

Lolworth Village Annual Report 24-25

The Four Day Week Project

South Cambridgeshire District Council had the "Value for Money directive" regarding the effects of the four day week project, lifted by the Labour Government in the summer. A survey has been conducted to collect evidence regarding the effects of this working arrangement on rate payers as well as work colleagues in other authorities and businesses. The report has not yet been published.

Cambridgeshire Growth and Planning changes

The Government has increased the number of houses to be built each year as part of the Local Plan which is currently being developed. Unfortunately this increase had not been anticipated and the current Local Plan does not demonstrate sufficient land supply to fulfil that requirement. As a result some of the planning regulations can not be applied, resulting in permission being granted for developments which would normally be refused.

Food waste recycling

Over the last year a plan has been developed to introduce a weekly food waste collection. This will reduce use of the black bin service which can include land fill and enable the council to use the food waste more efficiently to generate power.

Mobile Warden Service

It has been a difficult year for the mobile warden service because Age UK found they were unable to support the financial shortfall on the 18 services which they manage. A research project demonstrated the financial and social benefit of the service and South Cambs District Council agreed to provide £100,000 to support the service for this financial year. It was further agreed to continue to support the service on a long term agreement over 10 years. This required schemes to look at ways of becoming more sustainable by raising fees and encouraging sponsors.

Unitary Authority Preparation

The Government have decided that all local authorities which have a Mayor should become a Unitary Authority, This means the end of District Councils and County Councils and the development of a Unitary Authority. Although the Government wanted plans for this to happen by the end of March, Cambridgeshire sent a letter saying they had talked with the other Authorities, but not reach any conclusions. So there is no agreement as to what geographical area our new authority will cover but we are told there should be 50% less councillors. This suggests that a councillor will have a very much larger responsibility and populations than present councillors and may be required to be full time rather than the current system where it can be done by councillors with other work responsibilities.

This is just a snap shot of the key local issues affecting the council last year. But there are many others around flood prevention, building control, flytipping, homelessness and supporting communities, which officers handle every day. If I can help anybody with their council problem please contact me.

Sue Ellington
District Councillor for Swavesey Ward.