to be part of new method of disposing of waste. The county council, that granted the application despite a good deal of local opposition, has heard nothing from the applicants and so the planning application will lapse. This means that the existing arrangements for scrutinizing the waste products produced by the Vetspeed plant will need to continue to be properly scrutinized by the Environment Agency.

5. The county council has adopted a **plastics strategy** aimed at reducing and re-using plastics wherever possible before recycling. Schools will also be provided with resources to enable them to deliver plastic-free lunch days and encouraged to download lesson plans to educate pupils and their parents.

6. The amount of recycling that goes into our bins that is contaminated eg with food and therefore has to go to landfill has risen slightly and the councils are trying to get people to be more careful.

County Early Years and childcare training

The County Council manages an early years and childcare training centre, offering qualifications and accredited courses flexibly across the county. The centre is accredited with CACHE (the Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education) to deliver essential qualifications in early years, childcare and play work. The work of the centre is subject to annual external verification by CACHE, to review the quality of its assessment and internal quality assurance processes.

The monitoring officer from CACHE found the Early Years Training Centre to be **excellent across the board, with no actions**.

End